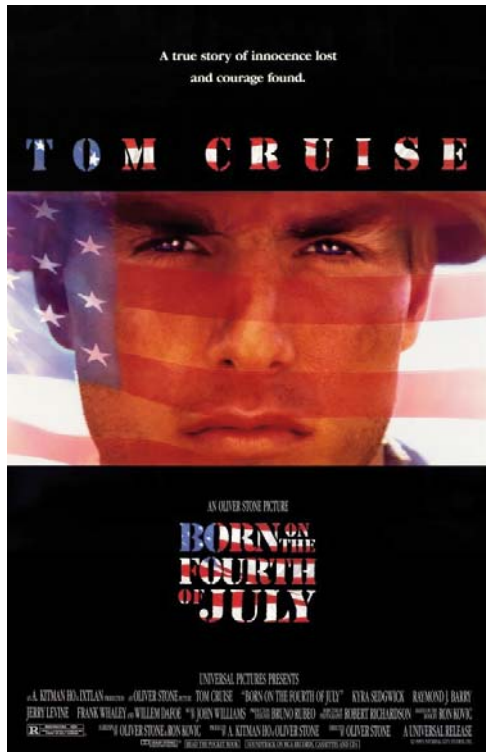


Disability in the cinema



Action: Sixties. [New York (United States), Vietnam, Mexico...]. American poster.

Technical Details

Title: *Born on the Fourth of July.*

Country: United States.

Year: 1989.

Director: Oliver Stone.

Music: John Williams.

Photography: Robert Richardson.

Film editor: David Brenner and Joe Hutshing.

Screenwriter: Ron Kovic and Oliver Stone on the book of the former based on his autobiography.

Cast: Tom Cruise, Willem Dafoe, Raymond J. Barry, Caroline Kava, Kyra Sedgwick, Bryan Larkin, Stephen Baldwin, Bruce McVittie, Tom Sizemore, Vivica A. Fox, Frank Whaley, Jerry Levine, Lili Taylor and William Baldwin.

Color: Color.

Runtime: 145 minutes.

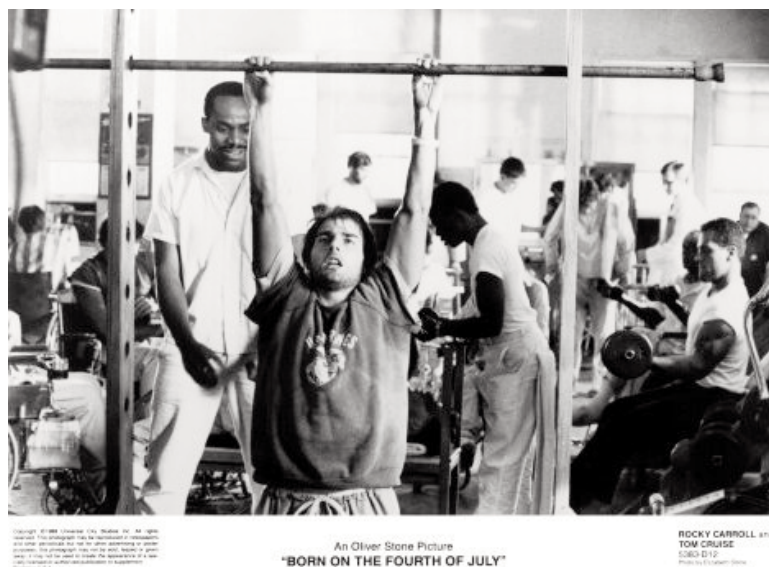
Genre: Biographic, Drama, War.

Production Company: Ixtlan.

Synopsis: Ron Kovic, a young American convinced he must serve his country, joins the army in 1976 to go to Vietnam. He returns in a wheelchair paralyzed from his hips downwards. In his home town, surrounded by his family and fiends, he begins to reflect on the value of his convictions.

Awards: Awards: Nominated for 8 Oscars, it obtained 2: Best Director and Best Film Editing (1990).

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0096969>



Physical disability. Tom Cruise's acting earned him a nomination for an Oscar for Best Actor. The award finally went to Daniel Day-Lewis for *My left foot* (in which he portrayed a person with Cerebral Palsy).



Action: Fifties. (United States, Vietnam).
American poster.

Technical Details

Title: *Forrest Gump*.

Country: United States.

Year: 1994.

Director: Robert Zemeckis.

Music: Alan Silvestri.

Photography: Don Burgess.

Film editor: Arthur Schmidt.

Screenwriter: Eric Roth, based on a novel of the same name Winston Groom.

