

Rewinding cinema '67

While Montreal made its mark with Expo, Hollywood was having its own banner year

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Where were you in '67? Probably at the flicks – a lot.

There was no shortage of big movies that year, and revisiting the ones that are still worth watching is now an easy luxury, thanks to home video.

Here are 10 that were playing in cinemas during Expo 67, between the end of April and the end of October. All are available on DVD in Quebec, some in special editions packed with extras.

There were other good films that year, like *The Graduate*, *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*, *Valley of the Dolls* and *Bedazzled*. But they premiered after Expo closed, and don't make the cut.

So turn out the lights, pop in a disc, grab the remote and let these top-10 take you back 40 years.

1. **Bonnie and Clyde**

I put this at the top of the list for one reason: it got its world premiere right here in this city, opening at the Montreal World Film Festival on Aug. 4, 1967. Faye Dunaway plays Bonnie Parker and Warren Beatty is Clyde Barrow, robbing banks and becoming notorious outlaws in the Great Depression.



Panned by critics at the time, this gory road movie has since come to be known as an iconic film of the 1960s, with Dunaway's bullet-riddled, blood-soaked, slo-mo death thrall its most memorable sequence. Warner has re-issued the DVD, improving on the image but skimping on extras – still worth owning, though.



2. In the Heat of the Night

More local interest: a Canadian, Norman Jewison, directed this one. It's a police drama starring Sidney Poitier as Virgil Tibbs, a Philadelphia homicide detective called down to investigate a white man's murder in the rural South, where the bigoted local cop, played by Rod Steiger, treats him like dirt. This was as much a civil rights movie as a police procedural, and when Poitier righteously says, "They call me *Mr. Tibbs*," the message was clear: in this new America, blacks deserve respect, wherever they were. The MGM disc has an audio commentary by Jewison.

3. The Dirty Dozen

A Second World War movie with a decidedly '60s sensibility – crazy, man, crazy. Lee Marvin heads a star-studded cast (Ernest Borgnine, Robert Ryan, Charles Bronson and a young and maniacal Donald Sutherland) on a suicide mission deep in Nazi Germany in 1944. The twist is that the crew are all military criminals, let out of the brig for this one assignment: to assassinate German officers on leave, with no hope of ever getting out alive. Plenty of thrills in this quintessential guy's movie. Available from Warner in a two-disc special edition or on HD-DVD.



4. Casino Royale



Multiple 007's abound in this original, chaotic spoof of the James Bond films to that time. *Casino Royale* got the proper thriller treatment in 2006 in a new version starring Daniel Craig, but the 1967 outing is still a delightful hoot to watch. David Niven plays an aging Sir James Bond brought out of retirement to fight the crime syndicate S.M.E.R.S.H. To confuse the enemy, a half-dozen other Bonds join the fray, including Woody Allen as Jimmy Bond. Also starring Orson Welles, William Holden, Peter Sellers

and Ursula Andress. The MGM disc includes a 1954 TV version of the Ian Fleming story.

5. Barefoot in the Park

Playwright Neil Simon did the screen adaptation of his own romantic comedy in this story of two middle-class newlyweds, Paul and Corie Bratter, whose lives change when they move into a new apartment in New York City. Robert Redford is the husband, a staid young lawyer, Jane Fonda is his fun-loving trophy wife, and the contrast in the two personalities gives the film some spark. Pretty tame stuff in hindsight, more of a '50s picture than a late '60s one, but a nice antidote to the violence and social themes Hollywood was exploring at the time. Can't say much about the Paramount DVD – looks great but is bare-bones on extras.



6. Bob Dylan: Dont Look Back



A must-own for any serious fan of '60s music, this is D.A. Pennebaker's famous documentary of life on tour with Bob Dylan in England in the spring of 1965. Hand-held cameras, loads of access to Dylan on and off stage, on-the-fly interviews with fans, lots of great songs. The film was re-issued on DVD in February in a new, double-disc "deluxe" package from Docurama that includes a very cool flipbook of Dylan doing "Subterranean

Homesick Blues." There's also a 40-year anniversary look-back by Pennebaker at the making of his masterpiece, and a paperback illustrated transcript of the original film. Essential.

7. The Taming of the Shrew

Italian director Franco Zeffirelli made some cuts to Shakespeare in this adaptation, but hey, what filmmaker hasn't? This is grand-scale cinema, not reverential theatre, and with Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor playing the leads, a little comedic license is a plus, not a negative. It's also



a film that is very much of its era, tackling male chauvinism with wit and vigour. Brilliant costumes, real locations, filmed in Panavision. The same effort didn't go into the DVD – Columbia TriStar's disc has the film and not much else.

8. A Countess From Hong Kong



Charlie Chaplin's last film (he died 10 years later). A situation comedy, it stars Sophia Loren as a White Russian exiled to Hong Kong who tries to blackmail a rich American (Marlon Brando) into smuggling her to the States aboard a luxury ocean liner. Comic hijinks ensue when they're joined in their cabin by the American's wife (Tippi Hedren). Not a Chaplin classic, by any means, but fans will enjoy the brief appearance he makes in it. Universal's DVD is cheap and unrestored – you get

what you pay for.

9. Thoroughly Modern Millie

"I've taken the girl out of Kansas. Now I have to take Kansas out of the girl!" It's the roaring '20s, and Julie Andrews is a sweet thing from the Midwest who comes to New York City determined to be "modern," only to land smack in the middle of a white slavery operation run by a brothel madam and a gang of Chinese – politically incorrect, sure, but this is a farce. Lots of musical numbers, fancy costumes and sets. Co-starring Mary Tyler Moore and Carol Channing. Universal re-mastered this for DVD.



10. **Two for the Road**

And we end as we began, on the road, though this is no Bonnie-and-Clyde gunfest. Veteran director Stanley Donen (*Singin' in the Rain*, *Charade*) was



solidly at the wheel in this road movie about a husband and wife (Albert Finney and Audrey Hepburn) who explore 12 years of marriage in flashbacks of their annual summer vacation. Filmed on location in France, the film is a paean to love lost and found again, with a very young Jacqueline Bisset making an early screen appearance.

Frederic Raphael's script was nominated for an Oscar. The DVD – given 20th Century-Fox's star treatment under its "Studio Classics" banner – is a bargain.

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