A good film for me has nothing to do with its “classic” reputation, the gender of the director, its country of origin, its reflection of cultural milieu (an interesting by-product), its great novel origins (most make for mediocre films), its immediate accessibility, its entertainment value, nor its subject matter. A good film brings story line, character, and visual (sometimes musical) qualities together in a unique way to make a statement about the most complex moral, psychological, and spiritual aspects of the human condition. Careful discussions about these films make them even richer than on first viewing. I hope you will see these films for your own enjoyment and for my selfish reasons: It helps me when someone recommends a film and I can ask, “Is it as good as . . . ?”  

Gary Hoffman, updated 6-05