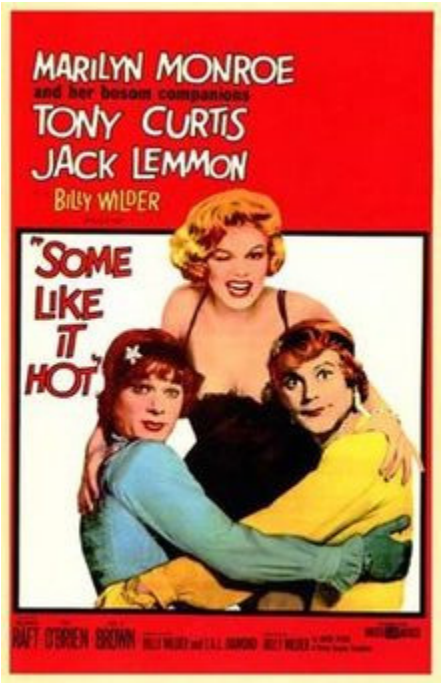
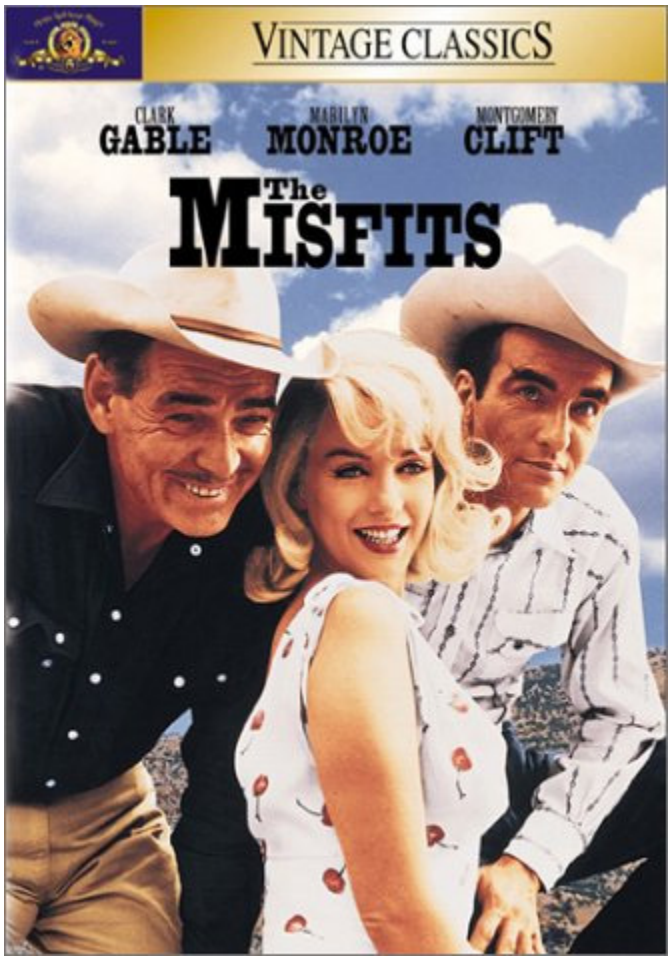
Marilyn Monroe TOP 10 Movies

1. Some like it hot (1959)



The short review of the movie is that two struggling musicians witness the St. Valentine's Day Massacre and try to find a way out of the city before they are found and killed by the mob. The only job that will pay their way is an all girl band so the two dress up as women. Both man are facing their own additional problems; One falls for another band member but can't tell her his gender, and the other has a rich suitor who will not take "No," for an answer. The film is dotted with fun, atmospheric characters. In 2007, the American Film Institute ranked this as the #22 Greatest Movie of All Time. It is also voted #1 on the American Film Institute's list of 100 Funniest Movies. The film was adapted into a Broadway musical entitled "Sugar", which opened at the Majestic Theater on April 9, 1972 and ran for 505 performances. Because of its controversial themes that were explored it is one of the few American movies ever given a "Condemned" rating by the Roman Catholic Legion of Decency. This classic will make you laugh with its subtlety and purity that relied on wit, timing, inventiveness and suggestion. An absolute must see.

