

DEBORAH'S

Masterful Movie Award

PICKS

In the following list, you will find my 'Masterful Movie Award' picks. These are movies that I feel tell a story or teach a lesson in a profound or uplifting way. Not all of these movies are happy in nature, but they *do* all convey a truth or lesson that is life-affirming. I hope there are a few here that you haven't seen yet. I try not to give away too much of what is happening in these stories, but I promise you that each one of these films is very entertaining. Check them out, I'm sure you will find something you'll enjoy and learn from.

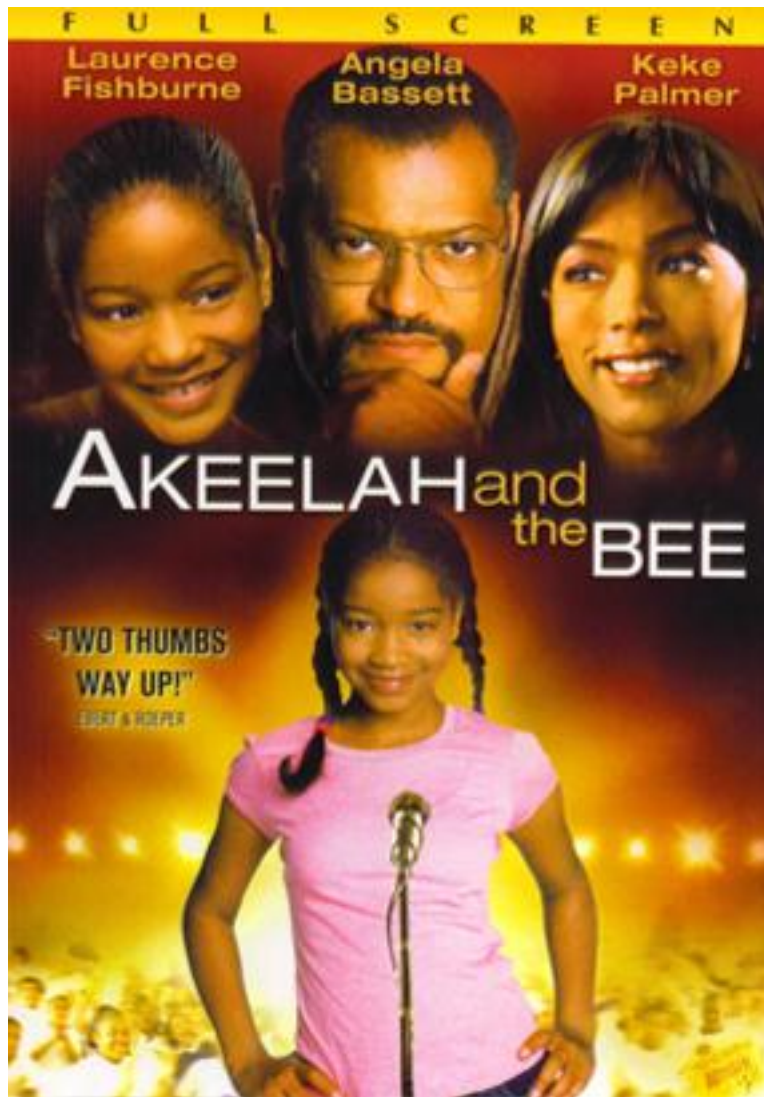


I like to choose models from our culture that emulate the best of the human spirit. Though this film is dated, it is still one of my top picks for its expression of emotional discipline as conveyed by Denzel Washington in his role as first officer aboard a nuclear submarine. Denzel remains calm when it seems *impossible* to do so. It is a skill I wish all of humanity could learn. Denzel is phenomenal in this film and the film earns my top Masterful Movie Award honors. If you've never seen this flick, you're in for a ride and example of true wit and courage. There are times in all our lives when we are faced with great challenge and have to remain calm under tremendous

pressure. See how Denzel does it in *Crimson Tide*! This film is rated R.



