RICHARD BROOKS



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RICHARD BROOKS



COBRA WOMAN

Director: Robert Siodmak · Screenplay: Gene Lewis, Richard Brooks · Photography: George Robinson, W. Howard Greene · Cast: Maria

Montez, Jon Hall, Sabu, Edgar Barrier, Mary Nash

Running time: 70 m. · USA · 1944

An exotic adventure in a very common style in the 1940s, with some of the key actors in the genre, such as Sabu and María Montez: it tells the story of Ramu's attempt to save his sweetheart, who has been abducted. To do this he goes with his friend Kado to a Pacific island where all outsiders are sacrificed. Brooks co-wrote the script directed by Siodmak, who was about to become one of the great figures of film noir.

BRUTE FORCE

Director: Jules Dassin - Screenplay: Richard Brooks - Photography: William Daniels - Cast: Burt Lancaster, Hume Cronyn, Charles Bickford,

Yvonne De Carlo, Ann Blyth Running time: 96 m. · USA · 1947

This time Richard Brooks wrote the script on his own, to make another important 1940s film noir with the director Jules Dassin, who was to continue to show his talent for the genre in films like *The Naked City* (1948). *Brute Force* tells the story of the time spent in jail and the escape attempt by Joe Collins, played by Burt Lancaster in his second role as an actor.

CROSSFIRE

Director: Edward Dmytryk • Screenplay: John Paxton • Photography: J. Roy Hunt • Cast: Robert Young, Robert Mitchum, Robert Ryan, Gloria Grahame, Paul Kelly

Running time: 86 m. • USA • 1947

Brooks didn't take part in writing the script for this film based on his novel, that substantial parts were cut out of. Even so *Crossfire* is an outstanding 1940s film noir, which tells the story of the investigation into Joseph Samuels' murder, carried out by Captain Finlay, that points towards various soldiers. The use of *flashbacks* and its critique of various social aspects of the post-war period are striking.

TO THE VICTOR

Director: Delmer Daves · Screenplay: Richard Brooks · Photography: Robert Burks · Cast: Dennis Morgan, Viveca Lindfors, Victor Francen,
Bruce Bennett, Dorothy Malone
Running time: 100 m. · USA · 1948

Richard Brooks wrote the screenplay for this rare, forgotten film that was an unusual interpretation of *The lower depths*, by Gorky, in which two characters try in their own way to change the society that they live in, a subject very dear to Brooks' heart. One of the least known films by the director of *Destination Tokyo* (1943) and *Broken Arrow* (1950).

RICHARD BROOKS



KEY LARGO

Director: John Huston - Screenplay: Richard Brooks - Photography: Karl Freund - Cast: Humphrey Bogart, Edward G. Robinson, Lauren
Bacall, Lionel Barrymore, Claire Trevor
Running time: 100 m. - USA - 1948

The fearsome gangster Johnny Rocco is hiding out in a hotel on the coast of Florida and holding at gunpoint the owner of the hotel, her disabled father-in-law and a war veteran, who tries to face up to Rocco. One of the masterpieces of classic film noir, with memorable performances by Edward G. Robinson, Lauren Bacall & Humphrey Bogart. Brooks wrote the screenplay together with John Huston based on the play by Maxwell Anderson.

CRISIS

Director: Richard Brooks • Screenplay: Richard Brooks • Photography: Ray June • Cast: Cary Grant, José Ferrer, Paula Raymond, Signe Hasso, Ramón Novarro

Running time: 96 m. • USA • 1950

Doctor Ferguson, a famous neurosurgeon, is on holiday with his wife in a country in South America. Raoul Farrago, the dictator who runs the country, arrests them to get the doctor to operate on him. Revolutionaries kidnap the doctor's wife to force him to bungle the operation. Brooks's debut as a director already points to an interest in US interventionism in Latin America.

THE LIGHT TOUCH

Director: Richard Brooks • Screenplay: Richard Brooks • Photography: Robert Surtees • Cast: Stewart Granger, Pier Angeli, George Sanders, Kurt Kasznar, Joseph Calleia

Running time: 91 m. • USA • 1951

Sam is an art thief who steals a picture in an Italian church; he wants to make a copy of it to fool his partners, and sell the original so that he can get paid twice. To paint the copy he chooses Anna, a beautiful, naive artist. Sam marries her and they go off to Sicily. Exoticism, a crime thriller and passionate love story, in one of Brooks' least known films for MGM.

DEADLINE-U.S.A.

