

TV Movies, Shorts and Series

As my larger lists cover only theatrically released features and shorts, I felt the need to create this smaller, more informal list to mention some of the best, most notable or most infamous films and shows that never got a theatrical release. Here you will find feature-length TV movies, short TV and/or Web movies, TV series and Web series, and also a few direct-to-DVD or direct-to-video movies. The rating system for TV movies is exactly the same as the one for theatrically released movies (0-5 with quarter-star increments), keeping in mind I am holding them to the same high standards as theatrical releases. (And for teleplays, which are included under TV movies, I've tried to take into account the fact that they are a very different type of animal. But despite their theatrical aesthetic, they are ultimately judged as filmed entertainment, since trying to guess as to what the experience would have been like live and on stage seems a futile and haphazard exercise.)

The scale for TV and Web series and TV mini-series is similar to my scale for TV movies, but it lacks quarter-stars. (It's 0-5 stars with half-star increments.) The scale for TV shorts is the same as my scale for Short Films (0-5 with no half- or quarter-stars). Please note that TV movies are listed here only if they never received any type of theatrical release (which could include screenings at two or more major film festivals). If a made-for-TV or direct-to-video/DVD movie was screened theatrically, you can find it on the larger, theatrically released lists (with a **TV** designation after). **All movies and series are organized alphabetically.** Ratings for TV series try to take into account the quality over the entire run but also make mild allowances for the fact most series do not maintain high quality throughout their run, especially if the series lasts many years. Long-running, high-quality series are given slightly more credit than short-run (one or two seasons) series. For a guide to colors, see [Key](#).

TV, Web & Direct-to-Video/DVD Feature Films

	Stars	Year(s)	Network	Director/Creative Producer
Awake and Sing!	1 ½	1972	PBS	Robert Hopkins/Norman Lloyd
The Dresser	3	2015	BBC	Richard Eyre
Emmet Otter's Jug-Band Christmas	3 ½	1978	HBO	Jim Henson
Grumpy Cat's Worst Christmas Ever	½	2014	Lifetime	Tim Hill
The Idea Thief	¼	2011	Direct-to-Video/DVD	Jonathan Skocik
Lon Chaney: a Thousand Faces	2 ¾	2000	TCM	Kevin Brownlow
A Normal Heart	3 ½	2014	HBO	Ryan Murphy
Piranhaconda	¼	2012	SyFy	Jim Wynorski
Recount	3	2008	HBO	Jay Roach
Requiem for a Heavyweight	3 ½	1956	CBS	Ralph Nelson/Rod Serling
Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer	2 ½	1964	NBC	Larry Roemer/Kizo Nagashima
<u>Sharknado 3: Oh Hell No!</u>	½	2015	SyFy	Anthony C. Ferrante
Sharktopus	¼	2010	SyFy	Declan O'Brien
Snakes on a Train	¼	2006	Direct-to-Video/DVD	Peter Mervis
The Woman in Black	3 ½	1989	ITV	Herbert Wise
You Don't Know Jack	2 ¾	2010	HBO	Barry Levinson

TV, Web & Direct-to-Video/DVD Short Films and Music Videos

BURN-E	3	2008		Angus MacLane/John Lasseter
A Busload of Thrills and Cool Casual Comfort	3	2013		MK12/TJ Fuller
La Cabina (The Telephone Box) FL	5	1972		Antonio Mercero
A Charlie Brown Christmas	4	1965	CBS	Bill Melendez/Charles Schulz
A Day in the Life	3	1967		The Beatles
Don't Answer Me	4	1984	MTV/VH1	M. Kaluta/A. Parsons/D.J. Webster
Dug's Special Mission	3	2009		Ronaldo Del Carmen/John Lasseter
Fallingwater	3	2015		Cristóbal Vila
Free as a Bird	5	1995	ITV/ABC	Pytka/McCartney/Harrison/Starr
Hello Goodbye	3	1967		The Beatles

