

Trajan

Typographic Trends in Movie Posters

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2018/19

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INTRODUCTION

Trends are present in everything nowadays, some trends are based on colour, some are on shape and others on typography. We are going to be focusing on the latter and use movie posters as my object of study.

This all started because I was looking at typefaces online and I came across Trajan, and upon looking at it, this specific typeface felt oddly familiar. A few weeks later until I came across a movie poster that used Trajan and it finally clicked in my head, I knew that typeface from movie posters. It was when I realized how present Trajan is inside of the movie poster world that I started wondering if there are other typefaces like this and it made me realize that when someone looks at a movie poster more often than not they are able to identify what style of movie it will be and the typeface used in the title was one of the elements that impacted those deductions.

Main Question

After identifying Trajan as a trend and being able to see that the trend changes and evolves throughout the genres there is a set of questions that needs to be thought about, like why and (or) how does a trend start and what would take for a new trend to replace the previous one.

Hypothesis

For Trajan there are two possible explanations for its instantaneous growth. One of them being the fact that Trajan started being used while the typefaces choice pool was still rather small, making it so designers were more likely to pick this typeface for their projects. The other the fact that some of the first few movies that used this typeface on their poster did really well in sale number or in award winnings. This last possibility is what will occur the most throughout the Post-Trajan period and sometimes lasting for very small periods of time (example: movie does really well with X typeface in any given year, the following year will have an abundance of movies of the same archetype using X typeface in their posters).

But trends will sometimes coexist with events outside of the “movie stratosphere”. It’s wouldn’t be wrong to say that this happened with Trajan seeing as it’s not only a well known typeface for movie posters but also for book covers, but this line of events is really present in the typeface Gotham. Gotham was used in movie posters a few times before the Barack Obama 2008 american presidential campaign (that started in 2006), but after the success of this campaign this typeface was everywhere, including movie posters.

Aim of Research

This paper aims to show how the usage of Trajan changed over time, and how that knowledge can be used and adapt to most typographic trends in movie posters done in recent times.

Data Collection

There is no way to know if the data I collected is a true representation of reality because there is no official movie poster database so this method seemed to me the best way of gathering accurate data. I decided to use IMPAwards¹ and IMDB² for movie information, both of this are quite popular so for data to be missing it would have to be something really obscure.

¹ <http://www.impawards.com/> - the biggest online fan made movie poster database

² <https://www.imdb.com/> .com/ - the biggest online fan made movie database

TRAJAN

Trajan is a typeface created by Carol Twombly for Adobe as part of the Adobe Originals program, a program that started in 1989 (the year of release of this typeface) with the intention of starting an in-house type foundry for adobe themselves.

The typeface was inspired by Roman calligraphy and the research of Edward Catich³, the person who discovered that the Roman stone inscriptions were painted over the stone with a brush before being carved. It was also named named after the 13th Roman emperor Trajan.

Overall Usage

Even tho the typeface was released in 1989 its premier in movie posters only happened in 1991 with the movie “At Play in the Fields of the Lord”, being the only movie that year released with Trajan in it.

After its 1st use in 1991 there was a growing trend of its (percentage) usage with its peak being in 1999 with about ~8,2% of the posters of that year having Trajan in it. During this period the percentage lowered in 1993, 1996 and 1997 instead of keeping the growing trend.

In 2000 the percentage dropped by more that half of the previous year (from ~8,2% to ~3,7%), plateauing after that moment between 4% to 5% usage. After 6 years of showing the same percentage of usage I decided that there was no need to keep on collecting data because the following years showed Trajan being used a the same rate, around 1 poster with Trajan every 20 movie posters.

The trend on the precise numbers of posters that have Trajan in it is a little bit different from the percentage trends. In this data format the numbers are growing until 1999 (the year that is the peak in it's percentage of usage), then in the following year (2000) it gets lowered by more that half and after that it grows every year at a steady pace.

Genre Usage

The method used to determining what genres belonged to the selected movies I ended up using the genre tagging used on IMDB so that all movies had the same style of tagging

³ Catich, E. M. (1991) *The Origin of the Serif: Brush Writings & Roman Letters*.

across the board. This created a slight problem where the genre/tag “drama” is given pretty deliberately having ~68% of the selected movies tagged with it and being the highest percentage genre across all years (when looked at individually), but if we look at the changes across the other genres there are a few very interesting things that we can take from it.

In the 1st 3 years of Trajan’s usage in movie poster (1991-1993) we see this font being used for its “original” trend. We can see tags like romance, crime, thriller and mystery, with most of those movies following the archetype of an epic. The reason why this came to be is very likely because of the relation that hollywood created between historical ancient Rome movies and the epic archetype, so it made a lot of sense to decided to use a typeface that was inspired in calligraphy done in the same region and historical period.

After Trajan transitioning out of being an exclusively epic archetype typeface, romance was able to become a pretty big Trajan genre, slowly climbing its way to reach a peak in 1998 with about 43% of the movies from that year being tagged with it. But even after that romance always has a good representation never dropping below 10%. Crime, thriller and mystery show very similar things between the 3 following the type of growth and decay as romance until being “picked up” again by the next genre that utilizes Trajan a great amount.

That genre happens to be Horror, the reason why crime, thriller and mystery see some usage increase because of this is due to the fact that this 3 tags are very popular sub-tags for the horror genre. “Interview with the Vampire: The Vampire Chronicles” was the first horror movie to use Trajan in 1994, the year where the typeface transitioned into being a multi genre typeface. Even if at first Trajan did not seemed to pick up that much traction in the horror genre in the beginning of its usage it was still able to pick up traction rather fast being on of the places where trajan is used the most in recent years.

There are a few more genres that use Trajan but its use is sporadic and doesn’t seem to show any trend, which leads me to believe that those are sub-tags for other genres, making it so it’s not possible to conclude anything for their numbers.

PERIODS

After studying the usage of Trajan it's possible to divide the types of typographic trends in three periods - the Pre Trajan, Trajan and Post Trajan period. A simple way to explain this three periods would be the lack of defined typographic trends, the first set of very simple trends and the lastly trends get more complex and more specific (in chronological order).