Director: Richard Brooks - Screenplay: Richard Brooks - Photography: Milton Krasner - Cast: Humphrey Bogart, Ethel Barrymore, Kim Hunter, Ed Begley, Warren Stevens
Running time: 87 m. - USA - 1952

The New York *Day*, a quality newspaper, is about to be sold by the late owner's heirs to a strictly commercial rival. Ed Hutcheson, its tough editor and a passionate champion of a free press, tries to prevent this, at the same time as he exposes a gangster, Rienzi. A heartfelt defence of press freedom, and one of the best films about journalism.

RICHARD BROOKS



BATTLE CIRCUS

Director: Richard Brooks - Screenplay: Richard Brooks - Photography: John Alton - Cast: Humphrey Bogart, June Allyson, Keenan Wynn,
Robert Keith, William Campbell
Running time: 90 m. - USA - 1953

During the Korean War, Nurse Lt. Ruth McGara is assigned to a Mobile Army Hospital at the front. There she meets Major Jed Webbe, one of the surgeons, who drinks too much and is only interested in short-term relationships. Ruth falls in love with him. One of the two war films that Brooks made, it also contains elements of adventure, comedy and melodrama.

TAKE THE HIGH GROUND!

Director: Richard Brooks • Screenplay: Millard Kaufman • Photography: John Alton • Cast: Richard Widmark, Karl Malden, Elaine Stewart, Carleton Carpenter, Russ Tamblyn
Running time: 101 m. • USA • 1953

May 1953. Sergeant Thorne Ryan, a Korean War veteran, is now serving as a drill instructor for privates at Fort Bliss. Sergeant Laverne Holt, a more understanding man, is the other instructor. Ryan has to prepare his men for the harsh conditions they'll face in combat. A powerful role for Richard Widmark, in an intense on-screen clash with Karl Malden.

FLAME AND THE FLESH

Director: Richard Brooks · Screenplay: Helen Deutsch · Photography: Christopher Challis · Cast: Lana Turner, Pier Angeli, Carlos Thompson,
Bonar Colleano, Charles Goldner
Running time: 104 m. · USA · 1954

Madeline, an American woman, gets thrown out of her apartment in Naples. Ciccio, a well-meaning composer, puts her up and Madeline starts an affair with his friend Nino, a good-looking singer who she runs off with just before his wedding to Lisa, a sweet young thing. A rarity, a real extravagant melodrama and one of the few films directed by Brooks that he didn't write himself.

THE LAST TIME I SAW PARIS

Director: Richard Brooks · Screenplay: Julius J. Epstein, Philip G. Epstein, Richard Brooks · Photography: Joseph Ruttenberg · Cast:
Elizabeth Taylor, Van Johnson, Walter Pidgeon, Donna Reed, Eva Gabor
Running time: 116 m. · USA · 1954

Based on *Babylon Revisited* the short story by F. Scott Fitzgerald, it tells the story of Charles Wills, a soldier with literary ambitions who meets Helen Ellswirth in Paris just as the war is over. They fall in love, get married and have a daughter, Vicki. However Charles is disappointed by his lack of success and tired of Helen's frivolous behaviour. The first of Brooks' prestigious literary adaptations.

RICHARD BROOKS



BLACKBOARD JUNGLE

Director: Richard Brooks · Screenplay: Richard Brooks · Photography: Russell Harlan · Cast: Glenn Ford, Anne Francis, Louis Calhern,
Margaret Hayes, John Hoyt, Sidney Poitier
Running time: 101 m. · USA · 1955

Richard Dadier starts work as a teacher at a tough high school. Most of the students are juvenile delinquents and when Dadier tries to exert his authority he gets a hostile reaction from the students. A pioneering film in its treatment of education in the cinema, in including rock in the soundtrack (Bill Haley), and in launching a black actor, Sidney Poitier, on the road to stardom.

THE LAST HUNT

Director: Richard Brooks • Screenplay: Richard Brooks • Photography: Russell Harlan • Cast: Robert Taylor, Stewart Granger, Lloyd Nolan,
Debra Paget, Russ Tamblyn
Running time: 103 m. • USA • 1956

Charley Gilson is a buffalo hunter who kills just for the fun of it. Sandy McKenzie, on the other hand, is sick of killing, but agrees to become Charley's partner when his cattle die in a stampede. An underserved flop at the box office for a film that was ahead of its time, pro-Indian, ecologist and that condemned the slaughter of animals.