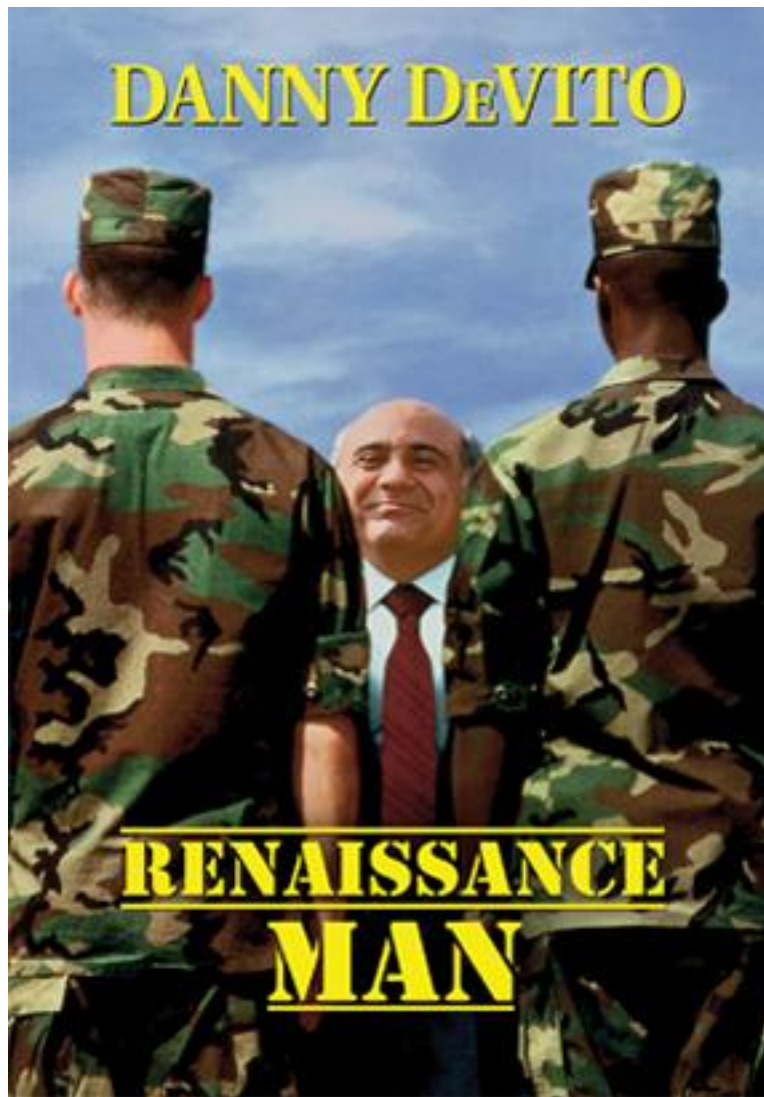
At the other end of the spectrum from 'Crimson Tide' we have 'The Last Mimzy'. In this delightful family film, two children encounter some toys that open up the higher channels of their minds and allows them to do phenomenal things. Once again, my goal is to acknowledge the best of the human spirit in our culture. 'The Last Mimzy', though idealized at times, reminds us that there is far more potential for the human mind to tap into and also gives us an important message about preserving our planet and our identity as spiritual beings. It also contains one of the final performances of the late actor, Michael Clark Duncan. Enjoy, and be uplifted by this fun family movie.