Pre Trajan Period

The Pre Trajan period is the period before Trajan, as the name alludes. The biggest characteristic of this period has to be the lack of digital tools used for the creation of its movie posters.

This also made it so there aren't super define trends inside of genres during this period even tho it's still possible to identify the genres of the movies based on the typography alone, but to put it simple the trends were different from the ones currently going on, being very vague like "round" letters. The reason for this is that a good portion of the typography present in posters that belong to this period is lettering so depending on the poster designer the lettering was different.

Trajan Period

Has said above the Trajan started being used in 1991 but that shouldn't be considered the beginning of its period. In the first years of its usage in movie posters there was a define intent in its use, to portrait an epic.

It wasn't until 1994 that this intention was broken and the why it happened is really hard point at. In one hand it might have been because of the low number of typefaces digitally available at the time so a big number of designers ended up deciding to go with Trajan in their work, but in the other hand it might have been because the movie "Scent of a Woman" won and Academy Award in March 29, 1993 and this made other people want to go with the "award winning typeface" making its use in none epic movies start in 1994.

Even if the Trajan usage was rather high the usage of Trajan like typefaces was really high during this period as well. During this hole period the typefaces used because rather bland when it comes to the direction of the posters, making it seem like the mentality of poster design was making everything else first because putting any typeface would work.

The Trajan period end is somewhat of a foggy number, after its big drop in the year 2000 one could say that that year marks its end, but the reality is that the next period of typography trends wasn't solidified in 2000 yet what makes the ending year really hard to define.

Post Trajan Period

The Post Trajan period is the period after Trajan, the period we are in right now. The best way to describe this period would be a mix of the previous two. It uses digital tools and each genre has one or more trends going on, what makes the movie posters easy to tag a genre too based on the typography alone.

Case Study

Each of the Star Wars trilogies were made during one of the periods, and because of that this franchise is a great way to show each period trend in action.

The 1st trilogy (Fig. 1 - page 10) is the only one where the type choices aren't the same inside of the trilogy. Episode 4 and 5 both use lettering for the title and a sans-serif with no contrast and very geometric shapes for the rest of its text. Episode 6 feels like somewhat of a transition into the modern posters. It still has some characteristics that shows that it belongs to the pre Trajan period but it starts showing others that shows what is to come in the next trilogy.

The 2nd trilogy (Fig. 2 - page 10) is a really good example of what happened during the Trajan period. All 3 posters are exactly the same, down to text and picture placement, the only thing that really changes is the content (title, actors, etc).

The 3rd trilogy (Fig. 3 - page 10) show us the type of trends going on in the post Trajan period. The text has a similar placement but it's changed if the background picture asks for it to be so, and because Star Wars is a Sci-fi franchise it follows the Sci-fi trend of using thin condensed sans-serifs with no contrast.

OTHER TRENDS

Besides Trajan there are other trends that are worth mentioning, especially when looking at the post Trajan period (the one we are on right now).

Gotham

Gotham, in contrary to Trajan, is a typeface that we can pinpoint the reason for its big usage in movie posters (and a lot of other medias). All this happened because Gotham was one of the three typefaces used in Barack Obama 2008 presidential campaign.

Prior to this this event Gotham had very little to no usage in movie posters, but after the success of Barack Obama's campaign this typeface became a huge trend. This typeface was being used so much that it wouldn't be entirely wrong to say that it's happening to Gotham what once happened to Trajan, because just like the latter, Gotham was being used across all movie genres during its climax in usage.

Genres

During the post Trajan period some genres starting developing really broad trends that almost every movie inside of the genre will oblige to.

One of the easier ones to identify right away would be the trend in comedy. Inside of this genre most typefaces used are really bold san-serifs and the letter shapes tend to be rounder than usual.

Romances are another genre that is pretty straightforward. Contrary to comedy it uses high contrast serif typefaces. In some cases where the movie has multiple main genres the trends may be different, this is what happens with historical romances, where the typefaces used are more often than not scripts.

This next one is a very interesting trend, both sci-fi and action are inside of the same trend. They use san-serifs that are usually a bit more around the thin weights, now where this gets interesting is that depending if the movie is more sci-fi or more action oriented the typeface will be more condensed or more extended accordingly. The other variant inside of this trend is that if the movie is very fast paced (like for example a movie with a lot of car chases) it's very likely for the typeface used to be italic as well.

Inspirational Movies

After looking at a good amount of trends I noticed that most of them started “dying” after a common event happened, their use on the so called inspirational movies. This style of movies are more often than not very low budget but still try to achieve good box office numbers so due to that low budget, whatever is very popular at the time is what ends up being used.

Now my theory on why this specific type of movies can be considered the trend killers is due to their oversaturation of the market with a specific typeface or typeface style, making it so if a movie poster around that time wanted to stand out, the designer would very likely go for something different, and therefore creating a new trend.

Horror Movies

After mentioning what genre do trends go to die it's only suited to talk about the “trend graveyard” genre, horror movies. Once again this seems to happen because of the lack of budget just like in inspirational movies but at the same time the trends in horror movie posters at the moment are rather interesting.

One would think that horror movie poster and metal album covers would have similarities when it comes to typographic choices due to both being considered “aggressive” media. but the reality is that the typographic big trend going on in horror movies couldn't be further away from that. To describe that type trend in a word would be sophisticated, typefaces like Trajan that mimics brush stroke calligraphy has been used heavily in horror movies. I can't really say if the reason for this was the lack of interest in this style of typefaces from all the other genres and horror slowly got this to be their current typographic trend, or if the poster designers started using it to give somewhat of a eerie feeling to the person that is looking at the poster.

But with all that said, horror posters have really interesting typographic choices, even outside of this trend, being one of the few genres that I believe it's not identifiable looking at the typography used in the title alone.

CONCLUSION

The main thing I can take after doing this research paper is that typographic trends are very much present in movie posters. Now if this is something that is going to stay the same I can't really say.

