

A WALK DOWN MEMORY LANE:

THE HISTORY OF

The Rom-Com

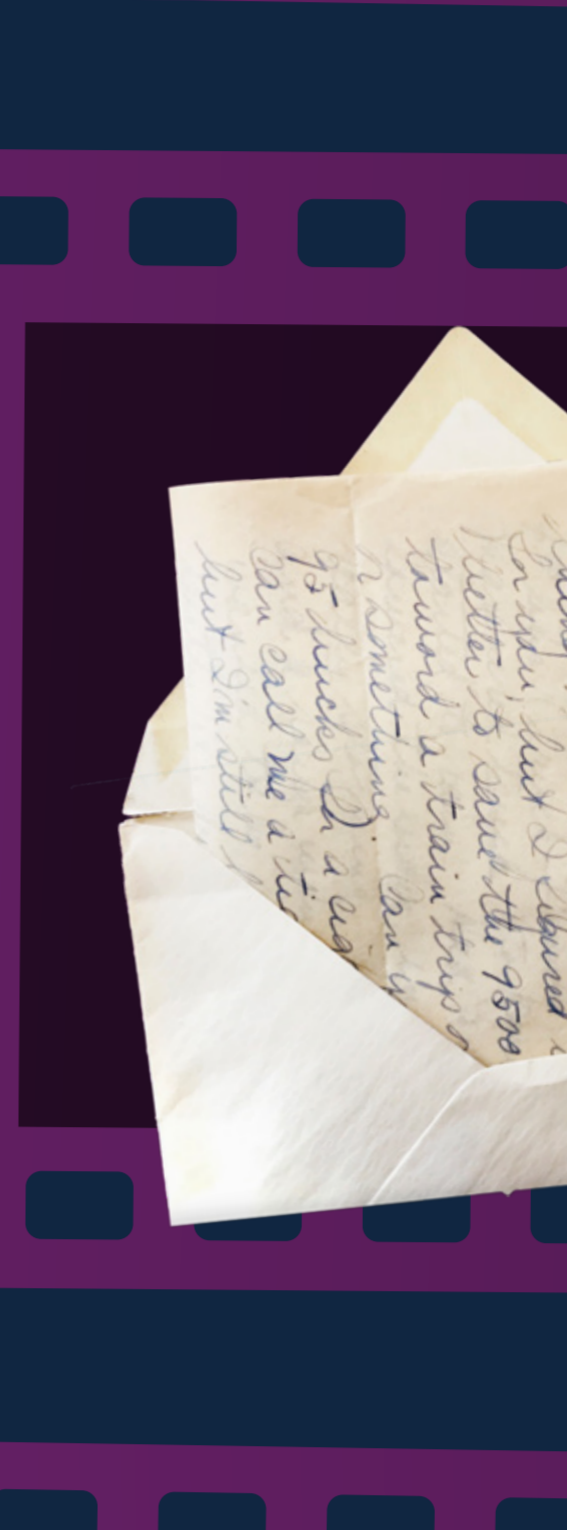


A delightful meet cute. Loveable, quirky heroines. Stories that lead to that race-to-the-alter ending. Throughout history, romantic comedies have always been fan-favorites. And while these films are light-hearted, they've often carried more weight thematically. The types of stories we've chosen to tell has reflected on our society and how we view love. And while this storytelling has changed shape, one thing has always remained true: we love to celebrate love.

Let's take a walk down memory lane and look at some of the genre's most iconic films, explore fun facts about our cherished favorites, and highlight our most anticipated rom-coms in 2024:



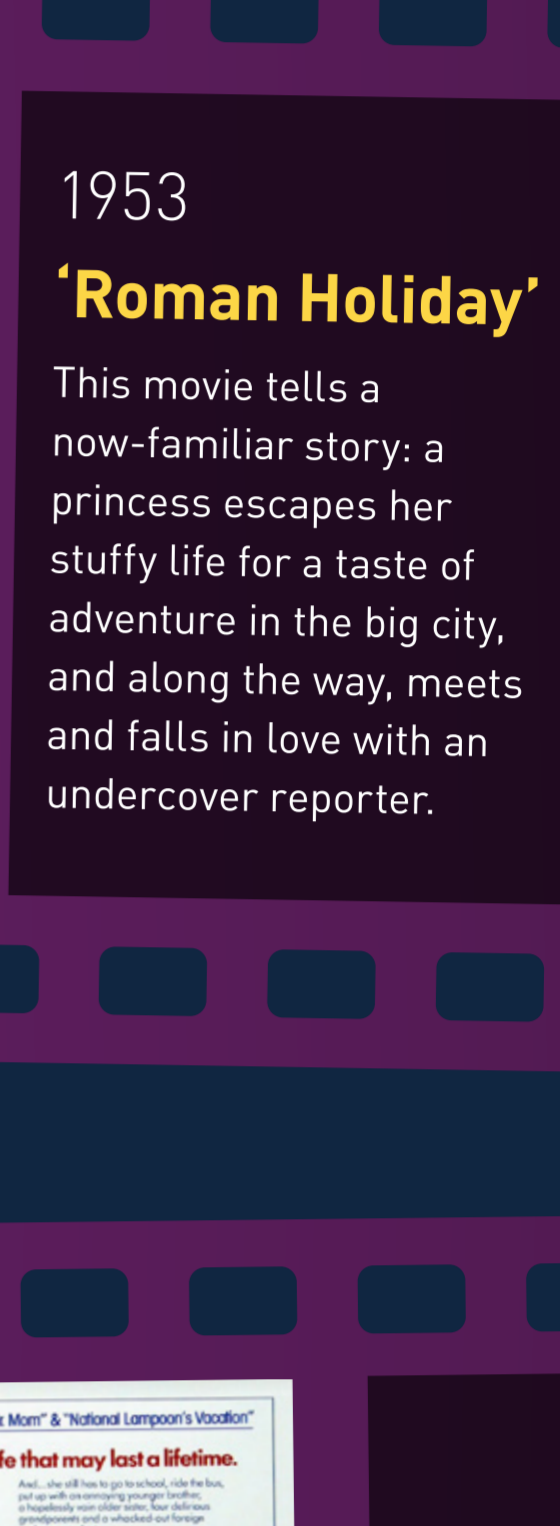
1924
'Girl Shy'
This silent movie is one of the first romantic comedies. It also ends with the first ever rush-to-the-alter scene.



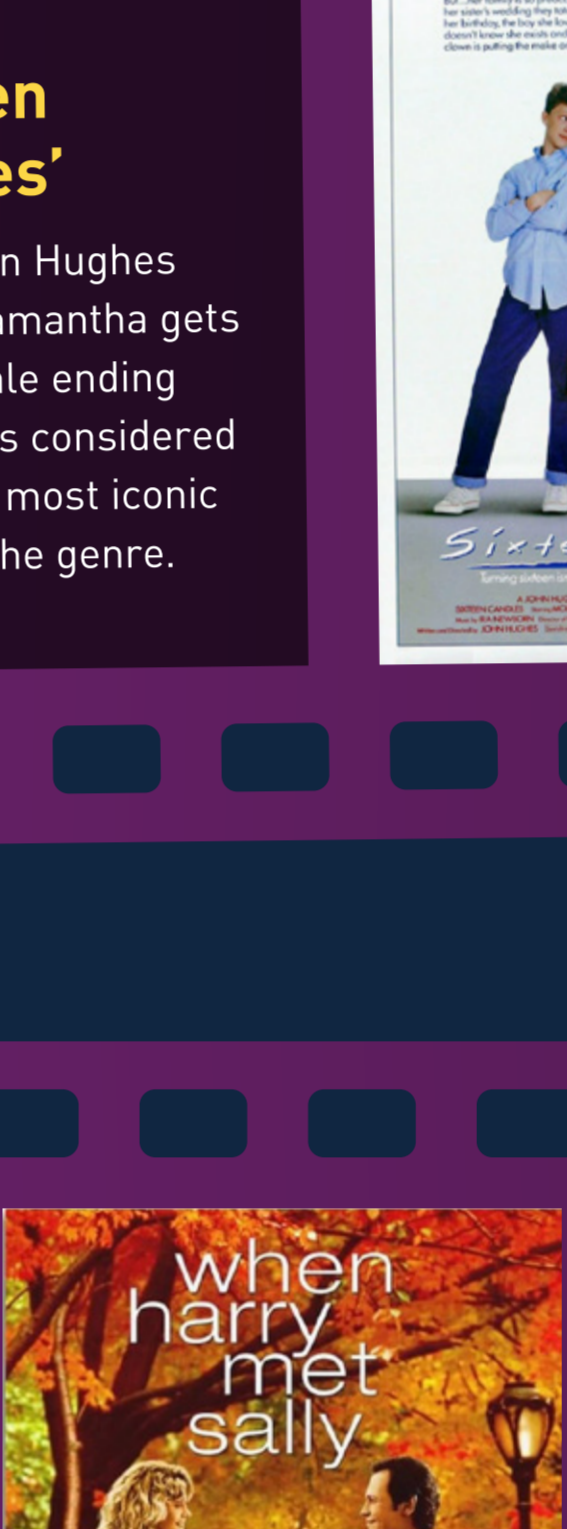
1934
'It Happened One Night'
One of the first rom-com "talkies" to take the world by storm, this film won multiple Oscars.



