



JobLinks

Newspaper movies

Looking to escape the rigors of a day at the newsroom? How about a nice newspaper movie? That's sick! You need to get a life.



Interns

We can't help you with that, but if you haven't had your fix for the day, here are some of the best newspaper movies of all time (and a few clinkers) to help you unwind -- if that's what you call it. (It seems that a certain amount of obsessiveness can be an occupational hazard.)



Toolkit

Are we missing one of your favorites? [Tell us.](#)



Freep Academy

Citizen Kane

A classic, not just among newspaper movies, but among all American movies ever made. In June, 1998, a panel of the American Film Institute chose it as the best American



feature film ever. Orson Welles directs this parallel to the life of William Randolph Hearst. The flashbacks and camera angles were ahead of the times for the 1940s. Starring Welles and Joseph Cotten. Black and white, 1941, 119 minutes



High School

FOUR PACK The Front Page

The first of four comedic takeoffs on the 1928 Hecht and Macarthur play. The



If you need a

serious hit of newspaper movies, check out Richard R. Ness' "From Headline Hunter to Superman." This 808-page tome, published in 1997, catalogues 2,100 feature films dealing with journalism. Here are a few more titles:

The Final Extra
1927

Big News
1929

Copy
1929

Five Star Final
1931

Scandal Sheet
1931

Platinum Blonde
1931

I Cover the Waterfront
1933

It Happened One Night
1934

Front Page Woman
1935

The Libeled Lady
1936

formula is simple and true: ace reporter and editor battle with each other and with corruption. This classic stars Pat O'Brien, Adolphe Menjou and Mary Brian. The first three end with one of the play's best lines. But you won't read it here. You'll have to wait for the movie. Black and white, 1931, 99 minutes



Sequel: His Girl Friday

A clever twist takes the lead from two males and gives it to Cary Grant (as the editor) and Rosalind Russell (the retirement-bent reporter) for a battle of the sexes. Quick wit and repartee make this movie the fastest of the four -- and, some say, the best. Black and white, 1940, 90 minutes

Threequel: The Front Page

Slower paced than its predecessors, but still very funny. Jack Lemmon and Walter Matthau in the lead roles, Carol Burnett and Susan Sarandon support. Here, Lemmon and Matthau are in the same predicament as O'Brien and Menjou in the scene above. 1974, 105 minutes



Nyquil: Switching Channels



Apparently, three times was a charm. The fourth is not charming. This version updates "His Girl Friday" and sets it at a TV station. It doesn't cut it. (Or, is this a reflection of newspaper arrogance?)

Inside Story
1939

**Foreign
Correspondent**
1940

Confirm or Deny
1941

**Nine Lives are
Not Enough**
1941

Meet John Doe
1941

**They Got Me
Covered**
1943

**It Happened
Tomorrow**
1944

Night Editor
1946

The Big Clock
1948

**Call Northside
777**
1948

Big Town
1950

**Ace in the Hole
(The Big
Carnival)**

**Come Fill the
Cup**
1951

The Captive City



Compare and decide for yourself.) Kathleen Turner and Burt Reynolds at left, as well as Christopher Reeve and others. 1988, 113 minutes

Deadline USA

Chicago Tribune columnist Bob Greene once called this the best newspaper movie of all time. Disagree? YOU tell him. Humphrey Bogart, as editor of The Day, has his hands full trying to stave off an attempt by the founder's daughters to sell out to the competition, orchestrate an expose on a murderous crime empire and save his marriage. Can anyone, even Bogie, manage all that? Learn the answer -- and how a running press can be used as a murder weapon. High marks for authenticity and adventure. Black and white, 1952, 87 minutes

Teacher's Pet

So, you think that the gulf between newsroom and classroom is a fairly modern invention? Check out this 1958 flick. Hard-boiled New York Evening Chronicle City Editor Clark Gable, right, is invited to speak to a college journalism class. Here's part of his RSVP:



"If you've ever been inside a real, live newsroom, you'll remember that a city editor's job is to get out a daily paper. Unfortunately, that doesn't leave him much time for such pleasant diversions as bridge luncheons, guided tours through Rockefeller Center, the canning of crab apples and lectures to journalism classes." Soon, Mr. Hard-Boiled sees the light of day -- as in Doris Day, journalism teacher. They begin to close the chasm between pros and professionals. 1958, 120 minutes

Blessed Event

Daily Express gossip columnist Al Roberts makes his living and a name for himself by writing about Broadway stars and, often, the passage of time between matrimony and maternity. When he picks on a hood, the hood sends Frankie to have a little talk with Roberts about his work.