In the recent years there has been a huge increase in popularity in superhero movies - with Avengers Endgame recently becoming the biggest box office movie, taking that position from Avatar, the movie that held the position for the past 10 years. The reason for superhero movies to change the landscape in typography usage in movie posters is due to the fact that the approach to this movie posters title is closer to a logotype, therefore the typeface used is not as important as far as trend setting goes. Looking at what happened with Trajan, if this logotype like titles might be the next big thing in movie posters but for now it's hard to tell because they are mostly used in either superhero movies or movie series (like star wars).

With all that, we can't forget that at the end of the day cinema is a huge "money making machine" so it's very likely that the biggest factor for new trends to pop up and older ones to go away is how well the movies which posters are using those trends get good box office numbers.

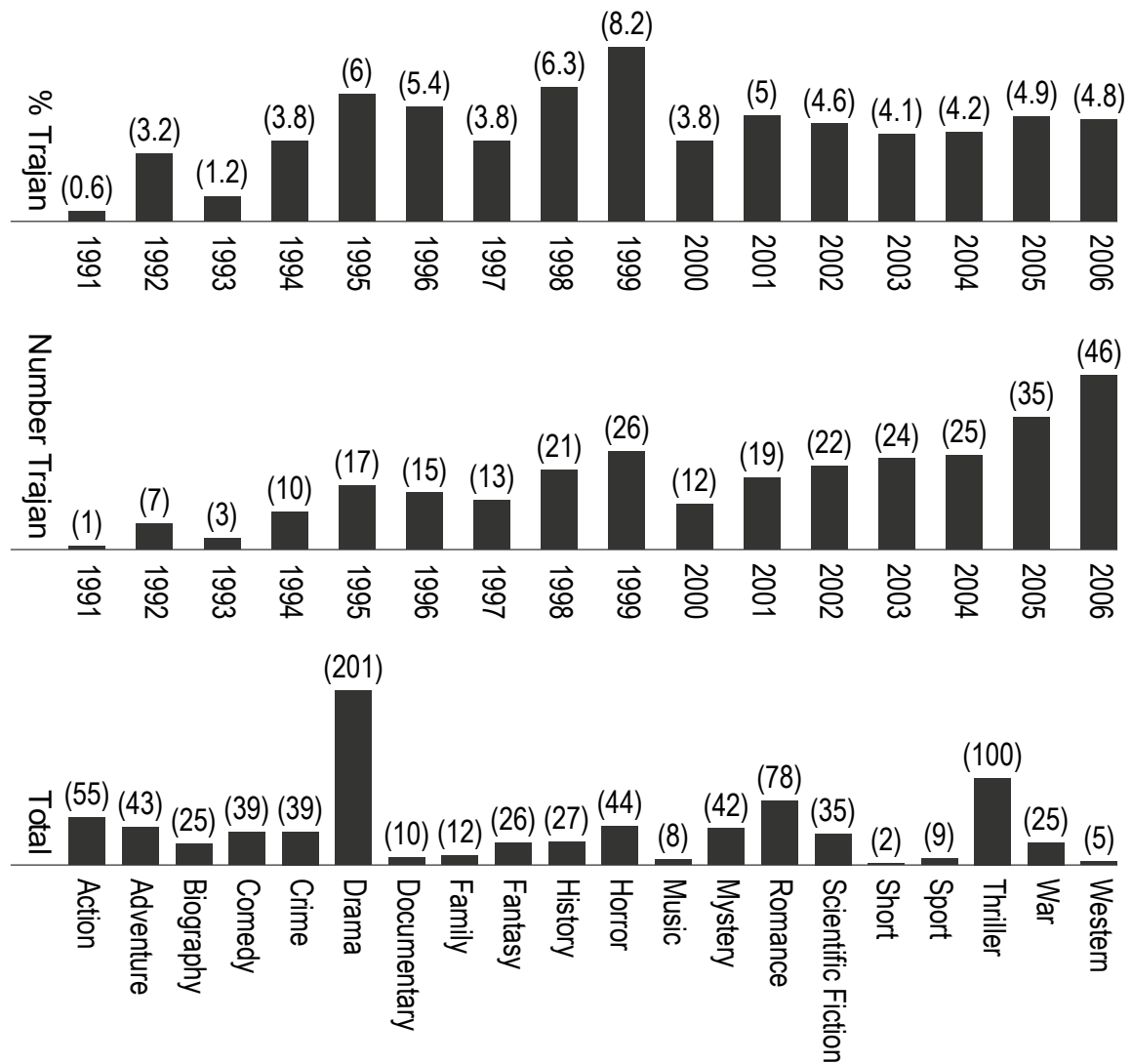
Other thing that might happen to movie posters is something that happen to a lot of other design disciplines, revivalism. This started happening to a certain degree already in movies that have alternative posters, where those poster designers end up having more liberty on what they can do and we can see a lot less common choices in typography that stray away from the trends of the genres the movie might be.

