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**Movies to
watch while
under the
influence**

STORY BY
MARIA LORETO

ILLUSTRATIONS BY
LAURÈNE BOGLIO

Beyond Cheech & Chong





Ask a random sample of people to name their favorite stoner film,

and you're likely to get a list of Seth Rogen movies or visions of Matthew McConaughey saying, "Alright, alright, alright" as he pulls up in his car in *Dazed and Confused*. For others, Cheech and Chong movies come to mind. But those traditional so-called stoner movies address only the silly, giggling side of the marijuana experience. And while we all enjoy that effect of ripping a bong, assuming this is the only kind of movie to watch after a few tokes can make us miss out on the many movies that can be enhanced through a high viewing experience.

Just as we expand our understanding of the ways in which cannabis can enrich our lives, so, too, can we broaden our idea of the kind of movies to watch while stoned. Cannabis can be the spice that gives movies additional zing and meaning. Not sure where to start? Here are some suggestions for films you can pair with your next joint.

FOR FEELING AWE

Few things make you more aware of life than cannabis. One second you're relaxing; the next you're thinking about how strange it is to be breathing through your lungs. Movies and weed pair well together because cannabis gives you certainty—real or imagined—that you have a deeper understanding of what's happening on-screen. Take, for instance, Stanley Kubrick's 1968 film, *2001: A Space Odyssey*. The film follows the journey of *Discovery One*, a



spaceship bound for Jupiter, and the evil computer, HAL, that takes control of it. It becomes grander and more ambitious with every toke you take.

High Life is an updated take on Kubrick's movie. Directed by Claire Denis and released in 2018, the film, which stars Robert Pattinson and Juliette Binoche, tracks a group of criminals sent out to space. In the spaceship where they live and work, they're joined by a scientist who conducts experiments on them. It's a creepy movie, obsessed with sex and space, but also hopeful and beautiful. Many elements are left up to interpretation, which a side of cannabis just might help you decode in a unique way.

Those looking for an even unlikelier awe-inducing film should consider 1997's **Perfect Blue**. Directed by Satoshi Kon, this film is a great introduction to anime and all its weird wonderfulness, especially for adult viewers. The film follows Mima, a member of a beloved Japanese pop band, who leaves the band to pursue an acting career. A stalker soon appears and the movie quickly transforms into a strange experience that cannabis can only improve.

FOR ENHANCING A GOOD TIME

For those times when you want cannabis to be the protagonist of the evening, it's important to pair it with a movie that makes having a good time easy. **Stop Making Sense** fits this description. Directed by Jonathan Demme, this 1984 movie chronicles a live performance of the Talking Heads shot over four nights at the Pantages Theater in Hollywood. It's one of the best concert films ever made and the closest you'll get to attending a concert in your living room.

Another ethereal entry to the list is **Interstella 5555**, also known as that anime film Daft Punk made when it released its album *Discovery*. This 2003 film follows four alien musicians who are kidnapped and disguised as humans, then reprogrammed to forget their memories. The aliens, now under mind control and part of a band called The Crescendolls, become a huge hit in the world of humans and corporate pop. It's basically a stoner's dream.

If you're into something more grounded that relies on a narrative, try **Tangerine**. Directed by Sean Baker and released in 2015, this film became popular because it was shot entirely on iPhones, but it's much more than the gimmick suggests. The movie follows Sin-Dee, a sex worker who learns that her boyfriend/pimp is cheating

on her and recruits the help of her best friend to look for answers. It's a hilarious film that balances heavy topics with comedy and heart.

FOR STIMULATING YOUR SENSES

Cannabis doesn't alter our perceptions, but it does expand our minds. After we consume cannabis, the world seems different—foods are more appetizing, conversations are more engaging, and thoughts feel unique and special, even when they're about everyday objects and moments. **Tampopo** is often cited as one of the best food movies ever made, making it perfect for watching while consuming cannabis. In this 1985 Japanese film written and directed by Juzo Itami, a pair of milk truck drivers try to teach a woman who runs a failing restaurant how to prepare a perfect bowl of ramen noodles. It's a light-hearted comedy with some of the best food porn ever shot.

If you want to go on a high trip down memory lane, 2001's **Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone** is a great option. Watching a movie you've watched countless times before can come with a new layer of novelty when you're stoned. The feast scenes and magical flourishes are immensely satisfying when you add some weed into the mix. We dare you not to cry with renewed fervor once the school term is over and Harry leaves Hogwarts.

Finally, for the movie fan who wants to relax with friends while showing off a little, 2017's **Phantom Thread** is a good choice. Filled with details that cannabis-enhanced brains love to dissect—delicious food, obsessive behaviors, lots of dressmaking, and close-ups of vibrant-looking fabrics—this is one of Paul Thomas Anderson's most accessible movies, all without sacrificing an ounce of quality. ☺