2. The Misfits (1961)



Roslyn divorces Ray in Reno and then meets widower Guido. He likes her but introduces her to cowboy Gay, and those two fall in love. When she learns that Gay, Guido and Perce are going to turn wild horses into dog food, she protests. Marilyn Monroe gives an astounding performance as Roslyn Tabler the newly divorced dancer. A damaged woman who finds in the company of these three men something to finally believe in, something to stand up and fight for, she finds life.This once nearly forgotten movie, the last film of Clark Gable and Marilyn Monroe is now coming forward in the lexicon of film history as an underrated gem.Originally written as a short story by Arthur Miller while awaiting his own divorce in Reno prior to marrying Monroe. Universally misunderstood for the most part at the time it came out, it is clear now that this film was at least five of six years ahead of it's time. It fits in more comfortably with films of the late 60's and early 70's. The screenplay by Miller is one of his most striking works. This, her last performance, is her best and the true example of the collaborative creation that film really is. That Marilyn, under the circumstances of her life at that time,

could be so good is a testament to her talent as an actress and a star. Watch her when she is listening to the other actors. This is where she shines; this is the true mark of a great actor. To be able to listen and draw you into the inner life of the character through that deceptively simple act of listening and reaction is her gift to the audience. In the 1950's and early 60's there were only a handful of great young actresses in film who could accomplish such treat.

3. Seven Year Itch (1955)

Like many other Manhattan husbands, Richard Sherman sends his wife and son to the country for the summer, while he stays behind. Though reveling in temporary bachelor freedom of lifestyle, he's resolved not to carouse and philander like some others. But his overactive, over-vivid imagination goes into overdrive when a delightfully unconventional, voluptuous blonde moves in upstairs. The film is famous for the scene of Monroe standing over the subway grate, which has always been iconic. The classic shot of Monroe's dress blowing up around her legs as she stands over a subway grating was originally shot on Manhattan's Lexington Avenue at 52nd St. on Sept. 15, 1954 at 1 AM. 5000 onlookers whistled and cheered through out takes. The original footage shot on that night in New York never made it to the screen because the noise of the crowd had made it unusable. Director re-staged the scene on the 20th Century Fox lot, on a set replicating Lexington Avenue, and got a more satisfactory result. The movie premiere was on June

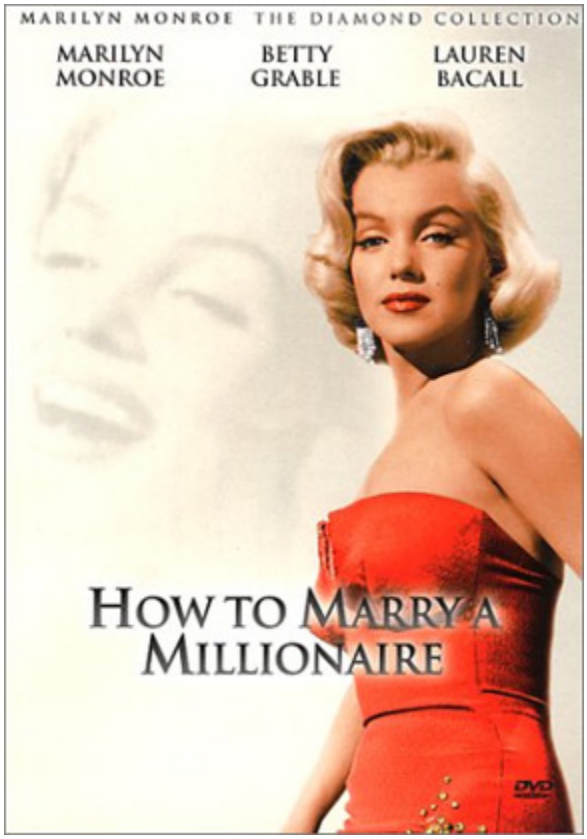
1st, 1955 which happened to be Marilyn's 29th birthday. An important promotional campaign was released for this mainstream motion picture, including a 52 feet high cut-out of Monroe (from the blowing dress scene) erected in New York City's Times Square. The movie's poster was rated as #22 of "The 25 Best Movie Posters Ever" by Premiere. Despite being one of the most iconic images in pop culture history, as well as one of the most recognizable photographs of Marilyn Monroe, the famous full-length image of Monroe standing with her dress being blown up never actually appears in the film. The shot used in the film is only of her legs, cut with reaction shots, and never shown full-length.