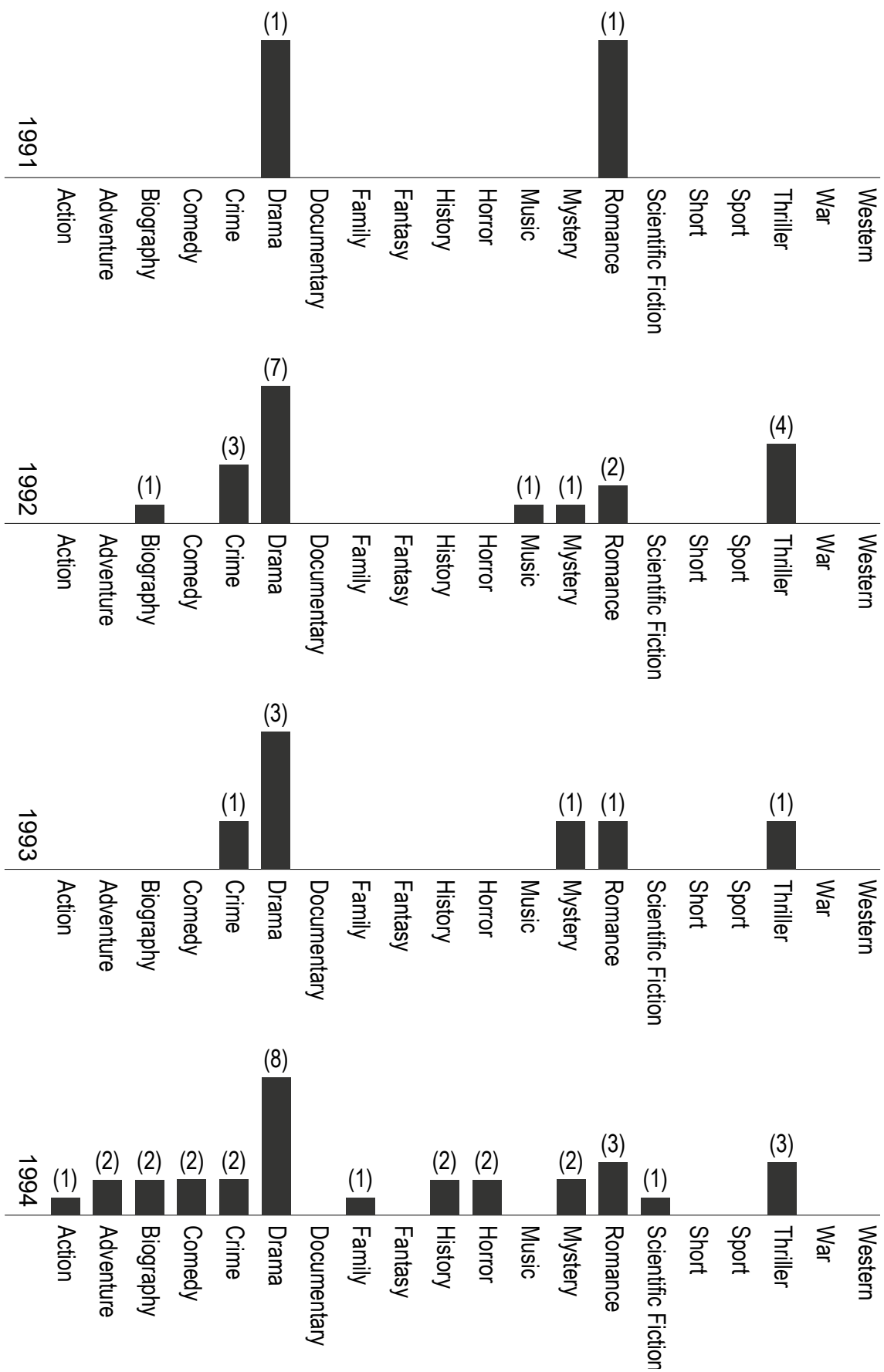
One last thing that in my opinion is going to change the way movie posters are made in the future is services like Netflix. The poster not only stops existing (because it's not printed anymore) but in transforms into something new, modular thumbnails. Using Netflix as an example the way the movie "poster" is shown depends on what type of device you are in, the poster itself is more or less the same but the ratio and proportions can change a whole lot. Until now this didn't change anything about the typographic choices because they streaming companies were bringing already existing content into their platforms, the possible change will happen when most of their content is only streamable through their platforms. The direction that this change might take when it comes to typography can go one of three ways, either it becomes standardized and thumbnails use exactly the same typeface, streaming platforms and movie theatre platforms use the exact same trends, or lastly those two different platforms form their own trends without much influence from one another.

