

Top 20 Movies Filmed in Chicago

20. ***Primal Fear*** (1996)

Someone has killed Chicago's archbishop: Richard Gere defends Edward Norton, taking his first major movie role, in this suspenseful and, at times, tricky drama.

19. ***Thief*** (1981)

The director Michael Mann's debut film is an atmospheric heist, including scenes at the Green Mill and a first big-screen appearance by Jim Belushi.

18. ***Road to Perdition*** (2002)

Visually stunning pictures tell the story of 1930s Chicago gangsters, with bleak weather mirroring the characters' hearts.

17. ***Stir of Echoes*** (1999)

Not even six degrees separate Kevin Bacon from the intense paranormal creepiness in his seemingly normal working-class neighborhood.

16. ***I Am Trying to Break Your Heart*** (2002)

Not great storytelling, but the grainy band-at-work documentary follows Wilco through the recording of their pivotal album Yankee Hotel Foxtrot.

15. ***Public Enemies*** (2009)

Michael Mann's expert use of 1930s locations captures the tarnished-gilt spirit of the Depression, while Johnny Depp humanizes Dillinger.

14. ***The Company*** (2003)

Brilliantly unexpected direction by Robert Altman makes this ensemble movie about the Joffrey Ballet feel like a documentary.

13. ***The Fugitive*** (1993)

One of the top catch-him-if-you-can films, with the falsely accused Harrison Ford being chased all over Chicago—including through Cook County Hospital and a St. Patrick's Day parade.

12. ***Dislocation*** (2005)

Gritty documentary follows three local families during the demolition of their public housing project and their move to a strange new world.

11. ***The Blues Brothers*** (1980)

Their kind of town: The homeboy John Belushi, along with Dan Aykroyd, established Chicago as a raucously blues-singing, car-crashing, soul-swinging place.

10. ***Barbershop*** (2002)

What we talk about when we talk about life: An ensemble cast offers a window into African American culture via a South Side institution.

9. ***The Color of Money*** (1986)

Martin Scorsese casts the city's West and South Side neighborhoods as supporting characters in a saga about a cagey, aging pool hustler (Paul Newman) and his protégé (Tom Cruise).

8. ***The Dark Knight*** (2008)

Holy cityscape! A spectacular last performance by Heath Ledger; plus 34 city locations, including the legendary bar Twin Anchors, are cast as Batman's Gotham City.

7. ***Risky Business*** (1983)

What happens when the *Home Alone*-type kid grows up to be enterprising teenager Tom Cruise, including a sparky sex scene on the el.

6. ***Ferris Bueller's Day Off*** (1986)

John Hughes wrote and directed a classic love letter to Chicago and to the kid in all of us who just wants some time to goof off.

5. ***Medium Cool*** (1969)

Melding cinéma vérité and fiction, the director Haskell Wexler captured the explosive mood of the summer of 1968, including footage of the Democratic convention riots.

4. ***Call Northside 777*** (1948)

The first major Hollywood movie shot in Chicago, this film-noirish classic stars James Stewart as a skeptical reporter who ends up establishing the innocence of a wrongly convicted murderer.

3. ***Mickey One*** (1965)

French New Wave meets Nelson Algren when Warren Beatty and the director Arthur Penn, pre-*Bonnie and Clyde*, team up for a paranoid-man-on-the-run tale.

2. ***Hoop Dreams*** (1994)

Amazing documentary gives an intimate four-year look at two Chicago inner-city high-school athletes, their dreams, and those who exploit them.

1. ***High Fidelity*** (2000)

The British writer Nick Hornby's novel was re-homed here, where the audiophile John Cusack goes on a quest to understand women. Does the music make this man or keep him from growing up? It's a rich, textured movie that—like your favorite LP—only gets better with time. It defines Chicago as a city of doers, dreamers, and slackers—a real place for real lives.