



### [All is Lost](#)



Robert Redford on a sinking boat for two hours, with no dialogue and mere hints of backstory to work with. Who knew this would be a riveting motion picture? Guided by impressively physical, meditative work from the acting legend (his finest performance in ages), "All is Lost" turned a disastrous scenario into a sensational study of survival and mortality, pushing through a gamut of emotions as an average man battled misfortune, the elements, and his swarming doubts during a week-long stint floating helplessly in the middle of the Indian Ocean. Masterfully constructed by writer/director J.C. Chandor, "All is Lost" embroidered storytelling simplicity with gut-wrenching internalization (and one exquisitely positioned F-word), making the audience feel the escalating dangers facing the character and his gradually weakening resolve to combat the inevitable.



### [August: Osage County](#)

"August: Osage County" wasn't an easy film to watch, with bitterness oozing out of every pore. However, the rage contained within developed a hypnotic quality, especially in the care of writer Tracy Letts, who adapted his own Pulitzer Prize-winning play for the screen. The movie was a hurricane of dysfunction, studying a family's breakdown during a post-funeral gathering, with characters openly loathing one another, wielding secrets as weapons as they attempt to maintain a shred of civility, failing every step of the way. Meryl Streep steamrolled through the picture in the best possible way, snarling and physically deteriorating in a deliciously broad performance. Julia Roberts has never shown this type of confident before, leaning into her role with unseen ferocity. The rest of the considerable ensemble was equally invested in the fascinating idiosyncrasies and numerous meltdowns of the script, creating a suffocating, toxic environment that generated nuclear warfare for drama. It's only a shame there isn't a 4D version of the feature, where seats swivel to avoid screen punches, cigarette smoke is piped into the theater, and the audience is occasionally spritzed with cheap liquor.

#### Most Popular Blu-

	<b>Fear</b> <del>\$14.99</del> B
	<b>Goodnight Justice</b> <del>\$14.99</del> B
	<b>Ice Age</b> Age C <del>\$12.99</del>
<a href="#">Buy Now »</a>	

#### Best Blu-r



### [Jug Face](#)

"Jug Face" was a modest effort, yet its unnerving vibe of dread was a most impressive achievement in a genre that's content to beat tired trends into the ground. A slice of backwoods ghoulishness featuring a cult, a clairvoyant potter, and the macabre interests of a pit, "Jug Face" found its footing through simplicity, leading with desperate characters and a menacing tone of fate. Writer/director Chad Crawford Kinkle managed a sense of originality to the tale while preserving a disturbing atmosphere of merciless rituals and thwarted escape attempts. It was a small production, absent overt jolts and glossy visual effects, but it was *scary* and credibly grim -- a rare accomplishment in horror these days.

**Also of Note:** [The Broken Circle Breakdown](#), [From Up on Poppy Hill](#), [The Invisible Woman](#), [Lore](#), [The Croods](#), [Sound City](#), [Would You Rather](#), [20 Feet from Stardom](#), [About Time](#), [A Band Called Death](#), [Let the Fire Burn](#), [Sightseers](#), [You're Next](#), [American Hustle](#), [Mud](#), [Enough Said](#), [Philomena](#), [The Hunger Games: Catching Fire](#), [The Great Beauty](#), and [The Lords of Salem](#).

Source: [Blu-ray.com](#) | [Permalink](#) |  [Country settings]

News comments (56 comments)

Sort by date (rating 30% or better) ▼

**Foggy** - Dec 29, 2013



Hoping to check out All Is Lost next week, and hopefully I'll get to the rest on the list in good time.

Nice to see Sightseers reach your honourable mentions, sorely underrated (or simply underseen) piece of dark and delicious comedy.

**CandyStalker** - Dec 29, 2013

[Show comment](#)

**KcMsterpce** - Dec 29, 2013



I'll take almost any movie for a favorite's list. Just not Gravity. It deserves an Oscar for VFX. Nothing else. It lacks "gravitas", shall we say.

**vader4** - Dec 29, 2013



Good list, not all my picks, but still good stuff.

**jholmes93** - Dec 29, 2013



No 12 Years A Slave? Not even an honorable mention?

**Midnight Max** - Dec 29, 2013



"Jug Face"... really? And "A Hijacking" was not better than "Captain Phillips" - I'll never really forgive Orndorf for his "Indiana Jones & The Kingdom Of The Crystal Skulls" review on DVDTalk.com- it had my hopes up really high for what was ultimately one of the worst Summer Blockbusters ever made.

**toddly6666** - Dec 29, 2013



No mention of Safe Haven or Peeples? Pfhh.

**Archangel25** - Dec 29, 2013



Everyone of these movies would win Oscars because they are not blockbusters or box office hits.

**Taikero** - Dec 29, 2013



I'll second the lack of 12 Years a Slave. Missing (what I believe to be) the best film of the year as a matter of both craftsmanship and importance is quite the shame.

**Liquid\_Swords** - Dec 30, 2013



Nice choice. With so much stupid Cgi and explosion movies, its a good, refreshing list to check out.

**Ulises\_CM** - Dec 30, 2013

[Show comment](#)

**Blu Titan** - Dec 30, 2013



@Ulises: why do you miss them? He still doing them.

**fpas** - Dec 30, 2013

[Show comment](#)

**Nielsb90** - Dec 30, 2013



2 Danish movies out of 10? Thats pretty damn good!

**indiansbsa** - Dec 30, 2013



Where's Before Midnight? Thats a contender for best of the year, no honorable mention is a joke

**teamneedle** - Dec 30, 2013



@Midnight Max

to be fair... Jurassic Park 3 is probably the worst big budget blockbuster ever - Krystal Skull is way up there though.

**Spitfrnd** - Dec 30, 2013