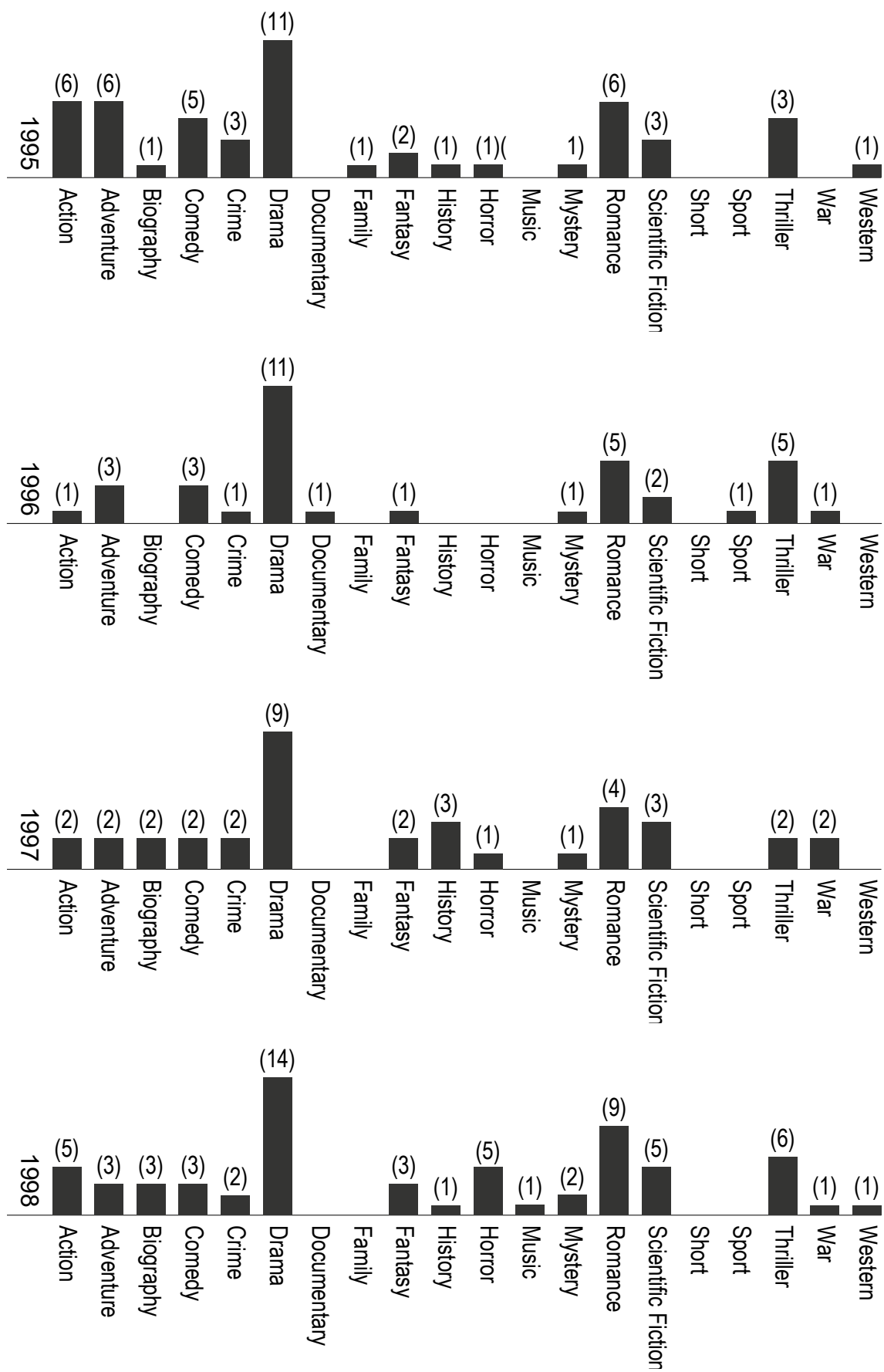
ANNEX

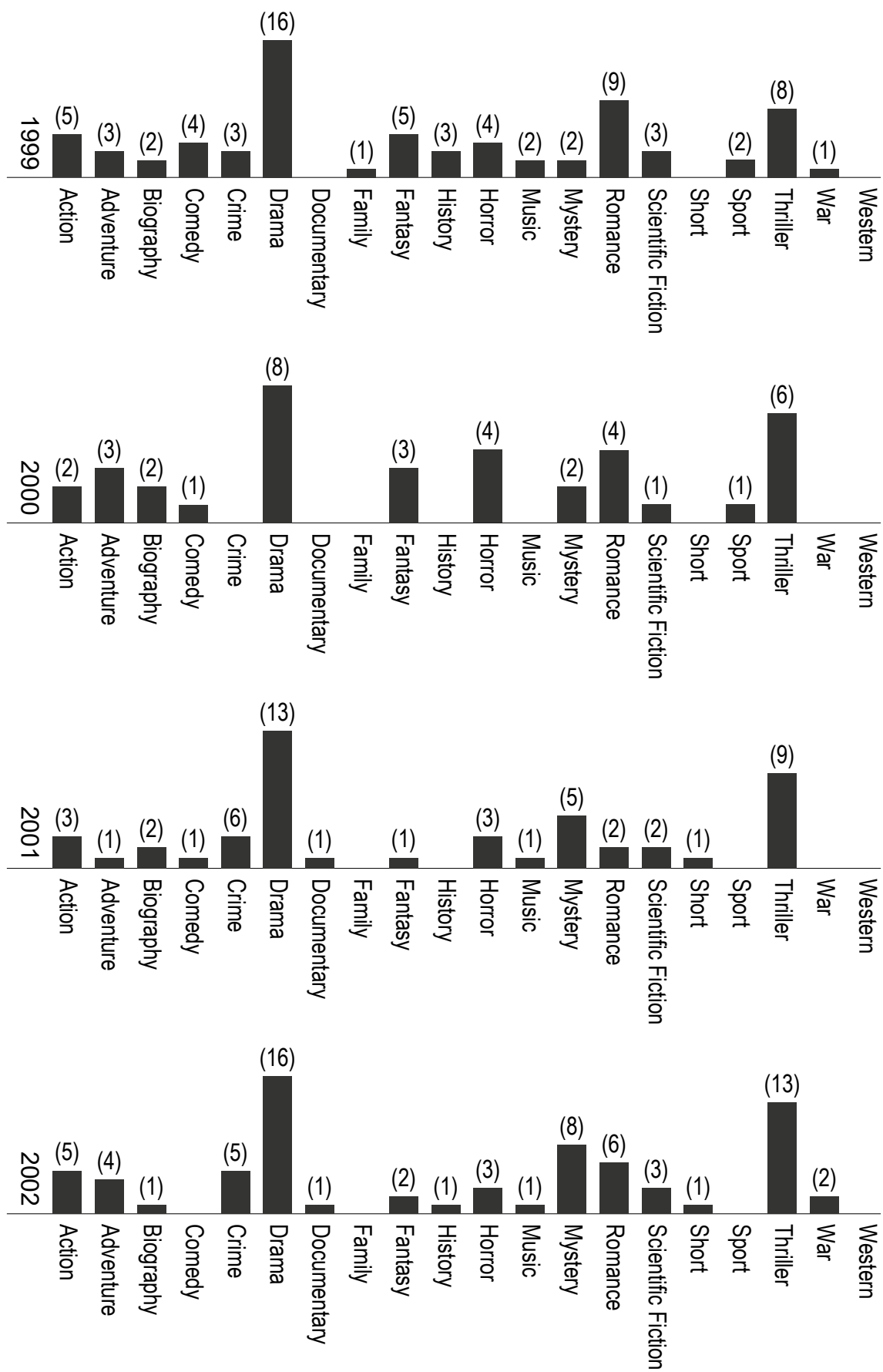
Below this paragraph it's all the statistic from the data gathered around the use of Trajan in movie posters.