4. Gentlemen Prefer Blondes (1953)

Lorelei and Dorothy are just "Two Little Girls from Little Rock", lounge singers on a transatlantic cruise, working their way to Paris, and enjoying the company of any eligible men they might meet along the way, even though "Diamonds are a Girl's Best Friend", based on the Broadway musical that was based on the novel, originally bought by Fox as a vehicle for Betty Garbel. After the success of Niagara (which featured Monroe), however, the studio believed they had a more potent and far less expensive sex symbol than Grable (who was earning around $150,000 per picture vs. Monroe's $18,000). Monroe kept insisting on retakes despite approval of takes by director. When Fox asked Hawks how

production could be sped up he retorted: "three wonderful ideas: Replace Marilyn, rewrite the script and make it shorter, and get a new director." When told she was not the star of the film, Monroe was quoted: "Well whatever I am, I'm still the blonde." Marilyn's precision comic timing along with Jane's dead-pan delivery make for an unforgettable comedy team. The teaming of Jane Russell and Marilyn Monroe proved to be so successful, critically and commercially, that Fox wanted to re-team the duo, unfortunately that never happened.

5. How to Marry a Millionaire (1953)



Three New York models set-up in an exclusive apartment with a plan: tired of cheap men and a lack of money they intend to use all their talents to trap and marry three millionaires. While the three girls chase rich husbands they somehow end up marrying for love. The film to this day remains as slick and witty as ever. The film marked David Wayne's last movie appearance with Marilyn. He made four pictures with her, more than any other actor. This was the first movie filmed in Cinemascope, although the second to be released.

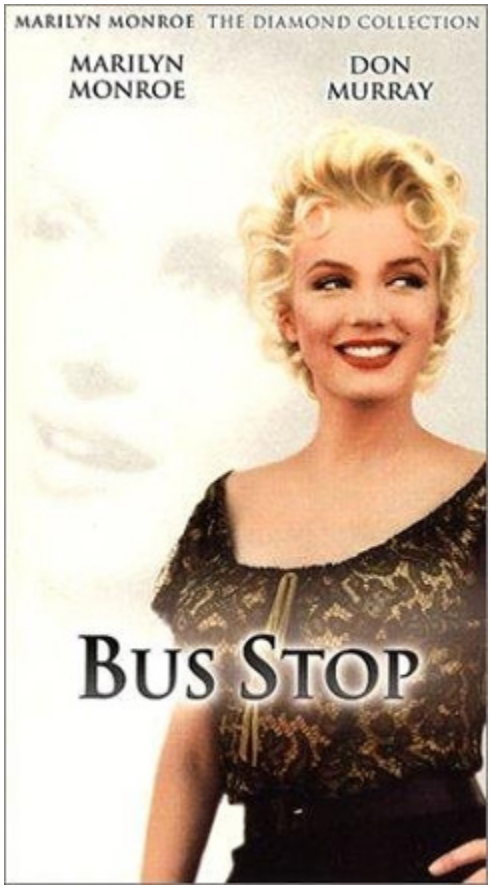
6. River of No Return (1954)