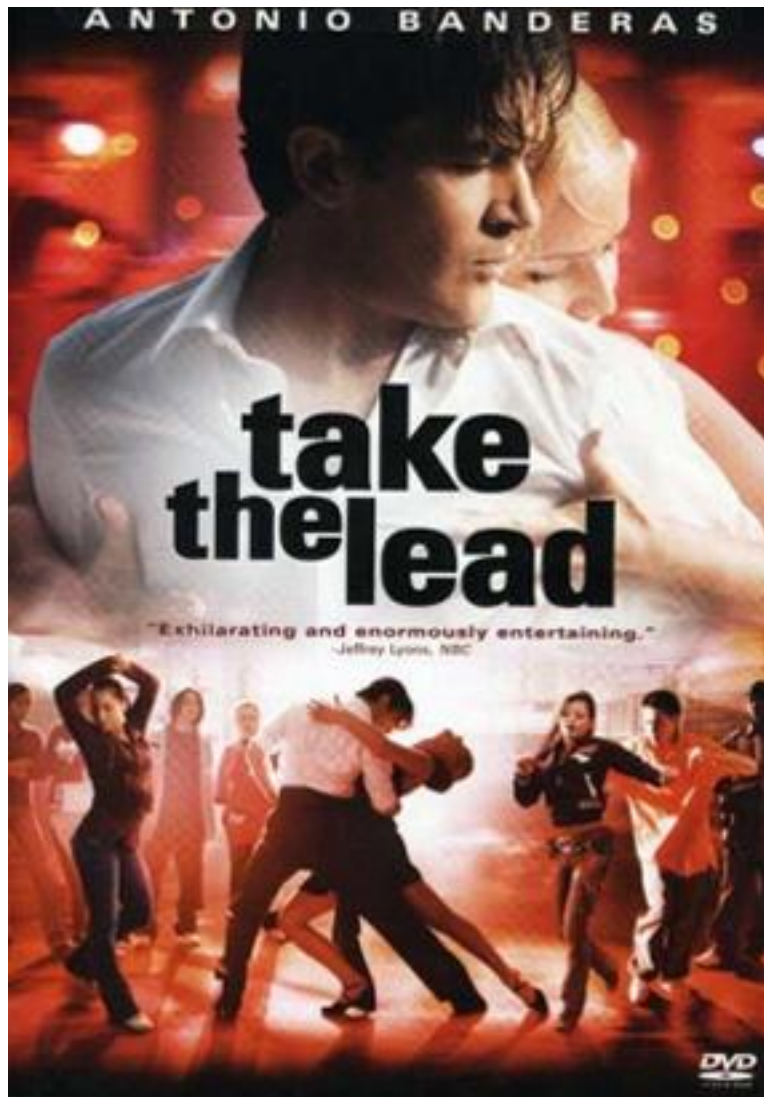
In this urban tale, a young girl discovers she has a talent for spelling but is afraid to develop this muscle. As she takes the leap to stretch herself, she learns a lot about herself and the people in her community. I also enjoyed this film because of the way Akeelah bridged the gap in a racial relationship that occurs in the film. 'Akeelah and the Bee' is a Masterful Movie Pick that is sure to please. Laurence Fishburne is one of the producers of this film.



