

The 10 Best Films of 2022 (So Far)

By

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Everett Collection/Nick Wall

Blockbusters are back, and so are audiences, judging by the billion-dollar take of Tom Cruise’s “Top Gun: Maverick,” or the indie underdog sensation that is “Everything Everywhere All at Once.” But now that moviegoers once again have a full range of offerings to choose from (after too long a stretch of being stuck at home with streaming options), the age-old questions looms: Which movies are worth leaving your bubble to see? Variety chief film critics Peter Debruge and Owen Gleiberman look back at the first six months of 2022, selecting the movie gems that have stood out the most.

Catch the Fair One



Photo: Courtesy of IFC Films

In this dark Tribeca Festival discovery, writer-director Josef Kubota Wladyka delves into the same gnarly territory as movies like “Taxi Driver” and “Hardcore,” where tough guys swoop in to rescue vulnerable young women from situations dire enough to make a QAnnonner’s head spin. “Catch the Fair One” shakes up the formula, positioning an indigenous female boxer (Kali Reis, who co-wrote the film) as its hero, while erasing much hope that she’ll ever find the kid sister stolen by sex traffickers. The tone of this thriller may be as bleak and cynical as they come, but the story is ultimately one of redemption, as a character who’s been fighting against the system all her life focuses on her most formidable adversary yet. – *PD*