Henri 2: Paw de Deux FL	4	2012	Internet	Shawn Bean
How the Grinch Stole Christmas	5	1966	CBS	Chuck Jones/Ben Washam
Italian Spiderman FL	3	2007	YouTube	Dario Russo
It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown	4	1966	CBS	Bill Melendez/Charles Schulz
Monty the Penguin (John Lewis commercial)	4	2014	BBC/ITV	John Lewis
Paperback Writer	4	1966		Michael Lindsay-Hogg/The Beatles
Penny Lane	4	1967		Peter Goldman/The Beatles
Pets or Meat: The Return to Flint	4	1992	PBS	Michael Moore
Rain	4	1966		Michael Lindsay-Hogg/The Beatles
Real Love	4	1995	ITV/ABC	Geoff Wonfor/Kevin Godley
The Scarecrow (Chipotle commercial)	4	2013	N/A	Bill Joyce/Moonbot Studios
Strawberry Fields Forever	5	1967		Peter Goldman/The Beatles
Sledgehammer	4	1986	MTV/VHI	Stephen Johnson/Peter Gabriel
Harvey and Harmony (Thinkbox commercial)	3	2014		Andrew MacGillivray/Thinkbox
The Third & the Seventh	4	2009		Alex Roman
Thriller	4	1983	MTV	John Landis/Michael Jackson
Video Killed the Radio Star	3	1979	MTV	Russel Mulcahy/The Buggles
Within You Without You/Tomorrow Never Knows	4	2006		Simon Hilton/George Martin
Your Friend the Rat	4	2007		Jim Capobianco/John Lasseter

TV Series

ALF	1	1986-1990	NBC	
Alfred Hitchcock Presents / The Alfred Hitchcock Hour	4 ½	1955-1965	CBS/NBC	Alfred Hitchcock
All in the Family	4	1971-1979	CBS	Norman Lear
The Andy Griffith Show	4 ½	1960-1968	CBS	Sheldon Leonard/Bob Sweeney
Barney Miller	3	1975-1982	ABC	
Bates Motel	2	2013-	A&E	
The Beverly Hillbillies	1 ½	1962-1971	CBS	
Bewitched	2	1964-1972	ABC	
The Brady Bunch	2	1969-1974	ABC	
The Carol Burnett Show	4	1967-1978	CBS	Carol Burnett
Cheers	3 ½	1982-1993	NBC	
The Colbert Report	2 ½	2005-2014	Comedy Central	
The Cosby Show	3	1984-1992	NBC	
The Daily Show with Jon Stewart	3 ½	1996-2015	Comedy Central	
Downton Abbey	4 ½	2010-2016	ITV/PBS	Julian Fellowes
Dr. Who (original)	2	1963-1989	BBC	
Dr. Who (new)	3	2005-	BBC	
The Dukes of Hazzard	1 ½	1979-1985	CBS	
The Ed Sullivan Show	4	1948-1971	CBS	Ed Sullivan
Everybody Loves Raymond	3 ½	1996-2005	CBS	
The Fall and Rise of Reginald Perrin	3 ½	1976-1979	BBC	
Family Ties	2	1982-1989	NBC	
Fargo	3 ½	2014-	FX	
The Flintstones	2	1960-1966	ABC	
Fraggle Rock	3	1983-1987	HBO/CBC/ITV	
Frasier	4	1993-2004	NBC	
Friends	2 ½	1994-2004	NBC	
Full House	½	1987-1995	ABC	
Gilligan's Island	1	1964-1967	CBS	
Glee	1	2009-	Fox	
Gomer Pyle, U.S.M.C.	1 ½	1964-1969	CBS	
Green Acres	1 ½	1965-1971	CBS	
The Honeymooners	4	1951-1956	DuMont/CBS	
I Dream of Jeannie	2 ½	1965-1970	NBC	
I Love Lucy	3 ½	1951-1957	CBS	
The Invisible Man	3 ½	1984	BBC	
The Jeffersons	2	1975-1985	CBS	Norman Lear
The Jenny Jones Show	1	1991-2003	Warner Brothers/Syndicated	

