



TIPS FOR FINDING A MOVIE

At Missing Movies, our primary concern is access - to be able to watch a film, whether it is in a theater, on disc, or streaming.

It's important to understand that the most reliable way to watch a film *whenever you want to watch it* is to own physical media - a DVD, Blu-ray or UHD. Streaming services do not carry every movie and often rotate titles off their platform. Every movie that a service carries that is not their own title is being licensed and those licenses have expiration dates so even "buying" a digital copy of a movie on a site may only mean you have access to it as long as the platform's license with the rights holder is active.

Missing Movies is also about access to the best available legal copy of the film. Illegal downloads not only may deprive the artists of revenue but will be very poor quality copies that do not reflect the filmmakers and crews' intent and artistry, and often with scenes missing.

Is it Streaming?

To see if your movie is streaming, first check [JustWatch](#) and [Reelgood](#).

- Knowing the year and/or Director's name will help you identify your film.
- Check both sites as they sometimes have different titles and information.
- When checking titles be sure to add the word "The" if it is part of the title.
- Also, add the director's name to the title if your initial search doesn't turn up your movie.
- If the title is listed the site will tell you where it is streaming or that it is not currently streaming.
- Films often are removed from streaming platforms to make room for new content but they may return. You can set a "tracker" on JustWatch or Reelgood to alert you if your title is streaming again.

If there is no listing for your title or if you want to dig deeper, do a simple Google search.

When searching Google:

- If the title is a common name or expression you may get better results adding the word "movie" after it.
- You can also search the Director's name or any Cast member you know.
- Be sure to go deeper in the search results than the first page, especially if you are looking for an obscure title.
- You may find Reddit threads or other discussion boards about the movie
- You may also locate university libraries or other archival resources where the film is available.

Where else to find missing movies?

Art House Theaters that show repertory films are a major resource for keeping films alive and accessible. Their schedules are available at least a month in advance and they often have newsletters or other email alerts you can sign up for.

[Here's a nationwide list of theaters](#) showing repertory films (please let us know if you don't see your favorite theater and we'll add it!).

Also, more and more major and regional **Film Festivals** show independent and repertory films and often debut newly restored films. Check out our partial list of film festivals [here](#). Of course, you can also do a search for "film festivals near me."

If You Own DVD / BluRay and/or UHD Players

Yes, there is still a robust DVD/Blu-Ray/UHD market and players are still available for purchase.

Your local public library system is often a great resource if they have held onto their DVD collections and access to the films is free. Often, librarians will find the title you are seeking and either purchase it or borrow it from another library for your use.

Alternatively, Google/Amazon/Ebay searches should indicate if titles are for sale. If you are looking for a foreign film you may need to do a search in that specific country. For example, fnac.com for French produced discs.

Truly rare films may only have been released on VHS which may be difficult to locate and players in this format are harder to find but can be located.

Turner Classic Movies is another great source

Go to [their website](#) and see what's screening in your area and what is available on their app.

If you still can't find your film it may have gone missing for any number of reasons. Learn more about [Why Movies Go Missing](#) and add your title to our List by submitting it to us

All links referenced in this PDF can be found on our Tips for Finding A Movie page at [missingmovies.org](#)