

Factoids About the 101 Greatest Screenplays List

Writers with multiple films on the list:

# of Films on List	Writer's Name
4	Woody Allen (all original; two co-written with Marshall Brickman; directed all four)
4	Francis Ford Coppola (one original, three adaptations; all co-written, two with Mario Puzo, one with John Milius, one with Edmund H. North; directed three)
4	Billy Wilder (two original, two adaptations; co-writer with I.A.L. Diamond on two, with Charles Brackett and D.M. Marshman Jr. on one, with Raymond Chandler on one; directed all four; two comedies, two dramas—both comedies co-written with Diamond)
3	William Goldman (one original script; one adapted from another source; one adapted from his own novel)
3	John Huston (all adaptations; one co-written with James Agee; directed all three)
3	Charlie Kaufman (two original scripts; one adaptation)
2	Ben Hecht (one original script; one based on his play)
2	Michael Wilson (blacklisted; both adaptations; two co-written, one with Robert Bolt, one with Carl Foreman)
2	Marshall Brickman (both original; both co-written with Woody Allen)
2	James L. Brooks (one original, one adaptation; directed both)
2	I.A.L. Diamond (one original, one adaptation; both co-written with Billy Wilder)
2	Carl Foreman (blacklisted; both adaptations; one co-written with Michael Wilson; credit restored on <i>Bridge on the River Kwai</i>)
2	Ernest Lehman (one original, one adaptation; one co-written with Clifford Odets and based on his own novelette)
2	Frank Pierson (one co-written with Donn Pearce)
2	Mario Puzo (both co-written with Francis Ford Coppola; both based on his own novel)
2	Paul Schrader (one original, one adaptation—co-written with Mardik Martin)
2	Preston Sturges (one original, one adaptation; directed both)

Breakdown by Decade:

Decade	# of Films
1930s	4
1940s	14
1950s	12
1960s	14
1970s	18
1980s	18
1990s	17
2000s	4

#	Awards/Nominations
60	On the National Film Registry of the Library of Congress
69	Received Writers Guild Awards (44) or Writers Guild Award nominations (25)
75	Received Academy Award for Best Screenplay (39) or Academy Award nomination for Best Screenplay (36)

Original Scripts	Adaptations
45	56

Dramas	Comedies	Comedy/Dramas
60	26	15

Based on:

Type of Original Material	# of Films
Article(s)	2
Biography(ies)	3
Christmas card	1
Film	1
Life/writings	1
Nonfiction book	1
Novel	34
Novelette	1
Play (one unproduced)	5
Short story	6
Song	1

About the 101 Greatest Screenplays writers:

At Least This # of Writers	Writers Factoids
2	Married couples: Frances Goodrich & Albert Hackett (a writing team); Nora Ephron and Nicholas Pileggi (who wrote separately).
2	Writers in the top 10 began their careers working for Roger Corman (Francis Ford Coppola, Robert Towne)
3	Presidents of the Writers Guild of America: Charles Brackett (1938-39); Ernest Lehman (1983-85) <i>North by Northwest</i> , <i>Sweet Smell of Success</i> ; Frank Pierson (1981-83; 1993-95) <i>Dog Day Afternoon</i> , <i>Cool Hand Luke</i>
3	Writers listed twice in the Top 10 of the 101 Greatest Screenplays: Mario Puzo and Francis Ford Coppola (<i>The Godfather</i> and <i>The Godfather Part II</i>); Billy Wilder (<i>Sunset Blvd.</i> and <i>Some Like It Hot</i>)
3	Wrote for television comic Sid Caesar early in their careers and have been successful television writers, screenwriters and playwrights (Woody Allen, Mel Brooks, Larry Gelbart).
4	Blacklisted writers: Howard Koch, Michael Wilson, Carl Foreman and Donald Ogden Stewart
4	Sets of brothers: Ethan & Joel Coen, Julius J. & Philip G. Epstein (twins), James and William Goldman, and Joseph and Herman J. Mankiewicz. The Mankiewicz brothers are listed at #s 4 and 5 on the list of 101 Greatest Screenplays: Herman (co-writer, <i>Citizen Kane</i>) and Joseph (<i>All About Eve</i>). Of these pairs, the Coens and the Epsteins were writing teams while the Goldman brothers and the Mankiewicz brothers wrote separately from each other. Also, Charlie & Donald Kaufman are, theoretically, twins, although Donald is fictitious.
5	Critics: James Agee, Charles Brackett, Herman Mankiewicz, Joseph Mankiewicz, Robert E. Sherwood
5	Well-known novelists: Peter Benchley, James M. Cain, Raymond Chandler, Graham Greene, Mario Puzo
6	Women writers: Betty Comden, Nora Ephron, Frances Goodrich, Callie Khouri, Melissa Mathison, Florence Ryerson
6	Joined the Guild about a month after its inception in 1933: Frances Goodrich, Albert Hackett, Nunnally Johnson, Joseph Mankiewicz, Robert Riskin, Donald Ogden Stewart
13	Playwrights: Woody Allen, Larry Gelbart, Mel Brooks, Betty Comden & Adolph Green, Albert Hackett & Frances Goodrich, Robert Sherwood, Horton Foote, Tom Stoppard, Ben Hecht, Clifford Odets, James Goldman
13	Writing teams: Woody Allen & Marshall Brickman, Billy Wilder & I.A.L. Diamond (2 films), Robert Zemeckis & Bob Gale, Julius J. & Philip G. Epstein,

	Charlie Kaufman & Michel Gondry & Pierre Bismuth (story by credit), Joel Coen & Ethan Coen, Sidney Carroll & Robert Rossen, Frances Goodrich & Albert Hackett & Frank Capra, Brian Helgeland & Curtis Hanson, Alexander Payne & Jim Taylor, Betty Comden & Adolph Green, Charles Brackett & Billy Wilder, Earl W. Wallace & William Kelley
15	Performers: Woody Allen, Marshall Brickman, Mel Brooks, Betty Comden & Adolph Green, Horton Foote, Frances Goodrich, Albert Hackett, Buck Henry, Spike Lee, Sylvester Stallone, Donald Ogden Stewart, Robert Towne, Quentin Tarantino, Orson Welles
29	Writers who directed their own scripts: Federico Fellini, John Huston (3), Joseph Mankiewicz, Woody Allen (4), Billy Wilder (4), Francis Ford Coppola (3), Robert Zemeckis, James L. Brooks (2), Orson Welles, Spike Lee, Stanley Kubrick, Joel Coen, Phil Alden Robinson, Martin Scorsese, Jean Renoir, Harold Ramis, Robert Rossen, Frank Capra, Cameron Crowe, Curtis Hanson, Preston Sturges (2), Christopher Nolan, Mel Brooks, Quentin Tarantino, Frank Darabont, Alexander Payne, M. Night Shyamalan, George Lucas, Sam Peckinpah
69	Films written by a sole writer or writing team. Of these, 52 sole writers account for 58 of these movies: Woody Allen (2 films), Alan Ball, James L. Brooks (2 films), Mel Brooks, Paddy Chayefsky, Cameron Crowe, Frank Darabont, Nora Ephron, Carl Foreman, Horton Foote, James Goldman, William Goldman (3 films), John Michael Hayes, Ben Hecht, Colin Higgins, Sidney Howard, John Huston (2 films), Nunnally Johnson, Charlie Kaufman (2 films), Callie Khouri, Jerzy Kozinski, Charles Lederer, Spike Lee, Ernest Lehman, George Lucas, David Mamet, Joseph Mankiewicz, Melissa Mathison, Christopher McQuarrie, Christopher Nolan, Frank S. Nugent, David Webb Peoples, Frank R. Pierson, Robert Riskin, Phil Alden Robinson, Eric Roth, Waldo Salt, Alvin Sargent, Paul Schrader, Budd Schulberg, Peter Shaffer, John Patrick Shanley, Robert E. Sherwood, M. Night Shyamalan, Sylvester Stallone, Joseph Stefano, Donald Ogden Stewart, Preston Sturges, Ted Tally, Robert Towne, David S. Ward, Steven Zaillian