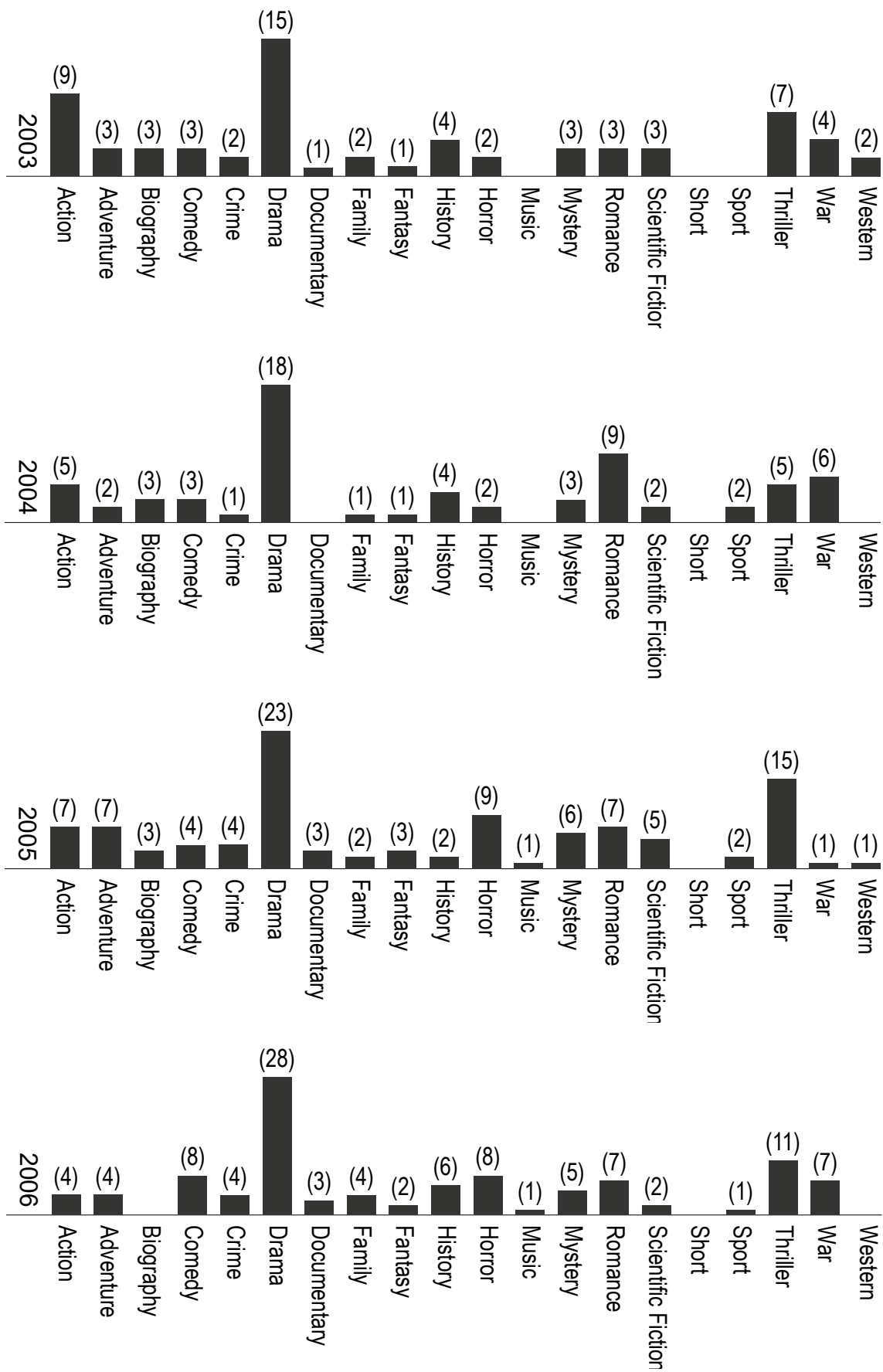
Trajan Statistics











List of Posters That Use Trajan

At Play in the Fields of the Lord - 1991 - Drama / Romance
The Bodyguard - 1992 - Drama / Music / Romance / Thriller
Consenting Adults - 1992 - Crime / Drama / Mystery / Thriller
The Crying Game - 1992 - Crime / Drama / Romance / Thriller
Hoffa - 1992 - Biography / Crime / Drama
Passion Fish - 1992 - Drama
Rampage - 1992 - Drama / Thriller
Scent of a Woman - 1992 - Drama
Indecent Proposal - 1993 - Drama / Romance
The Joy Luck Club - 1993 - Drama
The Pelican Brief - 1993 - Crime / Drama / Mystery / Thriller
Golden Gate - 1994 - Crime / Drama
Guarding Tess - 1994 - Comedy / Drama
Heavenly Creatures - 1994 - Biography / Crime / Drama / Thriller
Interview with the Vampire: The Vampire Chronicles - 1994 - Drama / Horror
Princess Caraboo - 1994 - Comedy Drama / History / Mystery / Romance
Quiz Show - 1994 - Biography / Drama / History
The Jungle Book - 1994 - Adventure / Family / Romance
Silent Fall - 1994 - Drama / Mystery / Thriller
Stargate - 1994 - Action / Adventure / Scientific Fiction
Wolf - 1994 - Drama / Horror / Romance / Thriller
The American President - 1995 - Comedy / Drama / Romance
Apollo 13 - 1995 - Adventure / Drama / History
Beyond Rangoon - 1995 - Action / Drama
Boys on the Side - 1995 - Comedy / Drama
First Knight - 1995 - Action / Adventure / Romance
Highlander III: The Sorcerer - 1995 - Action / Family / Romance / Scientific Fiction
Jade - 1995 - Crime / Drama / Thriller
Last of the Dogmen - 1995 - Adventure / Western
Leaving Las Vegas - 1995 - Drama / Romance
Moonlight and Valentino - 1995 - Comedy / Drama / Romance
Mortal Kombat - 1995 - Action / Adventure / Fantasy / Scientific Fiction / Thriller
The Prophecy - 1995 - Action / Crime / Drama / Fantasy / Horror / Mystery / Thriller
Roommates - 1995 - Comedy / Drama
Senior Trip - 1995 - Adventure / Comedy
The Tie That Binds - 1995 - Crime / Drama / Thriller
Total Eclipse - 1995 - Biography / Drama / Romance
Waterworld - 1995 - Action / Adventure / Scientific Fiction / Thriller
Angels and Insects - 1996 - Drama / Romance
The Arrival - 1996 - Scientific Fiction / Thriller
Courage Under Fire - 1996 - Action / Drama / Mystery / Thriller / War
The Evening Star - 1996 - Comedy / Drama / Romance
The Ghost and the Darkness - 1996 - Adventure / Drama / Thriller
Hamlet - 1996 - Drama
It's My Party - 1996 - Drama / Romance

