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November 26, 2001

The Year of Writing Frivolously

Getting to Know Dr. Ink

Poynter.org tries to [unwrap the mysteries](#) surrounding this elusive scribe.

About Dr. Ink

Dr. Ink offers advice and insights on a range of journalism questions. Sometimes, the answers are serious, sometimes humorous, but always credible.

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Dear Dr. Ink:

What is your favorite movie about journalism?

Answer:

When Dr. Ink received this question, he was at first perplexed. So many recent movies depict reporters as bloodsucking careerists that Doc had to rummage through his memory banks to find something ennobling. His pick is the 1982 Australian film, "The Year of Living Dangerously."

Director Peter Weir creates a moody and suspenseful story about a young Australian journalist (Mel Gibson) on his first international assignment, covering political unrest in Indonesia. Gibson's earnest young reporter persists despite distractions afforded by Sigourney Weaver and a dispirited and cynical corps of foreign correspondents. The movie is stolen by the

2002

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gnomish Linda Hunt, who won an Academy Award for her portrayal of a *male* photographer who becomes Gibson's moral compass. The movie seems timely, as many journalists now venture toward Southern Asia, carrying with them a strange mixture of physical courage and personal ambition.

Dr. Ink would be very interested in nominees for Best or Favorite Movie About Journalism. Add yours, with a capsule review, to [the list](#).

Having trouble picking a favorite? David Shedden, Poynter librarian, has compiled a list of movies about journalism from our shelves. These titles might jog your memory:

- The Front Page, 1931
- I Cover the Waterfront, 1933
- It Happened One Night, 1934
- Libeled Lady, 1936
- Nothing Sacred, 1937
- Everything Happens At Night, 1939
- The Philadelphia Story, 1940
- Foreign Correspondent, 1940
- His Girl Friday, 1940
- Citizen Kane, 1941
- Meet John Doe, 1941
- They Got Me Covered, 1942
- Johnny Come Lately, 1943
- Deadline, U.S.A., 1952
- Roman Holiday, 1953
- While the City Sleeps, 1956
- Teacher's Pet, 1958
- All the President's Men, 1976
- Network, 1976
- Superman, 1978
- Absence of Malice, 1982
- The Year of Living Dangerously, 1982
- Under Fire, 1983
- Eyewitness, 1984
- The Mean Season, 1985
- Broadcast News, 1987
- Newsies, 1992
- The Pelican Brief, 1993
- The Paper, 1994
- The Insider, 1999

[Add your nominees.](#)