About the films—a starting place

At Least This #	Film Factoid
2	Murdered narrators: <i>Sunset Blvd.</i> , <i>American Beauty</i> (also ran: <i>Double Indemnity</i> , in which the narrator is dying)
2	About cross-dressing: <i>Some Like It Hot</i> , <i>Tootsie</i>
2	Runaway brides: <i>The Graduate</i> , <i>It Happened One Night</i>
2	Cynical looks at television news: <i>Network</i> , <i>Broadcast News</i>
2	About lawyers: <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> , <i>The Verdict</i>
2	About advertising: <i>Sweet Smell of Success</i> , <i>North By Northwest</i>
2	About the insurance business: <i>The Apartment</i> , <i>Double Indemnity</i>
2	May-December romances featuring older woman/younger man: <i>The Graduate</i> , <i>Harold and Maude</i>
3	Received Pulitzer Prize for their source material: <i>Gone With the Wind</i> , <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> , <i>The Grapes of Wrath</i>
3	Horror stories: <i>Jaws</i> , <i>Silence of the Lambs</i> , <i>Psycho</i>
4	About screenwriters: <i>Sullivan's Travels</i> , <i>Sunset Blvd.</i> , <i>Adaptation</i>
4	Musicals (or have musical elements): <i>Wizard of Oz</i> , <i>Singin' in the Rain</i> , <i>Amadeus</i> , <i>The Producers</i>
5	Films that became references in other films: <i>Sullivan's Travels</i> (the film being made is to be called <i>O Brother, Where Art Thou</i>); <i>Casablanca/The Usual Suspects</i> (the title of the latter refers to Claude Rains' line in <i>Casablanca</i> : "Round up the usual suspects."); <i>Casablanca</i> again (another of the film's lines, slightly distorted, "Play It Again, Sam," became the title of A Woody Allen film.); <i>North By Northwest</i> (<i>Silver Streak</i> is an homage to this film); <i>The Godfather</i> (referred to as the ultimate guy's movie in <i>You've Got Mail</i> and mentioned in many other films.).
6	Unusual story structure: <i>Citizen Kane</i> , <i>Annie Hall</i> , <i>Groundhog Day</i> , <i>Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind</i> , <i>Being John Malkovich</i> , <i>Memento</i>
6	With voiceover: <i>Adaptation</i> , <i>American Beauty</i> , <i>Annie Hall</i> , <i>Patton</i> , <i>Psycho</i> , <i>Sunset Blvd.</i>
6	Told in flashback: <i>Amadeus</i> , <i>American Beauty</i> , <i>Double Indemnity</i> , <i>Forrest Gump</i> , <i>Sunset</i>