1940
'His Girl Friday'
This screwball comedy was ahead of its time in that it focused on two reporters in a media world whose witty banter and chemistry lit up the screen.



1940
'The Shop Around the Corner'
This holiday film is the inspiration for the much-loved '90s rom-com 'You've Got Mail'.



1953
'Roman Holiday'
This movie tells a now-familiar story: a princess escapes her stuffy life for a taste of adventure in the big city, and along the way, meets and falls in love with an undercover reporter.



1984
'Sixteen Candles'
In this John Hughes classic, Samantha gets her fairytale ending with what's considered one of the most iconic kisses in the genre.



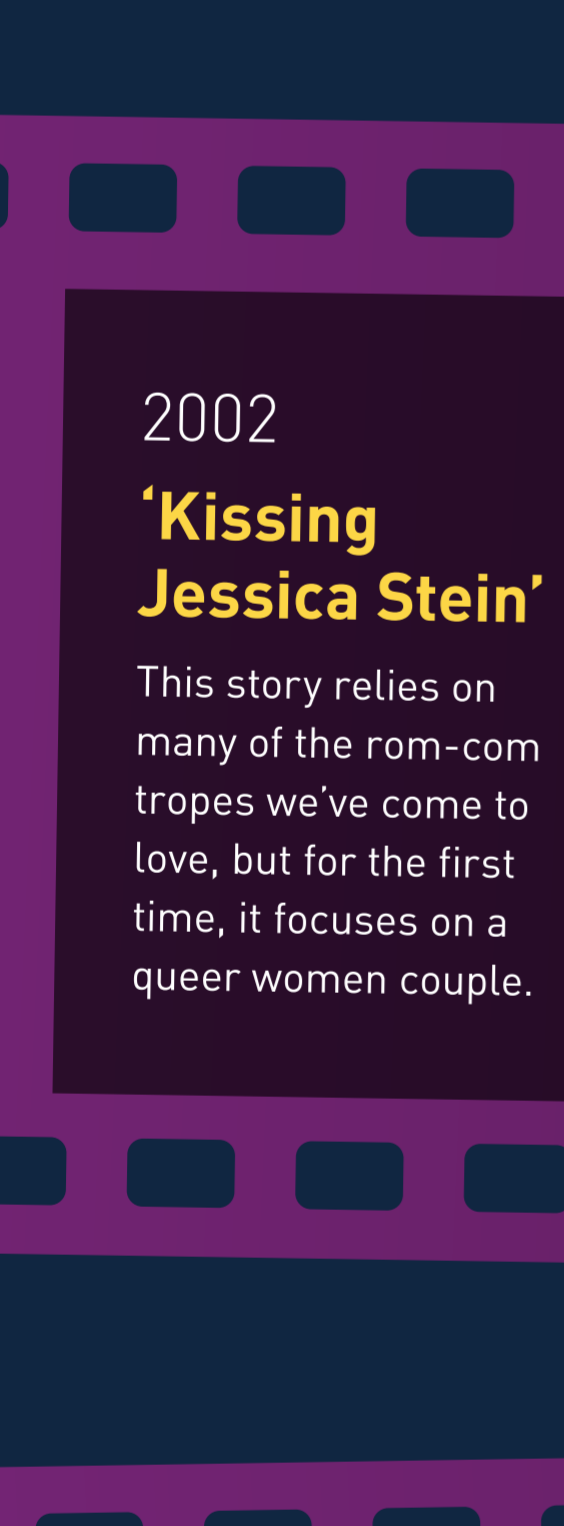
1986
'She's Gotta Have It'
Spike Lee's debut film is considered the quintessential black rom-com, and it helped change the representation of black people in American cinema.

