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## Islands in the stream original video

IE 11 is not supported. For an optimal experience, visit our website in another browser. Share the holiday spirit with these 13 gifts that give back this site is not available in its country like Netflix, Amazon has begun to act as a distributor of its entertainment, picking up quite a few risky movies and giving them theatrical releases before debuting them in streaming titles, presumably available forever-or-least as long as the service lasts. Perhaps because of their big-screen clout, however, Amazon titles seem a little more ambitious than Netflix, a little more artistic, and less like titles could be found in a 1980s video store. There's a focus on strong directors (Richard Linklater, Jim Jarmusch, Spike Lee, Todd Haynes, et al), and talent who appear in several titles (Michael Shannon and Samuel L. Jackson are each represented twice in this top 10). Amazon still doesn't offer the sheer number of titles that Netflix has, and they don't seem to come out quite often, but the quality is higher overall. The best Amazon original film is better than anything on Netflix so far. This is my personal list of the 10 best and three runners-up; plus, the rest categorized for easy picking. Top 1010. Manchester by The Sea Amazon Studios Teen Patrick Chandler (Lucas Hedges must deal with the death of his father and the arrival of his uncle Kenneth Lonergan's Manchester by the Sea. Playwright Kenneth Lonergan won an Oscar for his screenplay for Manchester by the Sea (2016), which is also the third film he directed (after you can count on me and Margaree). Whether his film has any visual flourish or not, there is no doubt that he creates deeply nuanced characters and can direct subtle performances. The story deals with sudden death, which brings Boston handyman Lee Chandler (Casey Affleck) north to Manchester. Lee is in a vicious mood and does not suffer fools, and he betrays and a general sense of sadness and remorse in his life. He finds that he is made a guardian of the teen nephew, Patrick (Lucas Hedges), and while their relationship is not exactly easygoing, they wind up spending a lot of time together, dealing with all the things that need to be dealt with after death. It's bitter cold, and Lonergan makes most of it a gray, cool atmosphere as Lee and Patrick argue at a funeral (winter land is too hard to bury anyone) and about a family boat (it's too expensive to keep maintenance). Michelle Williams co-stars in the small heartbreaking role of Lee's ex. As for life, the film has no easy answers, but it's not cute moments of connection. (Affleck won an Oscar for his performance, despite some controversy over a sexual harassment allegation that was apparently resolved.) 9th Chi-Raq Amazon Studios Lysistrata (Teyonah Parris) convinces women in Chicago to stick to sex until violence stops. Spike Lee Chi-Raq. Spike Lee's explosive career proves there's no one. talented, prolific or audacious works today. He takes risks and fails quite often. Some of his newer efforts are almost unrespectable, and certainly some viewers think that Chi-Raq (2015). Amazon's first original film. It is based on the old play Lysistrata by Aristophanes, and largely written in a hip-hop rhyme scheme with some musical numbers thrown in, but it is also set in today's, violently plagued Chicago, nicknamed Chi-Raq to sound like Iraq. Chi-Raq (Nick Cannon) is also the name leader of the gang, the Spartans, at war with the Trojans, led by a one-eyed Cyclops (crazy Wesley Snipes). When a woman (Jennifer Hudson) loses her son's stray bullet, Chi-Raq's sexy girlfriend Lysistrata (Teyonah Parris) decides to rally all women and stick to sex with their men until arms are laid and peace is at hand. Angela Bassett co-stars as an older woman who reads books (gasp!), John Cusack is a preacher and Samuel L. Jackson is a kind of Greek choir. It's messy, over-the-top, and repetitive, but it's undeniably passionate, and even strangely optimistic.8. The Complete Unknown from Amazon Studios Rachel Weisz plays a woman with many identities who makes a surprise visit to a man she never knew. Joshua Marston's Complete Unknown. The smart, challenging filmmaker Joshua Marston (Maria Full of Grace, Forgiveness of Blood, Come Sunday) begins with Complete Unknown (2016) almost like a science fiction film, with Rachel Weisz appearing as a nurse, or magician assistant, or other things, with different hairstyles and personalities in different parts of the world. Are these alternative realities? Not. She is a woman who never decided to