

## **MARRIAGE MOVIES – Date Night Recommendations**

**50 First Dates** - What woman doesn't long for a man who loves her enough to make her fall in love with him every day? In *50 First Dates*, Adam Sandler must do exactly that. Drew Barrymore's character, Lucy, has a head injury that prevents her from converting short-term memories to long-term memories. Every day he must go through the process of winning her again, which lends itself to much humor.

**An Affair to Remember, 1957** - Foreshadowing many of the romantic comedies of our time, a couple falls in love in Europe and agrees to meet 6 months later at the Empire State Building. Cary Grant and Deborah Kerr star in this remake of a 1936 film called *Love Affair*.

**Away From Her (2007)** - "I never thought I'd be away from her". The incredibly strong bonds of a 44-year marriage that has reached soul mate status. Illustrates the loss and loneliness of losing a mate (Julie Christie) and the meaning of true love - wanting to sacrifice to make your mate happy. Some review it as a movie about Alzheimer's but I see it as being about the profound love, attachment, and sacrifice in a long-term marriage.

**Casablanca**

**Don Juan de Marco (especially for older couples)**

**Family Man** - Ups and downs between a husband (Nicolas Cage) and wife (Tea Leoni), but the moral of the story is that the family relationships that are built are far more important than the success and money earned in a life alone.

**Groundhog Day**

**It Happened One Night** - Clark Gable and Claudette Colbert, is the story of a woman tired of her rich family telling her what to do, who decides to jump off the side of her father's yacht in Miami and make her way back up to New York to see the man that her parents have swept her away from. On the bus ride back to her love, she is helped out by a newspaper writer, who is looking for a story. The two reluctantly fall in love on this long, funny journey, but are too afraid to admit it to one another. They arrive in NY and decide to go their separate ways, each going to what they originally intended, but for how long? To find out, watch this wonderfully funny and romantic classic

**Knocked Up (2007)** - Illustrates the universal Mars/Venus gender conundrums that in the end, boil down to what it's really all about – love, marriage, connection, babies. *"Knocked Up"* may be about Seth Rogen's slacker coming to grips with fatherhood, but the movie also provides a painfully honest and absolutely hilarious look at a marriage on the rocks. Initially, Apatow stacks the deck in favor of Rudd's beleaguered, wisecracking husband, until you gradually realize there's a reason Mann's strong-willed wife is so angry all the time. "Watching people stuck in communication black holes is painful in real life, but on screen it's really funny," Apatow says. "The male response is generally to shut down. I do. I run away when

*there's a problem. It's the classic conflict that people can't get past. Men wanting women to act like men and women being mad at men for not thinking like women. It's pure comedy." The dynamic of this movie marriage may have already improved a few real-life unions, Apatow says. "I've had a lot of friends say the movie makes them either want to run home and be nice to their wives or it made them feel very guilty about the fact that they're like Paul Rudd and a little slow to rush home when work ends," Apatow says. "To which I say, 'Good. That's what I'm trying to get across. Be there for your wife."*

### **Life as a House (2002) - Kevin Kline**

**Mannequin** - In this 1987 classic, Kim Cattrall stars as an Egyptian princess cursed to become a mannequin. Andrew McCarthy plays a window dresser who discovers that Emma can come to life. Emma must find true love in order to come to life permanently, and her love inspires Jonathan's success. Comedy runs rampant through the film as the two outwit a rival department store, clumsy security guards and Jonathan's on-again off-again girlfriend.

**Match Point** - Sometimes you don't know what you've got until you (almost) lose it. Or, the grass isn't always greener on the other side of the net. Or, I don't want the cheese, I just want to get out of the trap. As powerful as **Fatal Attraction** as an anti-infidelity movie.

### **My Big Fat Greek Wedding**

### **My Life (1994) [death of a spouse, meaning of life & relationship]**

**Notting Hill, 1999** – Perennial hotties Hugh Grant and Julia Roberts costar in the quintessential 90s romantic comedy.

**Pretty Woman** - This romantic comedy has all the elements of a truly successful film: major stars (Julia Roberts and Richard Gere), a solid plot and strong acting. The 1990 film follows the trials and tribulations of a prostitute and a rich tycoon who fall in love against all odds. Some of the storyline hearkens back to earlier scripts from *My Fair Lady* and *Pygmalion*, but the film has a decidedly modern twist.

**Roxanne** - Starring Steve Martin and Darryl Hannah, *Roxanne* is a modern retelling of the story of *Cyrano de Bergerac*. In the film as in the original, the main character (C.D. Bales) has an abnormally large nose. He therefore communicates his love for the title character through his writing, presented by another as his own.

### **Shall We Dance?**

**The Descendants.** It's the best movie dealing with extramarital affairs. In fact, this movie is unique in that it doesn't depict the affair itself at all. The affair has already ended when the movie begins, so it focuses strictly on the aftermath

**The Notebook** - An epic love story centered around an old man (James Garner) who reads aloud to an older, invalid woman (Gena Rowlands) whom he regularly visits....from a faded notebook.

**The Story of Us** - "The Story of Us" is a married couple's date movie. How do you STAY married? "The Story of Us" spells it out - staying married has to do with growing up, getting past the myths about marriage and taking the long-view. It's about whether marriage can survive our fantasies about marriage and our right to perfect, till-death-us-do-part romance. The movie is realistic AND romantic and that's no small feat.

### **The Thin Man**

**The Thing About My Folks** - After 47 years Mom (Olympia Dukakis) has flown the coop - a walk-away wife - leaving behind a vague note of explanation. Father (Peter Falk "Columbo") and son (Paul Riser) set off on a road-trip which gives them time to ponder what really goes on in any marriage and what could be changed if they were given the chance.

**When Harry Met Sally** - This 1989 romantic comedy stars Billy Crystal and Meg Ryan as the title characters. The film follows the lives of Harry and Sally from their first meeting through a dozen years of chance encounters. Eventually they come together and marry.

**Year Old Virgin**, a film that also presents a strong pro-marriage argument for holding out for – and appreciating – what truly matters. Strong language, drugs, sex.

**You've Got Mail** - This 1998 romantic comedy is the third film pairing for the dynamic team of Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan. The movie is based on the story of the 1940's film *The Shop Around the Corner*. The film is decidedly updated and modernized as the pair meets through e-mail and develops an online romance. All the while, Kathleen owns a local bookshop that is under threat from a major chain. Joe happens to be the heir of the Fox family, who owns the bookstore chain. After a series of comedic and tragic situations, their real identities are revealed. The pair eventually comes together after Joe learns a lesson about the importance of small business in a community.