The Jerry Springer Show	0	1991-	NBC/Universal/Syndicated	
The Jetsons	2	1962-1963	ABC	
Late Night with David Letterman	4	1982-1993	NBC	
The Late Show with David Letterman	4	1993-2015	CBS	
Leave it to Beaver	1	1957-1963	CBS/ABC	
Little House on the Prairie	2 ½	1974-1982	NBC	
Lost in Space	1 ½	1965-1968	CBS	Irwin Allen
Mad Men	3 ½	2007-2015	AMC	
M*A*S*H	3 ½	1972-1983	CBS	
Meet the Press	4 ½	1947-	NBC	
Monty Python's Flying Circus	4 ½	1969-1974	BBC	
The Muppet Show	4	1976-1981	ATV	
Nanny	3 ½	1981-1983	BBC	
Northern Exposure	3	1990-1995	CBS	
The Odd Couple	3	1970-1975	ABC	
One by One	4	1984-1987	BBC	
One Step Beyond	3	1959-1961	ABC	
Open All Hours	3	1976, 1981, 1982, 1985	BBC	
Outlander	2 ½	2014-2016	Starz	
The Outer Limits	4	1963-1965	ABC	
The Prisoner	4	1967-1968	ATV Midlands	Patrick McGoohan
Real Time with Bill Maher	4	2003-	HBO	Bill Maher
Rising Damp	3 ½	1974-1978	ITV	
Sanford and Son	2 ½	1972-1977	NBC	Bud Yorkin/Norman Lear
Saturday Night Live	2 ½	1975-	NBC	
Saved by the Bell	0	1989-1993	NBC	
Scrubs	2	2001-2010	NBC/ABC	
Seinfeld	4 ½	1989-1998	NBC	Larry David/Jerry Seinfeld
The Simpsons	4	1989-	Fox	
60 Minutes	5	1968-	CBS	Don Hewitt
Star Trek	2	1966-1969	NBC	
This Week with David Brinkley	4	1981-1996	ABC	
The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon	3	2014-	NBC	
The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson	4 ½	1962-1992	NBC	
The Tonight Show with Jay Leno	3	1992-2014	NBC	
The Twilight Zone	5	1959-1964	CBS	
Two and a Half Men	1	2003-2015	CBS	
The Walking Dead	2	2010-	AMC	Frank Darabont
Whose Line Is It Anyway?	3 ½	1988-1998	Channel 4	
Whose Line Is It Anyway?	3	1998-2007	ABC/ABC Family	
Whose Line Is It Anyway?	2	2013-	CW	
The X-Files	3	1993-2002, 2016	Fox	Chris Carter
Your Show of Shows	4	1950-1954	NBC	

TV Mini-Series

American Experience: Walt Disney	2	2015	PBS	Sarah Colt
Baseball	4 ½	1994	PBS	Ken Burns
The Beatles Anthology	4 ½	1995	ITV/ABC	Wonfor/McCartney/Harrison/Starr
The Civil War	5	1990	PBS	Ken Burns
Fawlty Towers	4 ½	1975 & 1979	BBC	Davies/Spiers/Cleese
Maelstrom	3 ½	1985	BBC	David Maloney
The Men Who Killed Kennedy	4	1988/91/95 & 2003	ITV/History Channel	Nigel Turner
The National Parks: America's Best Idea	4	2009	PBS	Ken Burns
The Roosevelts: An Intimate History	4 ½	2014	PBS	Ken Burns
The Story of Film: An Odyssey	2 ½	2011	More4	Mark Cousins
Unknown Chaplin	3 ½	1983	BBC	Kevin Brownlow/David Gill
V	2	1983	NBC	Kenneth Johnson

War and Remembrance	2	1989	ABC	Dan Curtis
The Young Ones	3	1982-1984	BBC	Geoff Posner

Web Series

House of Cards	4	2013-	Netflix	
<u>The Neighbors</u>	0	2015	Hulu	Tommy Wiseau

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