1989
'When Harry Met Sally'
This treasured classic launched Nora Ephron's career and cemented Meg Ryan as America's sweetheart - filmmakers have been trying to replicate its magic ever since.

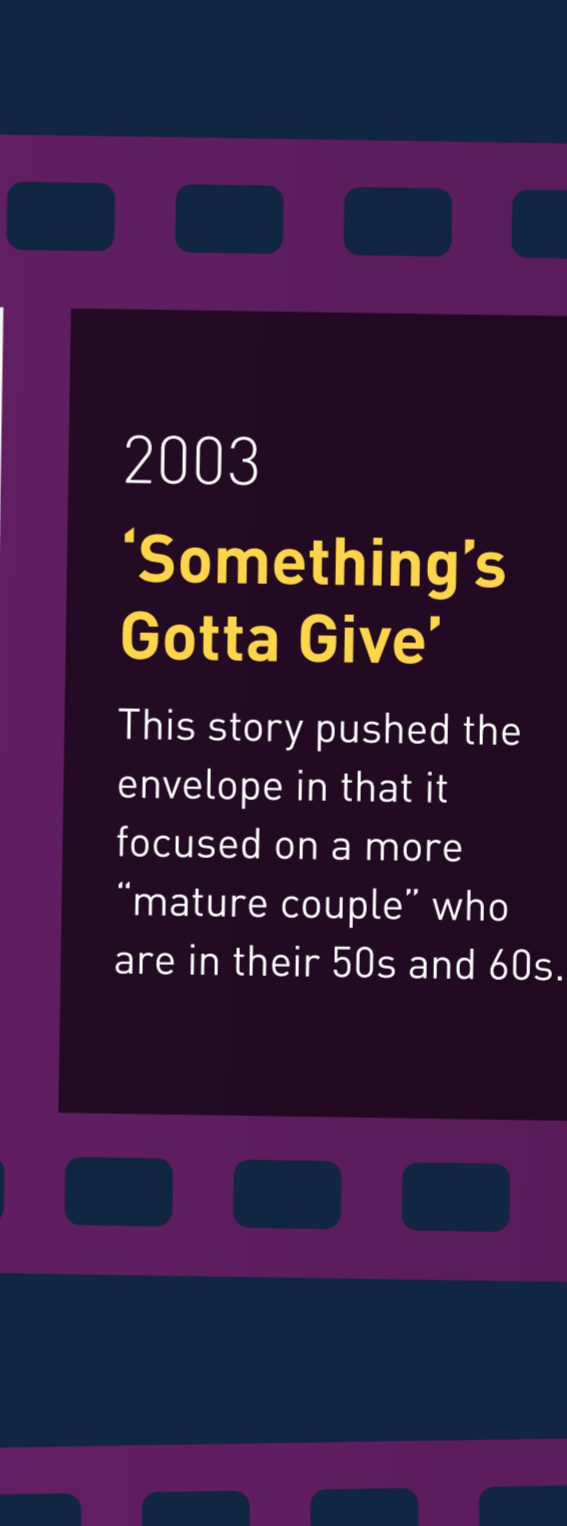


1993
'Sleepless in Seattle'
Another of Ephron's iconic films, this storytelling breaks the mold in that the couple doesn't meet until the end.