change her identity and start over and became fond of the idea. In this story, he decides to fall for Tom (Michael Shannon), the man he never knew at his birthday party. He entertains guests with his strange stories – he claims to have discovered a new frog breed identified by this unique song – until they perceive calving. When he leaves, Tom follows him to get further explanation and a transformative experience. In a way, it's an actors' movie, but it could be for anyone. Through the movie's many intricate details, such as the misspelled name of a birthday cake, Marston manages to explore how fragile a thing like identity is, and perhaps more complicated, the connections of more than one fragile identity.7. Elvis & Nixon Amazon Studios Elvis Presley (Michael Shannon) pays a visit to President Nixon to discuss his becoming a secret agent of Elvis & Nixon. Kevin Spacey is the elephant in this room, and you have to decide if you can separate Spacey's offscreen behavior from his on-screen work; this is a difficult question, and maybe one that can only be answered over time. Meanwhile, Liza Johnson's Elvis & Nixon (2016) is a strange roll of dice, an entire feature film built for a photograph: a 1970 snapshot of Elvis Presley and President Richard Nixon that became The most requested item in the National Archives.Michael Shannon makes a crazy Elvis, apparently deciding that he'd get an agent-at-large drug office, and asking for a meeting with the president. After much manipulating his aides, the president (Spacey), though he has no use for rock-and-rollers, reluctantly agrees. And strangely, it turns out that the two men have a lot in common. Colin Hanks is funny in his role as a Nixon aide, but Alex Pettyfer and Johnny Knoxville don't offer much more than padding their roles to Elvis's pals. Generally, it's nothing, but it's kind of oddball and so enjoyable that it can be worth cult status. Of All People actress Cary Elwes (Princess Bride) co-wrote the screenplay.6. Love and Friendship at Amazon Studios Jane Austen characters Alicia Johnson (Chloë Sevigny) and Lady Susan Vernon (Kate Beckinsale) try to manipulate matters of heart in Whit Stillman's Love & Love & Friendship. Writer/director Whit Stillman broke into the movies with his portraits of a hyper-educated, upper crust, urban youth, painting them as flawed and funny as the rest of us, so it's not too much of a stretch to consider him adapting Jane Austen. Love & Friendship (2016) is based on Austen's early screenplay (published posthumously) and contains perhaps her nastiest and funniest character, Lady Susan. And Kate Beckinsale curses her beloved teeth in a role with great panache and humor. It's a common bit of husband hunting, with Susan craving well-off, younger Reginald De Courcy (Xavier Samuel), but competing with her daughter Frederica (Morfydd Clark) for her attention. Susan tries to throw Frederica off the trail, creating her with a doltsih, jabbering Sir James (fun Tom Bennett). Occasionally Susan brings updates to her plan with her equally cynical American friend Alicia Johnson (Chloe Sevigny). This is a welcome reunion after two stars together 18 years earlier at Stillman's Last Days at the Disco. It's all brutally funny, but keep as light and airy as spring day in the country estate.5. I'm Not Your Negro Amazon Studios Raoul Peck documentary I Am Not Your Negro explores the relationship between James Baldwin (center) and three influential civil rights leaders. At the end of 2016, it was one of an extraordinary documentary about racism in America (with Ezra Edelman's O.J.: Made in America and Ava Duvernay 13. Acclaimed Haitian-born filmmaker Raoul Peck (Lumumba) based his film on unfinished screenplay writer James Baldwin, discussing Baldwin's relationship with civil rights leaders Medgar Evers, Malcolm X and Martin Luther King, Jr. specifically, but the service describes the bigger picture of America.While dealing largely with the 1960s, I'm not your negro is an important piece of history, it's also shamefully important today. Samuel L. Jackson offers a candid narrative that reflects Baldwin's own beautiful, intelligent way of speaking, and the documentary offers a number of powerful photographs and archival material. Baldwin talks about race clearly, which was shocking at the time, and still quite bracing. He has been captured not only in outraged and defiant, but also in moments of fatigue and sadness, because the deaths of his friends affect him in the most common human way.4. Handmaiden Amazon Studios Sookee (Kim Tae-ri) slowly falls in love with her lover Lady Hideko (Kim Min-hee), a