

#### **INACCURACIES IN FILMS**

Although many of these films lead every year to the Academy Award nominations, critics are quick to point to the film's inaccuracies. TIME takes a look at films that, while they may entertain, also fall short of the truth

THE AVIATOR (2004)

In a scene set in 1928, Howard Hughes (Leonardo DiCaprio) asks for some chocolate chip cookies, a cookie not invented until 1937.



GLADIATOR (2000)

The climax showing Roman Emperor Commodus (Joaquin Phoenix) fighting Russell Crowe's Maximus in the Colosseum isn't that far-fetched: Commodus was in fact the only emperor to fight in the arena. He didn't die there, however, and he wasn't killed by a gladiator. In reality he was poisoned, then strangled in his bath by a wrestler called Narcissus.



SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE (1998)

Gwyneth Paltrow's character Viola de Lesseps lives in fear of being married off to Colin Firth's Lord Wessex, who intends to take her away with him to his tobacco plantations in the New World. The problem? The film is set in 1593, the year of Christopher Marlowe's death, while tobacco cultivation didn't start in America until the 1610s.



APOCALYPTO (2006)

The Inaccuracies: Although Mayans *did* occasionally engage in ritual human sacrifice, they were a far more civilized and complex culture than shown in the film. In fact, the Mayan sun god Kukulkan, to whom the sacrifice is made in the movie, never asked for and was never given such a sacrifice, so whatever priest was offering Kukulkan a human heart was probably just creeping him out



THE KING'S SPEECH (2010)

Colin Firth makes an excellent King George VI — so excellent, in fact, that he earned himself an Oscar nomination for Best Actor. But that doesn't make *The King's Speech* a historically accurate film. As Christopher Hitchens points out in *Slate*, Winston Churchill was a close friend and supporter of Nazisympathizer King Edward VIII (George VI's brother, who abdicated the throne in order to marry a divorced socialite, leaving George to stutter his way through the monarchy). In the movie, though, Churchill is constantly portrayed as being on George's side. The filmmakers also fudged the chronology: *The King's Speech* gives the impression that George VI and his speech therapist worked together for only a few years in the mid-1930s, when in reality the two began their relationship as early as 1926. Of course, none of that seems to matter to the Academy, which nominated *The King's Speech* for a whopping 12 awards.

#### Read these film reviews and choose the word that best describes it





One of the most successful films of all time. Avatar (directed by James Cameron) tells the story of a reluctant hero who sets off on an epic adventure to save the alien world he has learned to call home. Now available in 3-D and 2-D this visually spectacular film is a must-see for all the family with important messages for both young and old

a nauseating

**b** inspiring

**c** unrealistic



## A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET (2010)

As a fan of horror films, I was looking forward to this remake of the Wes Craven cult classic which first appeared on our screens almost twenty years ago. Terrifying when it first came out, this remake, however, doesn't compare in any way. The special effects are laughable and the acting is wooden. I'd recommend watching the original any day and I certainly hope they don't bother to remake the others

a gripping

**b** annoying **c** rubbish

## THE PROPOSAL (2009)



An ambitious and obnoxious boss (played by Sandra Bullock) hears that she will have to return to Canada as her visa has run out. To avoid deportation, she forces her young assistant (Ryan Reynolds) to marry her so that she can stay in the United States legally. After many crazy adventures to prove to his family that they do actually love one another, they finally really fall in love. This is a good old-fashioned feel-good comedy which is the perfect vehicle for both stars

a entertaining **c** moving **b** nonsense

# **YOUNG VICTORIA (2009)**

OUNG VICTORIA

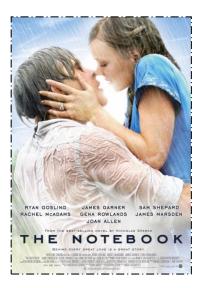
Nominated for three Academy Awards and winner of Best Costume Design, this is a perfectly crafted period drama. The film stars Emily Blunt as the young Queen Victoria and Rupert Friend as her husband Albert. It tells the story of the first few years of her reign with all the dramas and emotions that a young woman in her position would have to face. The acting by both young stars is

excellent and totally believable

**a** annoying

**b** nonsense





## **THE NOTEBOOK (2004)**

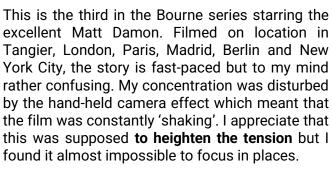
If you enjoy sickly sweet romantic films that unashamedly tug on the heart strings to make you cry, then this is most definitely the film for you. From the moment the film begins you know where it is taking you. A boy meets a girl. The boy is poor and the girl is rich. The girl's parents don't approve. Fast forward to years later ... Have your box of tissues to hand!

**a** nonsense

**b** nauseating

**c** gripping





a unwatchable

**b** unrealistic

c exciting

Complete the sentences with a verb from the box in the correct form.

C	reate strike adapt suspend reveal set tell see
1	The story in Washington, DC, in 2054.
	It from a book by Philip K Dick.
3	The film the story of a man accused of a
	future crime.
4	When the truth he goes on the run.
	The soundtrack and special effects help
	an atmosphere of suspense.
б	The plot is sometimes unconvincing. You have to
	your disbelief.
7	What you most is Tom Cruise's
	impressive performance.
8	I highly recommend it. I'd say it's well worth
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