1997
'My Best Friend's Wedding'
This celebrated film changed the game in that the ending focuses on the importance of friendship instead of romantic love.



1998
'How Stella Got Her Groove Back'
This fan-favorite turns the May-December trope on its head, focusing on an older woman who falls in love with a younger man.



1998
'You've Got Mail'
This beloved blockbuster was one of the first movies to showcase a romance over the then-new Internet.

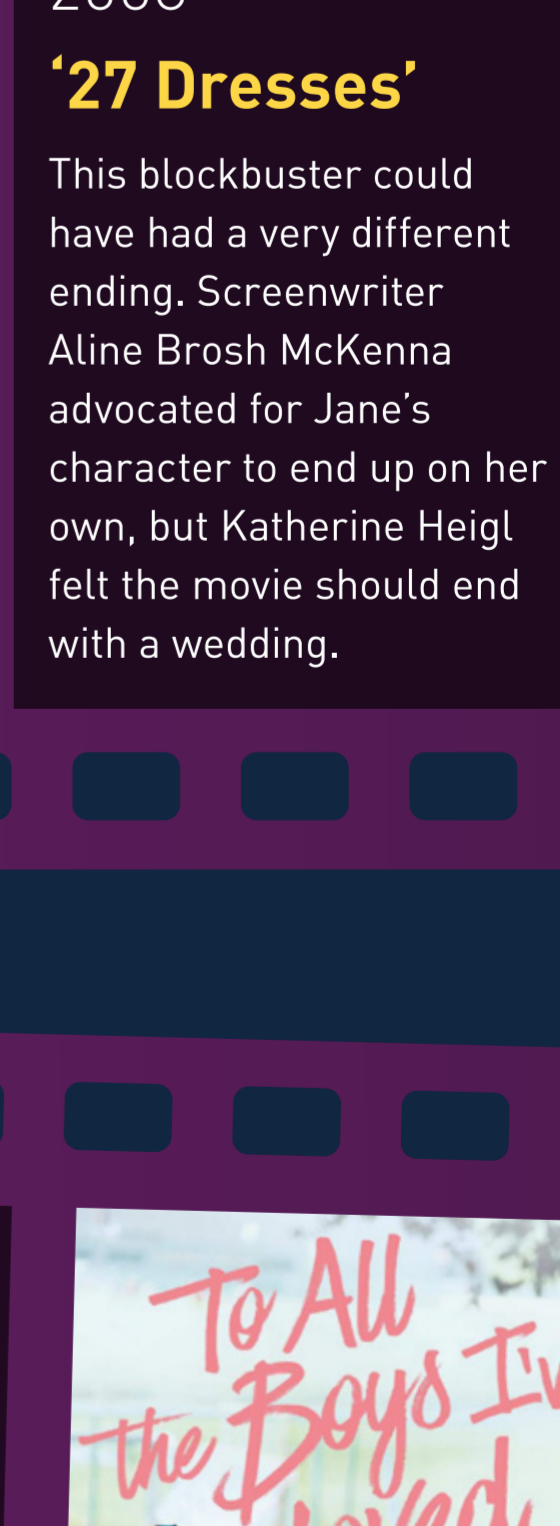


2001
'Bridget Jones's Diary'
This film takes the quirky heroine stereotype to another level, where Bridget's behavior teeters on the edge of cringeworthy.