Jude - 1996 - Drama / Romance
 The Last Supper - 1996 - Comedy / Crime / Drama / Thriller
 Marvin's Room - 1996 - Drama
 My Fellow Americans - 1996 - Adventure / Comedy
 Phenomenon - 1996 - Drama / Fantasy / Romance / Scientific Fiction
 The Rich Man's Wife - 1996 - Thriller
 When We Were Kings - 1996 - Documentary / Sport
 White Squall - 1996 - Adventure / Drama
 The Education of Little Tree - 1997 - Drama
 The Fifth Element - 1997 - Action / Drama / Scientific Fiction
 A Life Less Ordinary - 1997 - Comedy / Crime / Fantasy / Romance
 Mimic - 1997 - Horror / Scientific Fiction
 Mortal Kombat: Annihilation - 1997 - Action / Adventure / Fantasy / Scientific Fiction / Thriller
 Mrs Brown - 1997 - Biography / Drama / History / Romance
 Paradise Road - 1997 - Drama / History / War
 The Quiet Room - 1997 - Drama
 Seven Years in Tibet - 1997 - Adventure / Biography / Drama / History / War
 Switchback - 1997 - Crime / Mystery / Thriller
 Temptress Moon - 1997 - Drama / Romance
 Titanic - 1997 - Drama / Romance
 Wag the Dog - 1997 - Comedy / Drama
 Armageddon - 1998 - Action / Adventure / Scientific Fiction / Thriller
 Beloved - 1998 - Drama / History / Horror
 Blade - 1998 - Action / Horror / Scientific Fiction
 City of Angels - 1998 - Drama / Fantasy / Romance
 A Civil Action - 1998 - Drama
 Dangerous Beauty - 1998 - Biography / Drama / Romance
 Deep Impact - 1998 - Action / Drama / Romance / Scientific Fiction / Thriller
 Deep Rising - 1998 - Action / Adventure / Horror / Scientific Fiction
 Disturbing Behavior - 1998 - Horror / Mystery / Scientific Fiction / Thriller
 The Mask of Zorro - 1998 - Action / Adventure / Comedy / Romance / Thriller / Western
 Meet Joe Black - 1998 - Drama / Fantasy / Romance
 One True Thing - 1998 - Drama
 A Perfect Murder - 1998 - Crime / Drama / Thriller
 Practical Magic - 1998 - Comedy / Drama / Fantasy / Romance
 Return to Paradise - 1998 - Drama / Romance / Thriller
 Rounders - 1998 - Crime / Drama
 Sour Grapes - 1998 - Comedy
 Talk of Angels - 1998 - Drama / Romance / War
 Urban Legend - 1998 - Horror / Mystery
 Why Do Fools Fall in Love - 1998 - Biography / Drama / Music
 Wilde - 1998 - Biography / Drama / Romance
 Anna and the King - 1999 - Drama / History / Romance
 The Astronaut's Wife - 1999 - Drama / Scientific Fiction / Thriller
 Cruel Intentions - 1999 - Drama / Romance
 End of Days - 1999 - Action / Fantasy / Horror / Thriller
 The End of the Affair - 1999 - Drama / Romance
 Entrapment - 1999 - Action / Crime / Romance / Thriller

For Love of the Game - 1999 - Drama / Romance / Sport
 Girl, Interrupted - 1999 - Biography / Drama
 The Green Mile - 1999 - Crime / Drama / Fantasy / Mystery
 The Haunting - 1999 - Fantasy / Horror / Mystery / Thriller
 An Ideal Husband - 1999 - Comedy / Romance
 Liberty Heights - 1999 - Drama / Music / Romance
 Message in a Bottle - 1999 - Drama / Romance
 The Mummy - 1999 - Action / Adventure / Fantasy / Thriller
 Mystery, Alaska - 1999 - Comedy / Drama / Sport
 October Sky - 1999 - Biography / Drama / Family
 The Rage: Carrie 2 - 1999 - Horror / Scientific Fiction / Thriller
 Simpatico - 1999 - Drama / Comedy / Crime
 Star Wars: Episode I - The Phantom Menace - 1999 - Action / Adventure / Fantasy / Scientific Fiction
 Stigmata - 1999 - Horror
 Teaching Mrs. Tingle - 1999 - Comedy / Thriller
 The Third Miracle - 1999 - Drama
 The 13th Warrior - 1999 - Action / Adventure / History
 Three Seasons - 1999 - Drama
 Titus - 1999 - Drama / History / Thriller
 Windhorse - 1999 - DramaMusic / Romance / War
 Anatomie - 2000 - Horror / Thriller
 Book of Shadows: Blair Witch 2 - 2000 - Adventure / Fantasy / Horror / Mystery / Thriller
 Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon - 2000 - Action / Adventure / Fantasy / Romance
 The Family Man - 2000 - Comedy / Drama / Fantasy / Romance
 Final Destination - 2000 - Horror / Thriller
 Lost Souls - 2000 - Drama Horror / Thriller
 The Perfect Storm - 2000 - Action / Adventure / Drama / Thriller
 Remember the Titans - 2000 - Biography / Drama / Sport
 Unbreakable - 2000 - Drama / Mystery / Scientific Fiction / Thriller
 Up at the Villa - 2000 - Drama / Romance
 Vatel - 2000 - Biography / Drama / Romance
 The Visit - 2000 - Drama
 The Barber - 2001 - Crime / Horror / Mystery / Thriller
 Bears - 2001 - Short / Documentary
 A Beautiful Mind - 2001 - Biography / Drama
 The Crimson Rivers - 2001 - Crime / Mystery / Thriller
 Donnie Darko - 2001 - Drama / Scientific Fiction / Thriller
 Don't Say a Word - 2001 - Drama / Mystery / Thriller
 In the Bedroom - 2001 - Crime / Drama
 John Carpenter's Ghosts of Mars - 2001 - Action / Horror / Scientific Fiction
 The Luzhin Defence - 2001 - Drama / Romance
 Monster's Ball - 2001 - Drama / Romance
 The Mummy Returns - 2001 - Action / Adventure / Fantasy / Thriller
 The Pearl - 2001 - Drama
 Riding in Cars with Boys - 2001 - Biography / Comedy / Drama
 Rock Star - 2001 - Drama / Music
 The Score - 2001 - Crime / Drama / Thriller
 Time and Tide - 2001 - Action / Crime / Drama / Thriller