disturbing perfectly planned con for work at Park Chan-wook's Handmaiden. Korean director Park Chan-wook is known for her twisted cult classic Oldboy (2003) and cinema buffs know her for her other, equally subversive work. So it's not surprising that this 2.5-hour costume drama is far from stodgy, the stuffy thing it could have been. Based on Sarah Waters's novel, The Handmaid's Tale (2016) takes place in 1930. A young Korean pickpocket Sookee (Kim Tae-ri) has been chosen by a con artist who poses for a Japanese count (Ha Jung-woo) to help with the new scam. Sookee is getting a new maid for a beautiful Japanese heiress, Lady Hideko (Kim Min-hee), while the count swoops in to win her hand in marriage. Together, they're trying to drive him crazy. Meanwhile, Lady Hideko lives with her uncle (Cho Jin-woong, ink-blackened) who keeps collecting rare erotic books she forces her to read to guests regularly. Finally, Sookee finds the plan upset when she starts falling in love with Lady Hideko. Director Park commands full control over his ornate frames and opulent decorations, using them to suggest a variety of layers of deception and lust.3. Last Flag Flying amazon studios Old War buddies Sal (Bryan Cranston), Doc (Steve Carell) and Mueller (Laurence Fishburne) travel together to retrieve the body of Doc's son Richard Linklater's Last Flag Flying. This one won't arrive on Amazon Prime until May 4, so it's a bit of a cheat ranking for it so high, but it's good enough to wait. Directed by Richard Linklater, the seriously underrated Last Flag Flying (2017) is a worthy companion piece to Hal Ashby's The Last Detail (1974), both of which are based on the novels of Darryl Ponicsan. This includes three former servicemen who all served together in Vietnam, a road trip: former Marines Sal Nealon (Bryan Cranston) and Richard Mueller (Laurence Fishburne) and former Navy Corps medic Larry Doc Shepherd (Steve Carell). It's 2003, and Doc lost his son in the current war in the Middle East. He asks his old friends to come with him to get his body. Sal is a lovable loudmouth while Mueller is now a reverend in his local church, Doc quietly processes his grief. Their charismatic combo-and-three outstanding performances-offer not only great laughs, but also easily make tear-ducts flow. Linklater guides them through the story of their usual and frozen, winter countryside, hilariously out-of-place Christmas decorations.2. Wonderstruck Amazon Studios Rose (Millicent Simmonds), a deaf girl from the 1920s, travels to New York to find her mother, an actress in silent pictures, in Todd Haynes's Wonderstruck. One of the best and most underrated-movies of his year, Todd Haynes's Wonderstruck (2017), is like the director's best work (Safe, far from heaven, I'm not there), involving the story and at the same time thoughtful commentary on this story. Based on a book by Brian Selznick (Hugo), it takes place in two periods of time: in the 1920s, a deaf girl, Rose (Millicent Simmonds, also in Quiet Place) looks for a connection with her mother (Julianne Moore), an actress in silent movies. Fittingly, this segment presented a black and white silent film. Then, in the 1970s, Ben (Oakes Fegley) is struck by lightning and loses his hearing. His mother (Michelle Williams) refuses to tell him anything about his true father, so when he discovers a book with a hint of it, he hits the way new York.As Haynes switches back and forth between sequences of brilliantly intuitive visual and phonetic rhyming, a kind of passionate magic encounter that involves history, books, movies, cities and changing times. Carter Burwell's beautiful music score, amazingly, also emphasizes silence. The film is also completely child-friendly, although it requires a little more patience than the average YouTube video.1. Paterson Amazon Studios Paterson (Adam Driver) tells Laura (Golshifteh Farahani) of her days as New Jersey bus driver Jim Jarmusch's Paterson. A flat-out masterpiece, Paterson (2016) just ranks with director Jim Jarmusch's best, which includes Stranger Than Paradise (1984), Down by Law (1986) and Dead Man (1996). It is a poetic film about poets and poets, black and white and color, and place in the world, both stationary and constantly shifting. But it's also very funny and totally adorable. Adam Driver is the title character, unironically named Paterson, who lives in Paterson, New Jersey. He writes poetry and drives a city bus, and that's it. At home he lives with his significant other Laura (Golshifteh Farahani) and their bulldog Marvin. He creates artistic designs on everything from curtains to cupcakes and learns to