Matt Calder, who lives on a remote farm with his young son Mark, helps two unexpected visitors who lose control of their raft on the nearby river. Harry Weston is a gambler by profession and his attractive wife Kay, a former saloon hall girl, is with him. When Calder refuses to let Weston have his only rifle and horse, he simply takes them leaving his wife behind. Unable to defend themselves against a likely Indian attack, Calder, Mark and Kay begin the treacherous journey down the river on the raft Weston left behind. Marilyn Monroe is very natural in this movie, no stereotypical blonde stuff here. This is perhaps Monroe's only 'throwaway' role of her starring career, and she makes the best of it by playing her part naturally and with none of the ironic, self-referential self-deprecation one often finds in her major starring vehicles. The film ran over schedule and budget due to mishaps caused when director insisted that actors perform their own stunts for the scenes of the raft struggling down the rapids. On one occasion Monroe had to be saved from drowning when her boots filled with water, and on another she and Robert Mitchum had to be rescued when their raft became stuck on a rock and was on the verge of overturning.

7. Niagara (1953)

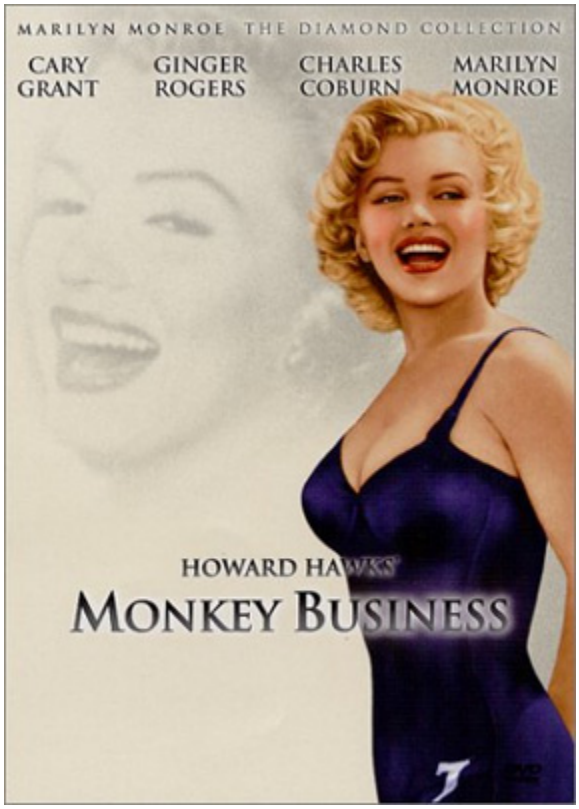
George and Rose Loomis are honeymooning at a Niagara Falls motel. She plots with Ted Patrick to do him in, but all does not go smoothly. Joseph Cotten was an outstanding actor and he is great in this movie as an abusive husband. The very sexy Marilyn Monroe is his wife, who is having an affair with another man. Jean Peters does the unthinkable, managing to look almost as beautiful as Marilyn herself. Even though she had a starring role, Monroe was still under contract to 20th Century-Fox as a stock actor at a fixed salary, so she actually made less money than her make-up man did. Rose (Monroe)'s walk across some cobblestones holds the record for the longest walk in cinema history - 116 feet of film. It is also the only movie in which Monroe's character dies. This is a suspenseful and entertaining movie, which makes great use of the scenery surrounding Niagara Falls.

