

1. **The Life Aquatic With Steve Zissou** – This masterpiece came out in 2004 (Steve's original list was from 2003) and unquestionably would have been included in any new list that Manny would have written up. A brilliantly filmed and consistently clever journey into the world of a washed up marine documentary filmmaker, Steve Zissou. Bill Murray is spot on in his best performance and Wes Anderson brings the viewer into a magical journey both above and below sea level. Manny liked it so much he bought a bunch of his friends 'Team Zissou' t-shirts and red caps that we would wear when doing group exercise. Anyone who hasn't seen it should.
2. **Road House** – How this didn't make the cut on the original list is beyond me. I can think of few movies that we watched together more times (likely only *The Eiger Sanction* and *The Professionals*, maybe toss in *Aspen Extreme*). Patrick Swayze plays renowned PhD philosopher/bar bouncer Dalton, who comes in to save a town from sadistic Brad Wesley, played by a completely over-the-top Ben Gazzara. The story is....well, just watch it or watch it again. I'll always remember Roger Ebert's entry in his yearly film guide about this one, which was something like, "I don't think I was supposed to, but I laughed more when I watched this than any other film this year."
3. **Mulholland Drive** – Steve mentioned leaving out David Lynch in his introduction, and I can only presume that in a career of brilliant filmmaking, this one would make a revised list. It is Lynch at his most weird, most cryptic and most thought provoking. I also happen to think it's his finest. Some have deciphered it as a scathing satire on Hollywood, but as usual Lynch has never provided any explanation. As confusing and inexplicable as it may be, it is also brilliant. "So, let's just say I'm driving this buggy. And, if you fix your attitude, you can ride along with me."
4. **When We Were Kings** – Definitely one of the greatest sports documentaries ever made, another film that surprised me that didn't make the original cut on the list of 43. Since it was a massive hit at The Castle for obvious reasons. Detailing the 1974 Rumble in The Jungle, it captures the sport of boxing and above all, the magic of Muhammad Ali better than any other attempt.
5. **Pumping Iron** – The stellar 1977 documentary which marked the mainstream ascension of soon to be mega-star and future governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. At its most basic it is a documentary on the sport/art of bodybuilding, but looking a little deeper, it's about competition in general and the relentless pursuit to be the absolute best at something. The scene when 6'5" 275lb Lou Ferrigno turns to his trainer/father and says, "No dad! You're wrong, don't wanna look small" must be seen to be believed.
6. **Aspen Extreme** – "TJ Burke show coming at ya live!" A frequently viewed (usually while drinking) ski-flick, the epitome of a good/bad movie. It's got great cinematography and action sequences, and some excellent actors delivering some really bad dialogue to accompany a cheesy and predictable story. As bad as it is, it is utterly enjoyable. "I don't speak American Express."
7. **Touching The Void** – Likely the best portrayal of climbing ever put on film, this is an unbelievable story. If you haven't seen it, you must.

8. **Blue Velvet** – Famously summed up by David Lynch as “the Hardy Boys go to hell”, Blue Velvet is a neo-noir descent into the depths of the underbelly of an otherwise ‘normal’ town. Even though he’d been Oscar nominated for *The Elephant Man* a couple years prior, this is the film that put David Lynch on the map. There is nothing bad about this movie. Great story, great acting, great [and memorable] dialogue. Like Miller’s *Crossing* and *Double Indemnity*, a near perfect film.
9. **Vision Quest** – Coming of age story of a high school wrestler inspired to be the best. “It ain’t the 6 minutes. It’s what happens in that 6 minutes.”
10. **Odds Against Tomorrow** – Gotta have another film noir on the list so I’m going with this one from 1959. Harry Belafonte is outstanding as a down on his luck nightclub singer who gets conned into a bank job to pay off gambling debts. “I’ll kill you and everything you own!”
11. **Hard Boiled** – The opening scene of *Hard Boiled* is justifiably one of the most famous intros in filmdom and with it John Woo re-invigorated (maybe even re-invented) an entire genre. Another movie that I really don’t ever get tired of watching.
12. **Breaking Away** – Another coming of age/sports story, except this one is about cycling. Sporting an Oscar winning script by Steve Tesich, the movie is highlighted by stellar performances by all, particularly Dave Stoller’s parents played by Paul Dooley and Barbara Barry. “Everybody cheats. I just didn’t know it til now.” “Well, now you know.”
13. **The Mack** – Since I’m expanding on the list, I’m going to throw in another worthy genre, Blaxploitation. Most folks look towards Melvin Peebles’ *Sweet Sweetback’s Baaaddaasss Song* as more representative of the genre, but I’m going to go with *The Mack*, even if it was made by an old white Italian dude. Max Julien stars as a Oakland pimp and prospective “Mack of The Year”, Goldie with Richard Pryor as his sidekick. Epic soundtrack by Willie Hutch to boot that would often play near continuously at The Castle for days on end. “Next time you hear grown folks talkin’ shut tha fuck up!”