THE CATERED AFFAIR

Director: Richard Brooks • **Screenplay:** Gore Vidal • **Photography:** John Alton • **Cast:** Bette Davis, Ernest Borgnine, Debbie Reynolds, Barry Fitzgerald, Rod Taylor **Running time:** 93 m. • USA • 1956

Jane Hurley announces that she is going to marry Ralph Halloran, who comes from a family that is more comfortably off than hers, the following week. All that Jane and Ralph want is a quiet wedding with their closest relatives. But the situation gets out of control and they end up with plans for a huge wedding with hundreds of guests. Based on a play by Gore Vidal. According to Brooks, this was one of his best films.

SOMETHING OF VALUE

Director: Richard Brooks · Screenplay: Richard Brooks · Photography: Russell Harlan · Cast: Rock Hudson, Dana Wynter, Sidney Poitier, Wendy Hiller, Juano Hernandez
Running time: 113 m. · USA · 1957

In Kenya in the British colonial period, members of the Kikuyu tribe work peacefully for the British settler, Henry McKenzie. Peter, Henry's son, and the black worker Kimani are really close friends. But time and social conflicts will tear them apart. A realistic portrait of black Africa at that time and a lesson in honesty in one of Brooks' best films.

RICHARD BROOKS



THE BROTHERS KARAMAZOV

Director: Richard Brooks - Screenplay: Richard Brooks - Photography: John Alton - Cast: Yul Brynner, Maria Schell, Claire Bloom, Lee J.

Cobb, Albert Salmi

Running time: 146 m. - USA - 1958

Fyodor Karamazov is a rich, licentious miser. He has four sons. Dimitry, the eldest, is an army officer engaged to Katya, a beautiful rich woman. Ivan is a disillusioned intellectual. Alexey is a monk with deep faith. The fourth son, Smerdyakov, is illegitimate. Dimitri falls in love with one of his father's mistresses and tensions erupt. A famous adaptation of the novel by Dostoyevsky.

CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF

Director: Richard Brooks • Screenplay: Richard Brooks • Photography: William Daniels • Cast: Elizabeth Taylor, Paul Newman, Burl Ives, Jack Carson, Judith Anderson

Running time: 108 m. • USA • 1958

Gooper goes back to the family home in New Orleans with his wife to celebrate his sick father's birthday. Gooper and his wife, May, hope to end up with the inheritance. His brother Brick and his wife, Maggie, argue about Brick's alcoholism and his lack of sexual interest in her. An incredibly intense drama with magnificent dialogues based on the play by Tennessee Williams and some legendary performances.

ELMER GANTRY

Director: Richard Brooks • Screenplay: Richard Brooks • Photography: John Alton • Cast: Burt Lancaster, Jean Simmons, Arthur Kennedy,
Dean Jagger, Shirley Jones
Running time: 146 m. • USA • 1960

Elmer Gantry, an opportunistic peddler and womaniser, joins Sharon Falconer's entourage, a preacher with genuine faith. Together they become famous going from town to town. Sister Falconer falls for Gantry, but a preacher's daughter sets a trap for him. Brooks won an Oscar as the author of the screenplay based on the novel by Sinclair Lewis and Lancaster another for his memorable performance.

SWEET BIRD OF YOUTH

Director: Richard Brooks • Screenplay: Richard Brooks • Photography: Milton Krasner • Cast: Paul Newman, Geraldine Page, Shirley Knight, Ed Begley, Rip Torn
Running time: 120 m. • USA • 1962

Another of Paul Newman's most outstanding roles, once again based on a play by Tennessee Williams, as Chance Wayne, a really good-looking young man who has spent a while bumming around. Chance goes back to his hometown, after several years in Hollywood trying to become a star. On the way he joins up with an older film actress, Alexandra Del Lago, who has taken to drink and drugs. Oscar for Ed Begley in a great supporting role.

RICHARD BROOKS



LORD JIM

Director: Richard Brooks - Screenplay: Richard Brooks - Photography: Freddie Young - Cast: Peter O'Toole, James Mason, Curt Jurgens, Eli Wallach, Jack Hawkins

Running time: 154 m. - USA - 1965

One of the great adventure novels, by Joseph Conrad, and a profound moral and psychological dilemma, it gave Peter O'Toole the chance to provide one of his greatest performances. He plays James Burke, first officer in the British navy, who sets sail on the dilapidated freighter the *Patna*. During a violent storm James abandons the ship, leaving the passengers to drown. In his future life he will have to shoulder his sense of guilt.

THE PROFESSIONALS

Director: Richard Brooks · Screenplay: Richard Brooks · Photography: Conrad Hall · Cast: Burt Lancaster, Lee Marvin, Robert Ryan, Woody Strode, Jack Palance, Claudia Cardinale
Running time: 117 m. · USA · 1966

A wealthy Texan, J. W. Grant, hires four men to rescue his wife, Maria, who has been kidnapped by Raza, a Mexican bandit. Each of the professionals has a speciality: tracking, explosives, horses and strategy. Brooks' second western, and a close look at the Mexican Revolution devoid of any hint of romanticism, with a magnificent cast.