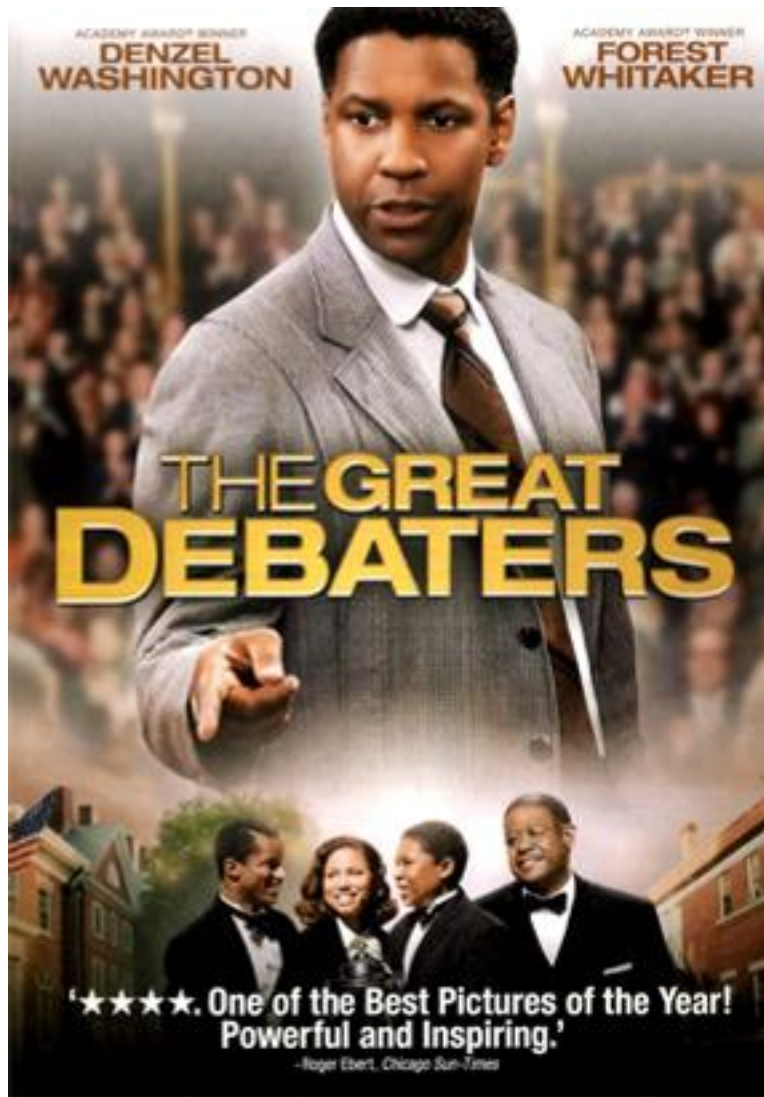
In this movie, Denzel is dealing with two lies; one of his own telling, and one from soldiers he is investigating concerning a war-time incident. This story conveys many aspects of human nature and illustrates how a lie of huge proportions will eat at a person's mind until the truth surfaces. It is a story of courage and forgiveness with an all-star cast. Check it out. Rated R.



For a fun night at the movies, 'Renaissance Man' is the way to go! It makes you laugh and lets you know that you are not alone in your struggle to figure this life out. Stellar performances by an all star cast. Grab some pop corn, sit back and relax, and have a good time! This is one of my Masterful 'feel good' Movies.



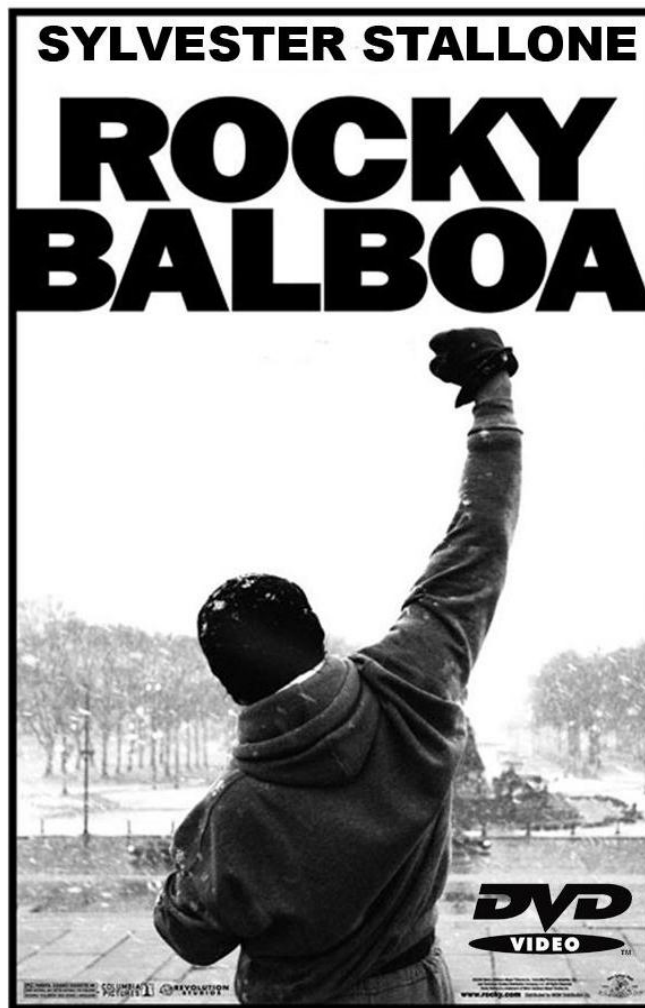
In 'Take the Lead' Antonio Banderas builds self-esteem in his students in a unique way. In the thick of tough life issues, one teacher redirects the energy of students who feel overwhelmed and hopeless. Get in the groove with 'Take the Lead' and be inspired by this meaningful film.