1952

**It Happens Every
Thursday**
1953

The columnist gets a confession out of Frankie and turns him into his own bodyguard. Al seems pretty smart, until he takes on a crooner. Starring Lee Tracy and Dick Powell. 1932, black and white, 89 minutes

Front Page Story
1953

-30-**(a.k.a. Deadline Midnight)**

Slander
1956

Ever dream of having Joe Friday as your managing editor? Joe Friday IS your managing editor? See Jack Webb at his Friday-best in this film set at a metro daily, apparently in Los Angeles. He both directs and stars. "The Motion Picture Guide" calls this, "one of the most accurate and most memorable newspaper films ever made, and one of Webb's best productions." The clueless copy boy? That's David Nelson (son of Ozzie and Harriet). 1959

**Sweeey Smell of
Success**
1957

**Between the
Lines**
1977

All the President's Men

The Journalist
1979

We know how this one turns out, but a good script and authentic acting by Dustin Hoffman and Robert Redford keep things rolling. Redford, at right, not only bought the film rights to the book, co-produced the



film and acted in it, he also suggested that the book be written in the first place. Find out why all those Baby Boomers wanted to become Carl Bernsteins and Bob Woodward in the mid-70s. 1976, 136 minutes

City News
1982

**The Year of
Living
Dangerously**
1982

Under Fire
1983

The Killing Fields
1984

**Not for
Publication**
1984

Mean Season
1985

Fletch
1985

Absence of Malice

This is a sentimental Free Press favorite, written by former Freep executive editor Kurt Luedtke. Forever fretful Miami reporter Sally Field ties an innocent Paul Newman to the disappearance and possible murder of a union leader. A suspenseful examination of newspaper ethics. 1982, 116 minutes

Continental Divide

Jack and Mike
1986

Salvador
1986

Newsies
1992

**The Public Eye
Heads (TV)**
1993

**Madman of the
People**
1994

**Welcome to
Sarajevo**
1997

**Never Been
Kissed**
1999

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journalism movies](#)

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John Belushi plays Ernie Souchak, a cigarette-smoking, hat-in-the-office-type Chicago reporter who gets enough dirt on the Mob that they blow up his apartment. Soooo, as often happens in newsrooms, his editors send him out of town --

to Colorado -- to investigate an eagle researcher, played by Blair Brown. They clash, they kiss, they fall in love, and Belushi is called back to Chicago when one of his sources gets wasted. We know, happens all the time. 1981, 103 minutes

A Case of Libel

You've seen Ed Asner as a journalist; he's powerful as an attorney in this re-enactment of the libel trial over columnist Westbrook Pegler's smear campaign against Quentin Reynolds. Regarded as one of the best courtroom dramas ever. 1984, 92 minutes

The Pelican Brief

In this adaptation of John Grisham's bestseller, a smart law student (Julia Roberts), in the course of doing her homework, trips over evidence that high government officials conspired in the assassination of two Supreme Court justices. Realizing that there is more riding on this than her semester grade, she enlists the help of an investigative reporter (Denzel Washington) in a dangerous race to get the story out. No word on her grade. 1993, 141 minutes



I Love Trouble



It's a comedy! It's a romance! It's an adventure film! What it wasn't, was all that great. Nick Nolte and Julia Roberts personify a Chicago-style, David-and-Goliath newspaper war. Smug star reporter Nolte and cubbie Roberts pursue the same

story -- and each other -- and wind up on the same side when things get dangerous. (Some of the same energy as *Teacher's Pet*.) Fun, but hardly a hit. Some serious journos panned it for its romance and lack of authenticity. But, HEY, it's a MOVIE! 1994, 123 minutes

The Paper

The rush to report and publish a story about a double homicide with racial overtones propels us through 24 hours of the life of the New York Sun and its scrappy assistant managing editor, played by Michael Keaton. Being courted by some other, arrogant newspaper in town (we wonder whose?), dueling with an avaricious managing editor (Glenn Close) and keeping his very pregnant reporter-wife (Marisa Tomei) waiting, Keaton takes us pell-mell to an ending where everything is tied up with a neat little bow. Roger Ebert wrote, "you get cocooned in a tight little crowd of hyperactive competitors, and eventually your view of normality begins to blur." Now, THAT sounds familiar! Ron Howard directs, 1994, 112 minutes

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