	<i>Blvd., The Usual Suspects</i>
6	Foreign films: <i>Dr. Strangelove</i> (UK), <i>Lawrence of Arabia</i> (UK), <i>The Third Man</i> (UK), <i>The Lion in Winter</i> (UK), <i>8 1/2</i> (Italy) and <i>La Grande Illusion</i> (France)
6	Westerns: <i>Butch Cassidy & the Sundance Kid</i> , <i>Unforgiven</i> , <i>Treasure of Sierra Madre</i> , <i>High Noon</i> , <i>The Searchers</i> , <i>The Wild Bunch</i>
6	With a deranged lead character: <i>Sunset Blvd.</i> , <i>Network</i> , <i>Amadeus</i> , <i>Treasure of the Sierra Madre</i> , <i>Memento</i> , <i>Psycho</i>
7	Autobiographical (at least partially): <i>Adaptation</i> , <i>Annie Hall</i> , <i>8 1/2</i> , <i>Citizen Kane</i> , <i>Cool Hand Luke</i> , <i>The Graduate</i> , <i>The Sweet Smell of Success</i>
7	World War II/Nazi theme: <i>Casablanca</i> , <i>Raiders of the Lost Ark</i> , <i>Best Years of Our Lives</i> , <i>Bridge on the River Kwai</i> , <i>Schindler's List</i> , <i>Patton</i> , <i>Notorious</i>
8	About journalism: <i>Citizen Kane</i> , <i>Network</i> , <i>Groundhog Day</i> , <i>His Girl Friday</i> , <i>The Philadelphia Story</i> , <i>Broadcast News</i> , <i>All the President's Men</i> , <i>It Happened One Night</i>
8	Action/adventure: <i>Butch Cassidy</i> , <i>Raiders of the Lost Ark</i> , <i>Apocalypse Now</i> , <i>Back to the Future</i> , <i>Jaws</i> , <i>Star Wars</i> , <i>Thelma & Louise</i> , <i>The Princess Bride</i>
14	About showbiz: <i>All About Eve</i> , <i>Sunset Blvd.</i> , <i>Network</i> , <i>Some Like it Hot</i> , <i>Tootsie</i> , <i>Singin' in the Rain</i> , <i>Shakespeare in Love</i> , <i>Sullivan's Travels</i> , <i>Sweet Smell of Success</i> , <i>Broadcast News</i> , <i>Adaptation</i> , <i>The Producers</i> , <i>Being There</i> , <i>8 1/2</i>
14	Have a twist at the end: <i>American Beauty</i> , <i>Being John Malkovich</i> , <i>The Godfather</i> , <i>The Godfather II</i> , <i>LA Confidential</i> , <i>The Producers</i> , <i>Psycho</i> , <i>Raiders of the Lost Ark</i> , <i>Rear Window</i> , <i>The Shawshank Redemption</i> , <i>The Sixth Sense</i> , <i>The Sting</i> , <i>The Third Man</i> , <i>The Wizard of Oz</i>
14	About journeys: <i>The Wizard of Oz</i> , <i>Thelma & Louise</i> , <i>Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid</i> , <i>Lawrence of Arabia</i> , <i>North By Northwest</i> , <i>Sullivan's Travels</i> , <i>Raiders of the Lost Ark</i> , <i>Treasure of the Sierra Madre</i> , <i>Apocalypse Now</i> , <i>It Happened One Night</i> , <i>The African Queen</i> , <i>Sideways</i> , <i>The Searchers</i> , <i>The Grapes of Wrath</i>
15	Based (loosely or otherwise) on true stories or biographies: <i>Citizen Kane</i> , <i>All About Eve</i> , <i>Double Indemnity</i> , <i>Butch Cassidy & the Sundance Kid</i> , <i>Lawrence of Arabia</i> , <i>Goodfellas</i> , <i>Bridge on the River Kwai</i> , <i>Schindler's List</i> , <i>All the President's Men</i> , <i>Dog Day Afternoon</i> , <i>The Lion in Winter</i> , <i>Amadeus</i> , <i>Raging Bull</i> , <i>La Grande Illusion</i> , <i>Patton</i>
17	"Stranger in a strange land" themes: <i>The Wizard of Oz</i> , <i>E.T.</i> , <i>Memento</i> , <i>Forrest Gump</i> , <i>Being There</i> , <i>Witness</i> , <i>Being John Malkovich</i> , <i>Back to the Future</i> , <i>One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest</i> , <i>The Philadelphia Story</i> , <i>Sullivan's Travels</i> , <i>Groundhog Day</i> , <i>Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind</i> , <i>The Shawshank Redemption</i> , <i>Lawrence of Arabia</i> , <i>Some Like It Hot</i> , <i>Sunset Blvd.</i>
17	Deal with political/social issues of the time: <i>Casablanca</i> , <i>Network</i> , <i>Dr. Strangelove</i> , <i>The Graduate</i> , <i>On the Waterfront</i> , <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> , <i>Sweet Smell of Success</i> , <i>Best Years of Our Lives</i> , <i>One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest</i> , <i>All the President's Men</i> , <i>Apocalypse Now</i> , <i>Ordinary People</i> , <i>Thelma & Louise</i> , <i>Sideways</i> , <i>Do the Right Thing</i> , <i>The Grapes of Wrath</i>
18	Crime stories: <i>The Godfather</i> (I & II), <i>Chinatown</i> , <i>Pulp Fiction</i> , <i>On the Waterfront</i> , <i>Double Indemnity</i> , <i>Fargo</i> , <i>The Usual Suspects</i> , <i>The Sting</i> , <i>Goodfellas</i> , <i>Taxi Driver</i> , <i>LA Confidential</i> , <i>Silence of the Lambs</i> , <i>All the President's Men</i> , <i>Dog Day Afternoon</i> , <i>Thelma & Louise</i> , <i>Do the Right Thing</i> , <i>Memento</i>
25	Deception as a major plot device: <i>All About Eve</i> , <i>Some Like It Hot</i> , <i>The Apartment</i> , <i>Tootsie</i> , <i>North By Northwest</i> , <i>Shawshank Redemption</i> , <i>Double Indemnity</i> , <i>His Girl Friday</i> , <i>The Usual Suspects</i> , <i>The Philadelphia Story</i> , <i>The Sting</i> , <i>The Maltese Falcon</i> , <i>Schindler's List</i> , <i>The Lady Eve</i> , <i>All the President's Men</i> , <i>Crimes and Misdemeanors</i> , <i>It Happened One Night</i> , <i>L.A. Confidential</i> , <i>E.T.</i> , <i>The Producers</i> , <i>Being There</i> , <i>The Princess Bride</i> , <i>Psycho</i> , <i>Memento</i> , <i>Notorious</i>
101	Films represented by scripts in the Writers Guild Foundation's Webb-Shavelson Library