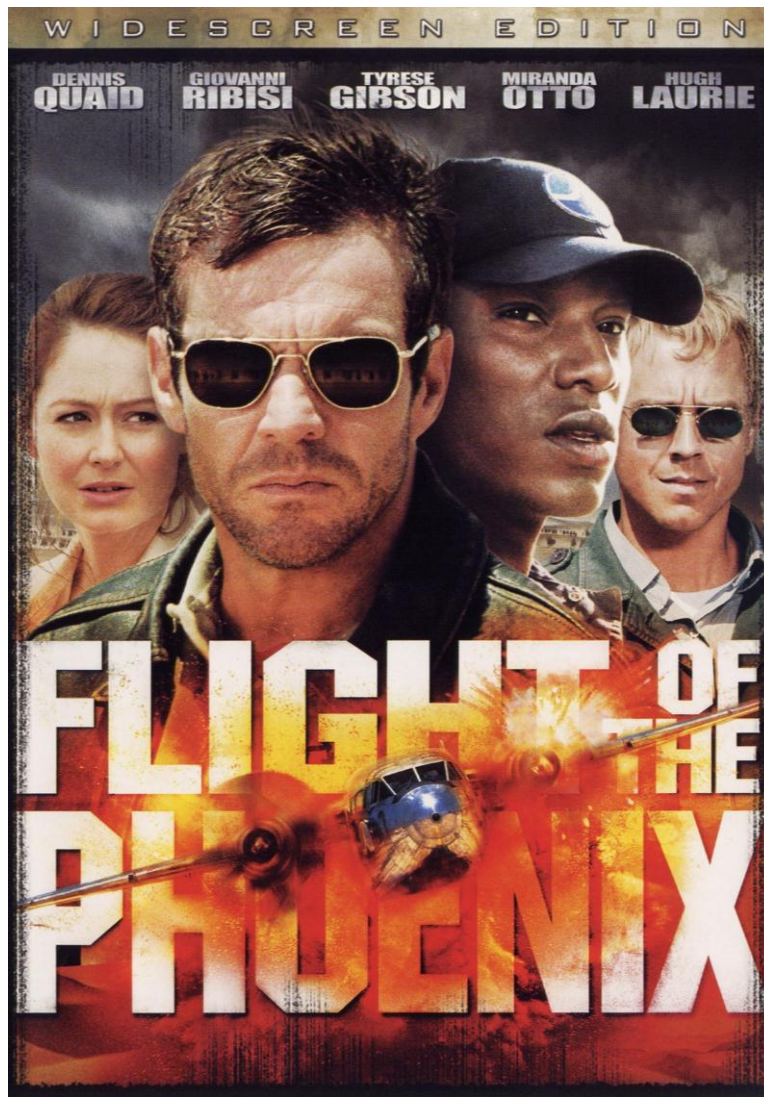
Denzel has been blessed with some powerful roles in his career. 'The Great Debaters' is a film that portrays great dignity, unity, and courage. It takes place during post-slavery America when human rights and human life were expendable. As Black leaders of that time tarried to find solutions that would support their life rather than destroy it, great friendships and lessons in strategic thinking are developed. This film has graphic content, so beware. But it is worth the journey it takes you on and is masterfully done. This film is rate R.



