

Movies: 1984 best cinema films listed

By Kathy Amen

Happy New Year! One of the joys of the season, for me, is reading and compiling "10 Best" lists. How many of the following do you agree with? (The titles are in alphabetical order, with numbers first, the way computers alphabetize.)

2010. Though less deep and demanding than *2001: A Space Odyssey*, this is a worthy sequel. It's certainly more entertaining, with more appealing characters and an exciting story. The special effects aren't *Star Wars* flashy, but fit the action well.

All of Me. This movie gives you two of the best comedians in recent years in one package -- literally. Steve Martin and Lili Tomlin share the same body after a soul transmigration scheme goes awry. There are plenty of guffaws here, but more thoughtful humor as well.

Amadeus. I can't say enough good things about this movie. It tells the sad story of Mozart's tragically brief adulthood, but you leave the theater singing. It lasts two and one half hours, but it seems like thirty minutes. F. Murray Abraham and Tom Hulce give wonderful

performances and the music is heavenly.

Broadway Danny Rose. This Woody Allen gem may not be his best, but even his second-best is better than most. Allen is Danny, a theatrical agent with a heart of gold and a stable of losers. Mia Farrow is also very good as his sidekick, a gangster's former girlfriend.

Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom. The violence controversy surrounding this movie was overblown. It's the best non-science-fiction adventure movie to come out since *Raiders of the Lost Ark*. Harrison Ford is the best star of such movies, and Ke Huy Quan gives one of the most enjoyable kid's performances ever.

The Karate Kid. One of the year's best family movies, it offers an unlikely blend of growing pains, martial arts, and gentle philosophy. It is *Rocky* with karate instead of boxing, and much more appealing characters.

Moscow on the Hudson. A real showcase for Robin Williams' considerable talents. He plays a Russian who defects in Bloomington's after looking for designer jeans. A very engaging supporting cast helps him sample the joys and

cope with the problems of American life.

Places in the Heart. A very unusual and exquisitely made movie which is actually a memoir of sorts for small-town, pre-war America. Sally Field is outstanding as a young widow, and several others shine in supporting roles, particularly Danny Glover as her right-hand man in the cotton field.

A Soldier's Story. One of the best ensemble movies in recent memory,

it features exceptional performances and a provocative story. Set in the 1940's, it has a lot to say to us today about racial tensions and being black.

Starman. This is science fiction for everyone. Jeff Bridges gives a witty portrayal of an alien (like E.T., but humanoid) who must learn everything about life on Earth from scratch. Karen Allen is equally likeable as his Elliott, who sees that he gets home.



Jeff Bridges is a harmless alien and Karen Allen is the confused, yet caring earthling who becomes his only hope for survival on earth in Columbia Pictures' *Starman*, directed by John Carpenter. Larry J. Franco produced with Barry Bernardi co-producing from a screenplay by Bruce A. Evans and Raynold Gideon. Michael Douglas is executive producer. (Courtesy photo)