FIND THE MACGUFFIN:

They're looking for this...	... in this film
The screenplay	<i>Adaptation</i>
What Deep Throat knows	<i>All the President's Men</i>
The key	<i>The Apartment</i>
Col. Kurtz	<i>Apocalypse Now</i>
Power for the flux capacitor	<i>Back to the Future</i>
John Malkovich	<i>Being John Malkovich</i>

Letters of transit	<i>Casablanca</i>
Rosebud	<i>Citizen Kane</i>
Memory (two titles)	<i>Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind, Memento</i>
Shoeless Joe	<i>Field of Dreams</i>
Tara	<i>Gone With the Wind</i>
Death	<i>Harold and Maude</i>
The scoop (more than one title)	<i>His Girl Friday, The Philadelphia Story</i>
The Great White	<i>Jaws</i>
The black bird ("the stuff that dreams are made of")	<i>The Maltese Falcon</i>
The microfilm	<i>North By Northwest</i>
Uranium dust	<i>Notorious</i>
A flop	<i>The Producers</i>
Mother	<i>Psycho</i>
The contents of the briefcase	<i>Pulp Fiction</i>
The ark of the covenant	<i>Raiders of the Lost Ark</i>
The missing wife	<i>Rear Window</i>
The heavyweight title	<i>Rocky</i>
Debbie Edwards	<i>The Searchers</i>
The loot buried under the tree	<i>The Shawshank Redemption</i>
Buffalo Bill	<i>Silence of the Lambs</i>
The sting	<i>The Sting</i>
Harry Lime	<i>The Third Man</i>
Gold	<i>The Treasure of the Sierra Madre</i>
Keyser Soze	<i>The Usual Suspects</i>
The kid	<i>Witness</i>
Home (two titles)	<i>The Wizard of Oz; E.T.</i>