

| Genre | Description |
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| Action | action-rich films, car chase-like |
| Adventure | exciting stories, with new experiences or exotic locations |
| Animation | animated films; includes mixed animation such as 'Space Jam' or 'Who framed Roger Rabbit' |
| Biographical | feature based on a real life story |
| Black Humor | dark, black humour aimed at teenagers and adults |
| Black Race | films in which race is the central issue |
| Comedy | all funny films; includes dramedies and comedy-dramas which are ultimately humorous |
| Comic Book | based on a comic book character |
| Courtroom | revolve around a (legal) courtroom story |
| Crime | films developed around sinister actions of criminals or gangsters |
| Documentary | non fictional accounts |
| Drama | films with a drama at the centre; includes dramedies and comedy-dramas wich are ultimately dramatic |
| Erotic | visual eroticism has to be central to the film |
| Family | all films aimed at children |
| Fantasy | films with events that are unlikely to occur in the real world; elements of myth, wonder and the extraordinary |
| Gay and Lesbian | gay or lesbian sexuality is the central issue |
| Horror | horrific and nightmarish |
| Martial Arts | films of any nationality centered around martial arts |
| Musical | stories told through music, classic musicals such as 'Grease', not about music (e.g. 'Shine') |
| Period | films set before the Second World War |
| Road Movie | films 'on the road' about searching by travelling |
| Romantic | films which have a romance at the centre |
| Romantic Comedy | feel-good comedy revolving around a romance |
| Sci-Fi | based on speculations about the future |
| Sequel | films clearly continuing the story of a previous film |
| Spoof | films mocking other genres |
| Sport | stories revolving around a sport, including baseball, basketball, etc. |
| Spy | stories centering on espionage between countries |
| Teenage | aimed at teenagers, not for children, too young for adults |
| Thriller | stories with suspense and a mistery or crime to be solved |
| War | central issue of the film is war between people |
| Western | traditionally about Americans'establishment and settlement at their Western borders |