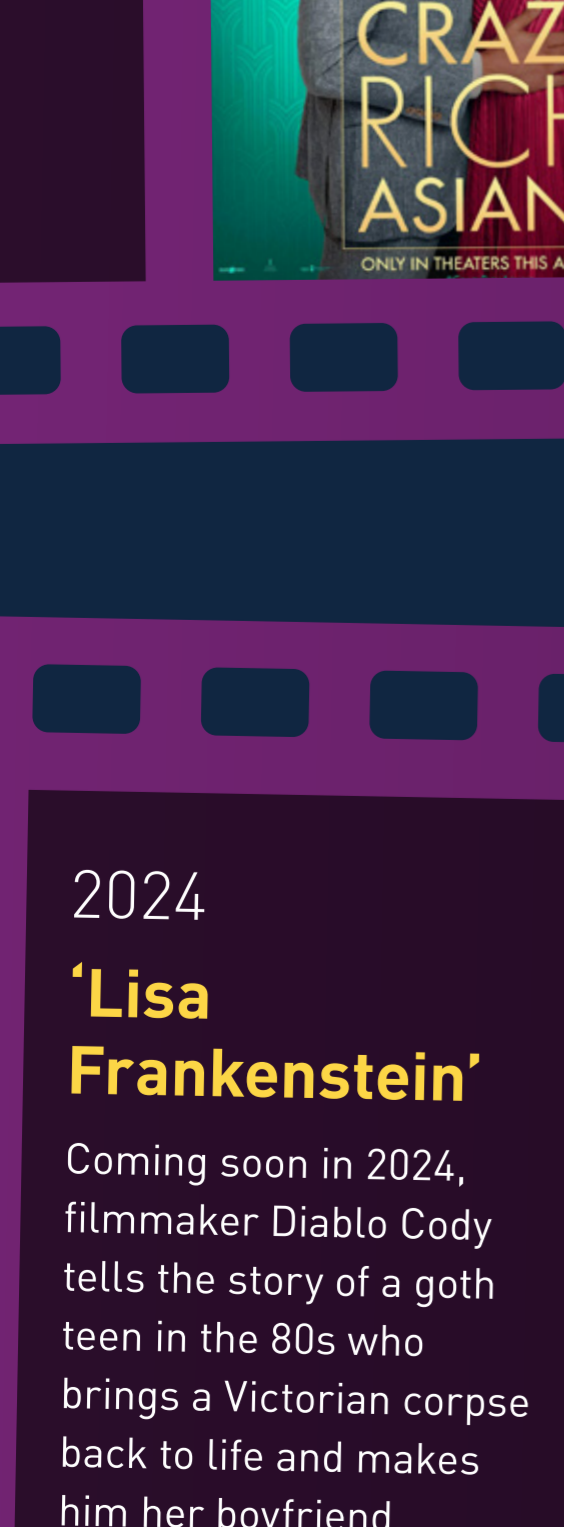
2002
'Kissing Jessica Stein'
This story relies on many of the rom-com tropes we've come to love, but for the first time, it focuses on a queer women couple.



2003
'Something's Gotta Give'
This story pushed the envelope in that it focused on a more "mature couple" who are in their 50s and 60s.



2003
'Love Actually'
That iconic B roll footage at Heathrow Airport was secretly shot by crew members, which is why it feels so authentic.



2006
'The Holiday'
In this beloved film, art imitates life since Kate Winslet and Rufus Sewell previously dated.



2008
'27 Dresses'
This blockbuster could have had a very different ending. Screenwriter Aline Brosh McKenna advocated for Jane's character to end up on her own, but Katherine Heigl felt the movie should end with a wedding.

2011
'Crazy Stupid Love'
Screenwriter Dan Fogelman based this film on his own dating experiences as a single man in his thirties.



2018
'To All the Boys I've Loved Before'
After studios stopped making blockbuster rom-coms, Netflix brought them back to life with this popular hit.



2018
'Crazy Rich Asians'
Based on Kevin Kwan's bestselling novel, 'Crazy Rich Asians' was one of the first ever studio blockbuster romantic comedies to focus on an Asian couple and feature an all-Asian cast.

2024
'Lisa Frankenstein'
Coming soon in 2024, filmmaker Diablo Cody tells the story of a goth teen in the 80s who brings a Victorian corpse back to life and makes him her boyfriend.

2024
'The Idea of You'
This 2024 rom-com showcases a young single mom who falls in love with the lead singer of a boyband. It's giving Harry Styles vibes, and it's sure to be another big hit.