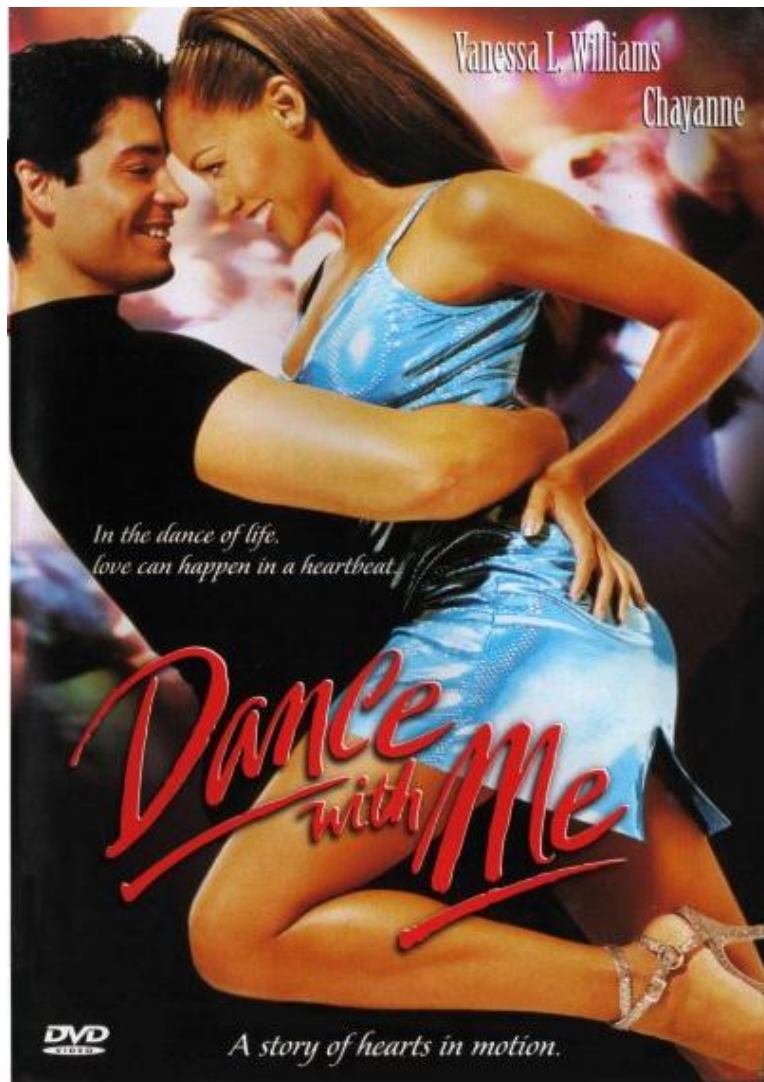
‘Thunderheart’ is filled with mysticism and political tension as Val Kilmer tries to solve a murder on an Indian Reservation. I chose this movie because it gracefully illustrates that many people on earth live by a code of respect for our planet and an awareness of spiritual energy that takes precedence over material wealth. It is complex and at the same time beautiful in its glimpse at some of the sacred traditions of Native Americans. This film is rated R.



In this final installment of the 'Rocky' series, Sylvester Stallone is teaching some valuable lessons about perserverance and courage. He also takes great strides to improve race relations in this movie and encourage racial tolerance. This movie took me by surprise in its message and candor. Its Rocky as you've never seen him before, mellowing with age, wiser, yet still exhibiting the heart of a lion. This movie is sure to please and will give you a lot to think about. Check it out.



“Flight of the Phoenix’ is interesting to watch unfold. It forces you to think, and challenges you to remain calm in the face of imminent danger. In this film, a very diverse group of people must work together to survive. Will they? Or will egos rule the day and cause everything to crumble? You’ll have to watch it to find out!



‘Dance with Me’ is one of my favorite love stories of all times, but in addition to that, I enjoy movies that take me to other parts of the world and allow me to see how other people live and interact with one another. I also enjoyed this movie because ‘Raphael’, one of the main characters, has to dig deep to find the courage to face an important issue. This film is robust, funny, heart-warming, and just down right fun! Check it out.



‘Casablanca’ is a classic that has stood the test of time because of its compelling storyline, love story, and all-star cast. I like it for all of those reasons and more. It employs the use of language as an art form that has long since died. Its characters are all strong, self-possessed people who artfully play the hand they’ve been dealt. Casablanca is an interesting mix of espionage, romance, and cultural diversity. Visit war-time Egypt in this film, and enjoy the music at ‘Rick’s Place’.