play guitar, constantly searching, but often happy and grateful in his life. The film takes place within a week; Paterson takes Marvin for a walk at night to a bar where he nurses beer and watches people in their natural habitat. The weekend brings great change, so sad and beautiful. As it ends, the movie casts a spell that makes you wish you could live in this world, or at least just hang out from time to time and think about life. Note: This is Jarmusch's second Amazon film after Gimme Danger. Double-featured To read the remaining options, click Next below. Page 2 of Amazon Studios Colin Warner (Keith Stanfield) is wrong Murder in Crown Heights. Author: JT LeRoy Story is a troubled but still fascinating documentary by writer Laura Albert, who created a fake persona that went too far. The City of Ghosts is a wonderful, tough, powerful documentary about journalists in Syria who are under constant threat from ISIS. Crown Heights tells the true story of a man wrongly imprisoned and attempts to set his case correctly, with a fine performance by Lakeith Stanfield. Gleason is in a gripping documentary about New Orleans Saints star Steve Gleason after he was diagnosed with ALS. Human Flow is a sled documentary about refugees from all over the world, directed by artist Ai Weiwei.James Gray's Lost City of Z tells the true story of military man Percy Fawcett (Charlie Hunnam) and his attempts to find an ancient city in the Amazon; it's long and gloomy, but Robert Pattinson is as amazing as Fawcett's second-in-command. Nicolas Winding Refn's Neon Demon has a lot of style and very little substance; it's weird but subtle in appearance. Asghar Farhad's arrogant, uneven Salesman is the Oscar-winner for best foreign language film. Lightweight but directing movies at Amazon Studios Kumail (Kumail Nanjiani) is a comedian whose girlfriend is in a coma with the Big Sick. Amazon Studios' Big Sick tells the true story of how Kumail Nanjiani and Emily V. Gordon got together despite being in a coma. It's fun and Holly Hunter is great, but it's too long and relies too much on rom-com clichés. Woody Allen's Cafe Society is far from its best, but it has its moments. It looks good and stars Jesse Eisenberg, Kristen Stewart and Steve Carell. Jim Jarmusch's Gimme Danger is a documentary about Iggy Pop and the Stooges, a little too standard to be punk rock, but fun and full of great music. Gringo [coming later in 2018] is an all-star caper comedy that runs out of gas, but still has some funny, scrappy stuff. The landline is a unwoke, shaggy comedy set in 1995 and starring Jenny Slate as a woman with a small breakdown and believing that her father is having an affair. The romantic tangle of The Only Living Boy in New York is not really anywhere, but has a large cast and a few strong moments. Movies approach cautiously at Amazon Studios Carolina (Juno Temple) arrives on Coney Island looking for his father's Wonder Wheel. Brad's Status features an even irritating Ben Stiller character that whines about his first world problems and has problems growing up. Artistic, black and white Creative Control is a film with too much technology and annoying, shallow characters. The Dressmaker is willowy comedy-drama Kate Winslet where everyone learns valuable life lessons. Woody Allen's Wonder Wheel is a drama (no comedy) about some tortured souls on Coney Island, circa 1950. It's very abrasive and never comes together, but Vittorio Storaro's cinematography is luscious. Venerable mentions Amazon Studios Veterinary Nurse Dawn Wiener (Greta Gerwig) rescues dog and goes on Road trip in Todd Solondz's Wiener-Dog. Todd Solondz's deadpan Wiener-Dog (2016)-quasi-follow-up to his famous Welcome To The Doll's House (1996) – is not for every taste. After the title of the dog, as it has passed the owner owner, it may be unpleasantly peculiar, but it is never boring and it shows strangely appealing humanity. Tracy Letts, Julie Delpy, Kieran Culkin, Danny DeVito and Ellen Burstyn are among the ensemble cast. Doug Liman's film The Wall (2017) recalls the B films of Samuel Fuller or Don Siegel, which takes place in one set with only three actors, as Sergeant Allan Isaac (Aaron Taylor-Johnson) is pinned by an unseen sniper behind a crumbling wall. Lynne Ramsay's You Were Never Really Here was released in theaters in April 2018 and coming into streaming later in the year, but this is one of Amazon's best, brutal, dreamy, interior film noir about a hitman/problem solver (Joaquin Phoenix) who finds herself too deep after rescuing the senator's daughter from sex slavery. 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