8. Bus Stop (1956)



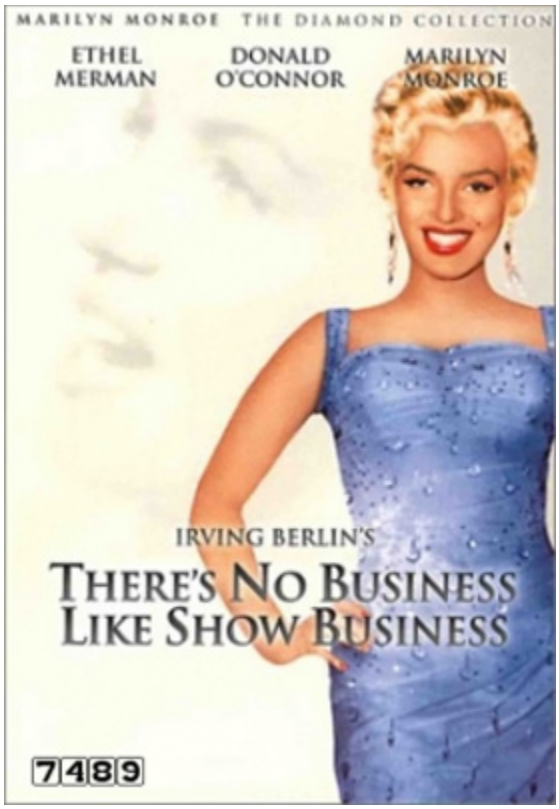
Innocent rodeo cowboy Bo falls in love with cafe singer Cherie in Phoenix. She tries to run away to Los Angeles but he finds her and forces her to board the bus to his home in Montana. When the bus stops at Grace's Diner the passengers learn that the road ahead is blocked. By now everyone knows of the kidnapping, but Bo is determined to have Cherie. The thesis of the film seems to be that, though opposites may not attract, two individuals with real but complementary needs can make their way toward a fulfilling relationship. As Bo tells Cherie at the end: If I have no experience with love and you have too much, maybe we can meet somewhere in the middle. The cast is uniformly excellent. As often noted, Monroe has never been better in subtly conveying a range of emotions. It is difficult to avoid comparing Cherie's history and needs with her own pursuit of success as an actress. Murray is hilarious as the naive cowboy in the first sequences, until the unattractive side of his innocence appears and must be subdued before the finale. As any other diva Monroe also had her moments when she objected to the color of Lange's hair, claiming that it was too fair and detracted from her own. As a result, Lange's hair was darkened.

9. Monkey Business (1952)



Barnaby Fulton is a research chemist working on a fountain of youth pill for a chemical company. While trying a sample dose on himself, he accidentally gets a dose of a mixture added to the water cooler and believes his potion is what is working. The mixture temporarily causes him to feel and act like a teenager, including correcting his vision. When his wife gets a dose that is even larger, she regresses even further into her childhood. When an old boyfriend meets her in this state, he believes that her never wanting to see him again means a divorce and a chance for him. This is a very good movie to watch when all you want to do is to have a good time and some good laughs. There isn't a minute of it that would hold up to logical analysis, but there's barely a minute of it that isn't fun to watch. The story is pleasantly zany, the characters are entertaining, and the stars were all perfectly chosen for their roles. Along with monkeyshines and child actors, you really get a lot in this film: Grant and Rogers play off each other very nicely and the driving scene with Monroe and Grant is a classic.

10. There's No Business Like Show Business (1954)



Plot revolves around Molly and Terry Donahue, plus their three children,The Five Donahues. Son Tim meets hat-check girl Vicky (Marilyn) and the family act begins to fall apart. Marilyn Monroe was promised the lead role in The seven year itch if she appeared in this film to boost its box-office potential. The role of Vicky was written especially for this purpose, and songs such as "Heatwave", originally intended for Ethel Merman, were assigned to her. During the filming of the scene where Donald O'Connor and Marilyn Monroe were kissing, there were over 1,000 onlookers who had drifted over from other sets. While filming one of the scenes Marilyn actually accidentally pokes her finger in a dancer's eye.The dancer is seen trying to hide behind the tree, but is enough of a trouper to continue with the number. Right after Marilyn pokes the dancer in the eye she performs a twirl, pokes her head between the branches of the fake tree and gives the dancer a peck on the cheek as an apology. Overall Monroe looks great and is unforgettable, comedically, dramatically and musically.