Cast: Tom Hanks, Robin Wright Penn, Gary Sinise, Mykelti Williamson, Sally Field, Rebecca Williams, Michael Conner Humphreys, Harold G. Herthum, Haley Joel Osment, George Kelly, Bob Penny, John Randall, Sam Anderson, Margo Moorer and Christine Seabrook.

Color: Black and white and color.

Runtime: 142 minutes.

Genre: Drama, Romance.

Production Company: Paramount Pictures.

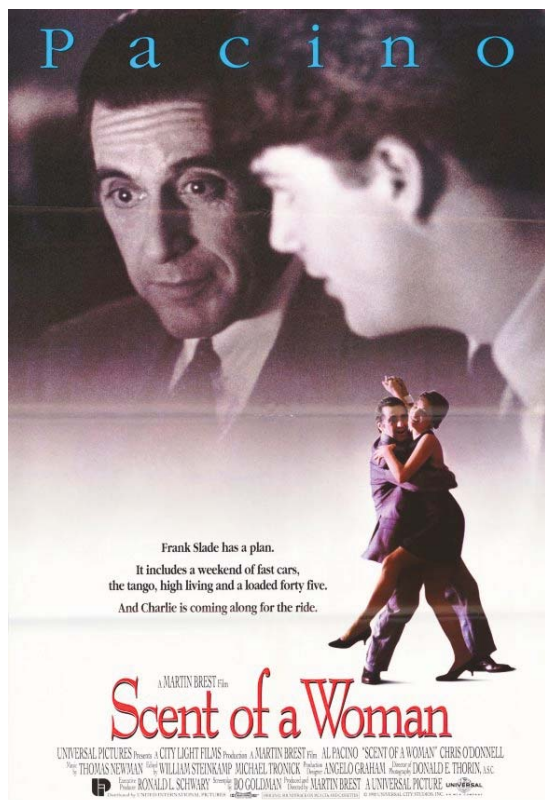
Synopsis: The story of Forrest Gump during a convulsive and ever-changing period of American history (The Vietnam War, the birth of the Hippie Movement, the start of the AIDS pandemic). Forrest is mentally challenged to a moderate degree, with motor compromise.

Awards: Nominated for 13 Oscars, it received 6 for the Best Picture. Director, Main Actor in a Leading Role, Film Editing, Adapted Script and Visual Effects (1995).

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0109830>



Intellectual disability. Again, a well grounded actor (Tom Hanks) earned an Oscar for portraying a person with a disability.



Action: Eighties. [New Hampshire and New York (United States)].
American poster.

Technical Details

Title: *Scent of a Woman*.

Country: United States.

Year: 1992.

Director: Martin Brest.

Music: Thomas Newman.

Photography: Donald E. Thorin.

Film editor: Harvey Rosenstock, William Steinkamp and Michael Tronick.

Screenwriter: Bo Goldman, concerning the novel *Il Buio E Il Miele* by Giovanni Arpino.

Cast: Al Pacino, Chris O'Donnell, Gabrielle Anwar, James Rebhorn, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Richard Venture, Bradley Whitford and Ron Eldard.

Color: Color.

Runtime: 157 minutes.

Genre: Drama.

Productions Companies: City Light Films and Universal Pictures.

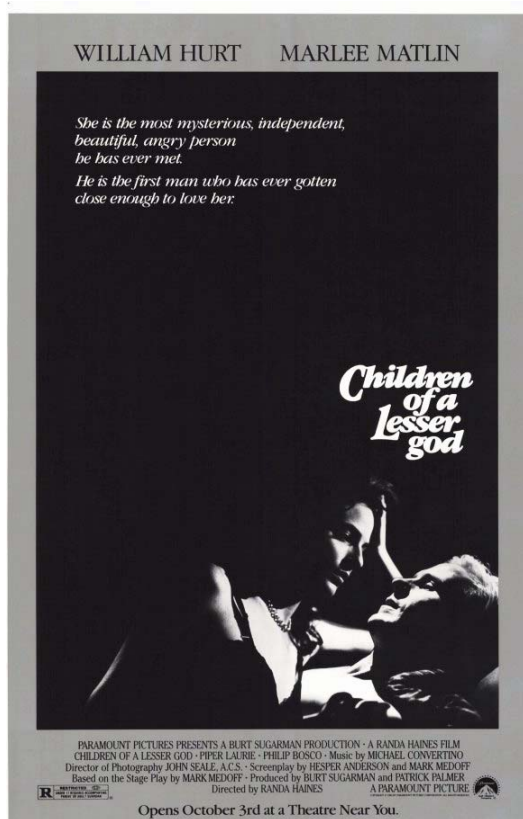
Synopsis: Charlie Simms (Chris O'Donnell) studies in New Hampshire and needs money to return home for Christmas. He therefore decides to work as an accompanying person to a blind army colonel at weekends. Together they travel to New York, where they become involved in an adventure that is revealing for both of them.

