

# Watching The Directors: The Director Score

The Director Score is based on 5 areas that can be fairly attributed to the director. Each of these areas is ranked on a scale of 1-10. **10** represents the highest – the gold standard set by a few legends. **5** represents the middle-ground, where most decent filmmakers land. Those directors approaching a **1** are next in line to helm a made-for-TV *Saved By The Bell* reunion special.

**1. Body of work.** How many great works are on the director's résumé? Is he or she a one-hit wonder (but, oh what a hit)? Has this director created a number of pantheon level films or straight-to-video stinkers?

**10.** Alfred Hitchcock: (*Psycho, North by Northwest, Notorious, The Birds, Vertigo*, etc)

**5.** Gore Verbinski: (*Pirates of the Caribbean, The Ring, The Mexican*)

**1.** John Raja Gosnell: (*Scooby Doo, Home Alone 3*)

**2. Entertainment.** There's nothing wrong with thoughtful, serious movies. But we here at WTD appreciate being entertained. Be honest - you'd rather see *Die Hard* than *The Sorrow and the Pity*. Does the director give you that rare blend of substance and pleasure? Do the films feel more like an English class forced assignment or something that makes you say, "That was money well spent"? Did you get completely engaged or have to leave your brain at the door?

**10.** Steven Spielberg: (*Jaws, Raiders of the Lost Ark, Close Encounters, Jurassic Park, Minority Report*)

**5.** Kenneth Branagh: (*Henry V, Frankenstein, In the Bleak Midwinter*)

**2.** Franco Zeffirelli: (*Jesus of Nazareth, Brother Sun Sister Moon*)

**3. Technical.** Some directors can put together films that never age, never cease to have some new angle you hadn't noticed before. Some films are entertaining, but assembled with careless attention to continuity, boring – or overbearing – camera work, excessive montages and distracting special effects.

**10.** Stanley Kubrick: (*2001, Spartacus, Full Metal Jacket, Barry Lyndon*)

**5.** Richard Donner: (*Superman, Lethal Weapon*)

**2.** Peter Hyams: (*A Sound of Thunder, Timecop*)

**1.** Ed Wood, Jr.: (*Plan 9 From Outer Space, Glen or Glenda*)

**4. Character and Story.** How alive are the characters in the film? How good is the acting? Does the director turn great actors into objects or mediocre actors into legends? Do you remember the characters' names and lines or only the actors and excessive action sequences? Are plots meaningful or non-existent?

- 10. Francis Ford Coppola: (*Godfather, Apocalypse Now, The Outsiders*)
- 5. John McTiernan: (*Die Hard, The Thomas Crown Affair*)
- 1. Stephen Norrington: (*Blade, League of Extraordinary Gentlemen*)

**5. Atmosphere.** Regardless of genre, a good director can bring you into the reality of the film's world. Does the movie experience transport you, leaving you with the sense that you really were in Vietnam, outer space or in a place that gives you the chills? Or do you get lost in preposterous plots and action - are you left with the sensation that you're watching a junior high drama production, complete with cardboard backdrops and hand-drawn props?

- 10. Ridley Scott: (*Blade Runner, Alien, Gladiator, Black Hawk Down*)
- 5. Blake Edwards (*Breakfast at Tiffany's, The Pink Panther, The Great Race*)
- 2. Joseph Vito (*Invasion U.S.A., Red Scorpion, Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>: The Final Chapter*)

<b>Body of Work</b>	
<b>Entertainment</b>	
<b>Technical</b>	
<b>Character/Story</b>	
<b>Atmosphere</b>	
<b>Total =</b>	

**Total ÷ 5 =  
Director Score**