IN COLD BLOOD

Director: Richard Brooks • Screenplay: Richard Brooks • Photography: Conrad Hall • Cast: Robert Blake, Scott Wilson, John Forsythe, Paul Stewart, Gerald S. O'Loughlin

Running time: 134 m. • USA • 1967

An unusually disturbingly powerful film for the period, considered by many to be Brooks' masterpiece, which adapted a book by Truman Capote that was a challenge in itself because of how it combined elements of the novel with investigative journalism. It tells the story of Perry Smith and Dick Hickock, who share a prison cell and murder the Clutter family when they get out in search of the money that they supposedly kept at their farm.

THE HAPPY ENDING

Director: Richard Brooks · Screenplay: Richard Brooks · Photography: Conrad Hall · Cast: Jean Simmons, John Forsythe, Shirley Jones,
Lloyd Bridges, Teresa Wright
Running time: 112 m. · USA · 1969

Mary, a middle-aged housewife, is disillusioned with her monotonous marriage to Fred and her relationship with her teenage daughter, which has driven her to drink and pills. Mary leaves home and travels to Nassau. After a disastrous affair she comes back to Denver, but instead of going back home she gets herself a job and rents a flat. It questions the model of the typical couple provided by traditional Hollywood films.

RICHARD BROOKS



\$ (DOLLARS)

Director: Richard Brooks - Screenplay: Richard Brooks - Photography: Petrus Schloemp - Cast: Warren Beatty, Goldie Hawn, Gert Frobe, Robert Webber, Scott Brady
Running time: 120 m. - USA - 1971

Joe Collins is a bank security expert who works in Hamburg and decides to rob the contents of three safety deposit boxes belonging to criminals. He takes the opportunity when they hire him to install a new security system. He gets help from Dawn Divine, a prostitute. Brooks combines pure, efficient entertainment with a biting critique of capitalism, with music by Quincy Jones.

BITE THE BULLET

Director: Richard Brooks • **Screenplay:** Richard Brooks • **Photography:** Harry Stradling Jr. • **Cast:** Gene Hackman, Candice Bergen, James Coburn, Ben Johnson, Ian Bannen **Running time:** 131 m. • USA • 1975

Brooks' third and final western employs a melancholy tone for a way of life that is coming to an end, to tell the story of the ups and downs of a horse race organised by a newspaper in 1906. The participants have to cover 700 miles of harsh terrain in just a few days. They include a woman, a Mexican, an Englishman, a young cowboy and another old one and two ex-cavalrymen.

LOOKING FOR MR. GOODBAR

Director: Richard Brooks • Screenplay: Richard Brooks • Photography: William A. Fraker • Cast: Diane Keaton, Tom Berenger, Tuesday Weld, William Atherton, Richard Kiley, Richard Gere

Running time: 136 m. • USA • 1977

In the same year as *Annie Hall*, Diane Keaton played Theresa, a teacher of deaf and dumb children who starts to go to singles bars at night in search of the "perfect man". Her craving for sex, first of all, and drugs, later on, lead her into some dangerous situations that contrast with her dull, secure life at work. Richard Gere appears in his first leading role.

WRONG IS RIGHT

Director: Richard Brooks • Screenplay: Richard Brooks • Photography: Fred Koenekamp • Cast: Sean Connery, George Grizzard, Robert Conrad, Katharine Ross, John Saxon

Running time: 117 m. • USA • 1982

Patrick Hale is a journalist who is in North Africa shooting a story about King Awad, who has created an empire in the desert. The theft of two nuclear weapons, which King Awad was supposed to have bought, and their sale to a terrorist group, leads Hale on an international chase. A satire that is surprising because of the prophetic nature of certain situations that recall 21st century politics and terrorism.

RICHARD BROOKS



FEVER PITCH

Director: Richard Brooks · Screenplay: Richard Brooks · Photography: William A. Fraker · Cast: Ryan O'Neal, Catherine Hicks, Giancarlo Giannini, Bridgette Andersen, Chad Everett

Running time: 96 m. · USA · 1985

Steve Taggart is a sports journalist who is writing a series about gambling addicts. He goes to Las Vegas and starts interviewing winners and losers. But Taggart himself is a compulsive gambler who owes a gangster a lot of money. Brooks tried to adapt to the trends of the 1980s, with a certain video-clip aesthetic and music by Thomas Dolby, in what was his last film.