Awards: Nominated for 4 Oscars, the film obtained the Best Actor in a Leading Role (1993).

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0105323>



Visual Impairment. After 7 unsuccessful nominations, Al Pacino finally earned an Oscar for Best Actor as the blind Lieutenant Colonel Frank Slade.



Action: Seventies. [New England (United States)].
 American poster.

Technical Details

Title: *Children of a Lesser God*.

Country: United States.

Year: 1986.

Director: Randa Haines.

Music: Michael Convertino.

Photography: John Seale.

Film editor: Lisa Fruchtman.

Screenwriter: Mark Medoff, Hesper Anderson and James Carrington (not accredited) about the homonymous play by Medoff.

Cast: William Hurt, Marlee Matlin, Piper Laurie and Philip Bosco.

Color: Color.

Runtime: 119 minutes.

Genre: Drama, Romance.

Production Company: Paramount Pictures.

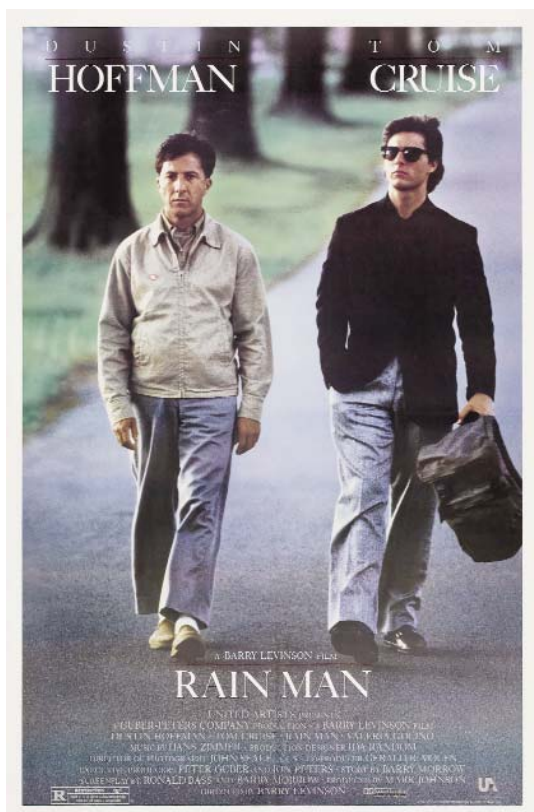
Synopsis: In a school for the vocally and aurally challenged, the problems usually encountered in any teaching centre are aggravated owing to the need to maintain a difficult balance in dealing with students accustomed to isolation. When one of the instructors feels strongly attracted towards one of the female students, the situation becomes further complicated through her reactions, which are at first hostile and nearly always unforeseeable.

Awards: Nominated for 5 Oscar, it won Best Actress in a Leading Role (Marlee Matlin).

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0090830>



Hearing Impairment. One of the few cases in which an actor/actress actually has such a disability: Marlee Matlin. She was awarded an Oscar for Best Actress.



Action: Eighties. [Los Angeles, Cincinnati... (United States)].
American poster.

Technical Details

Title: *Rain Man*.

Country: United States.

Year: 1988.

Director: Barry Levinson.

Music: Hans Zimmer.

Photography: John Seale.

Film editor: Stu Linder.

Screenwriter: Ronald Bass and Barry Morrow.

Cast: Dustin Hoffman, Tom Cruise, Valeria Golino, Bonnie Hunt, Gerald R. Molen, Jack Murdock, Michel D. Roberts, Ralph Seymour, Lucinda Jenney and Beth Grant.

Color: Color.

Runtime: 133 minutes.

Genre: Drama.

Production Company: United Artists, Guber-Peters Company, The Star Partners II Ltd. and Mirage Entertainment (not accredited).

Synopsis: Charles (Tom Cruise) is a young man with few cares who devotes his time to living well. One day he received news that his father has died and has left him a job to do. Charles goes to find out more and is surprised to find that he has an older brother who is autistic, which his father had kept from him but who had left him an inheritance of everything with the exception of the convertible Buick.

Awards: Nominated for 8 Oscars, it obtained 4 for Best Picture, Director, Actor in a Leading Role and Original Script.

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0095953>



Autism Spectrum Disorders. Until 1988 very few films had addressed autism. Dustin Hoffman's acting and the award it earned him made the public much more aware of the condition.

David Aparicio Sánchez

Instituto Universitario de Integración en la Comunidad (INICO). Universidad de Salamanca, Salamanca (Spain).

Correspondence: David Aparicio Sánchez. INICO. Avda. de la Merced, 109-131. 37005 Salamanca (Spain).

e-mail: davidapa@usal.es