Training Day - 2001 - Crime / Drama / Thriller
 Under the Sand - 2001 - Drama / Mystery
 Valentine - 2001 - Horror / Mystery / Thriller
 Abandon - 2002 - Drama / Music / Mystery / Romance / Thriller
 Blood Work - 2002 - Action / Crime / Drama / Mystery / Thriller
 Far from Heaven - 2002 - Drama
 Frailty - 2002 - Crime / Drama / Thriller
 The Guys - 2002 - Drama
 Halloween: Resurrection - 2002 - Horror / Thriller
 Hart's War - 2002 - Drama / War
 High Crimes - 2002 - Crime / Drama / Mystery / Thriller
 Impostor - 2002 - Drama / Mystery / Scientific Fiction / Thriller
 India: Kingdom of the Tiger - 2002 - Documentary / Short
 Long Time Dead - 2002 - Horror / Thriller
 Minority Report - 2002 - Action / Crime / Mystery / Scientific Fiction / Thriller
 Moonlight Mile - 2002 - Drama / Romance
 The Mothman Prophecies - 2002 - Drama / Horror / Mystery / Thriller
 Nicholas Nickleby - 2002 - Adventure / Drama / Romance
 Possession - 2002 - Drama / Mystery / Romance
 The Quiet American - 2002 - Drama / Mystery / Romance / Thriller / War
 Rabbit-Proof Fence - 2002 - Adventure / Biography / Drama / History
 Reign of Fire - 2002 - Action / Adventure / Fantasy / Thriller
 Star Wars: Episode II - Attack of the Clones - 2002 - Action / Adventure / Fantasy / Scientific Fiction
 Trapped - 2002 - Action / Crime / Drama / Thriller
 Unfaithful - 2002 - Drama / Romance / Thriller
 Calendar Girls - 2003 - Comedy / Drama
 Cold Creek Manor - 2003 - Drama / Mystery / Thriller
 The Core - 2003 - Action / Adventure / Scientific Fiction / Thriller
 Freddy vs. Jason - 2003 - Action / Horror
 Ghosts of the Abyss - 2003 - Documentary / Family
 Girl with a Pearl Earring - 2003 - Biography / Drama / Romance
 Gods and Generals - 2003 - Biography / Drama / History / War
 House of Sand and Fog - 2003 - Crime / Drama
 Identity - 2003 - Mystery / Thriller
 In America - 2003 - Drama
 The In-Laws - 2003 - Action / Comedy / Thriller
 It Runs in the Family - 2003 - Comedy / Drama / Romance
 The Last Samurai - 2003 - Action / Drama / War
 A Man Apart - 2003 - Action / Crime / Drama / Thriller
 Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World - 2003 - Action / Adventure / Drama / History / War
 The Matrix Reloaded - 2003 - Action / Scientific Fiction
 The Matrix Revolutions - 2003 - Action / Scientific Fiction
 The Missing - 2003 - Adventure / Thriller / Western
 Open Range - 2003 - Action / Drama / Romance / Western
 The Order - 2003 - Drama / Fantasy / Horror
 Reeseville - 2003 - Mystery / Thriller
 Song for a Raggy Boy - 2003 - Drama / History
 To Kill a King - 2003 - Biography / Drama / History / War

Whale Rider - 2003 - Drama / Family
 Alexander - 2004 - Action / Adventure / Biography / Drama / History / Romance / War
 The Artist and the Shaman - 2004
 Being Julia - 2004 - Comedy / Drama / Romance
 Black Cloud - 2004 - Drama
 The Butterfly - 2004 - Drama / Scientific Fiction / Thriller
 Catwoman - 2004 - Action / Crime / Fantasy
 The Good Shepherd - 2004 - Drama / Thriller
 Darkness - 2004 - Horror
 Head in the Clouds - 2004 - Drama / Romance / War
 Hero - 2004 - Action / Adventure / History
 Hotel Rwanda - 2004 - Biography / Drama / History / War
 I Am David - 2004 - Drama
 The I Inside - 2004 - Mystery / Scientific Fiction / Thriller
 Ladder 49 - 2004 - Action / Drama / Thriller
 The Merchant of Venice - 2004 - Drama / Romance
 Miracle - 2004 - Biography / Drama / History / Sport
 The Mother - 2004 - Drama / Romance
 Remember Me, My Love - 2004 - Comedy / Romance / Drama
 Riding the Bullet - 2004 - Horror / Thriller
 Saints and Soldiers - 2004 - Action / Drama / War
 Spin - 2004 - Drama / Family
 Strayed - 2004 - Drama / Romance / War
 A Very Long Engagement - 2004 - Drama / Mystery / Romance / War
 Wimbledon - 2004 - Comedy / Romance / Sport
 The Woodsman - 2004 - Drama
 Aliens of the Deep - 2005 - Documentary / Family
 Alone in the Dark - 2005 - Action / Horror / Scientific Fiction
 The Amityville Horror - 2005 - Drama / Horror / Mystery / Thriller
 Asylum - 2005 - Drama / Romance / Thriller
 The Brothers Grimm - 2005 - Action / Adventure / Comedy / Fantasy / Thriller
 The Cave - 2005 - Action / Adventure / Horror / Scientific Fiction / Thriller
 Coach Carter - 2005 - Biography / Drama / Thriller
 Crash - 2005 - Crime / Drama
 Cry Wolf - 2005 - Drama / Horror / Mystery / Thriller
 Dark Water - 2005 - Drama / Horror / Mystery
 Derailed - 2005 - Crime / Drama / Thriller
 The Family Stone - 2005 - Comedy / Drama / Romance
 Fascination - 2005 - Drama / Mystery / Romance / Thriller
 The Fog - 2005 - Horror
 The Game of Their Lives - 2005 - Drama / History / Sport
 Genesis - 2005 - Documentary
 The Gospel - 2005 - Drama / Music
 The Greatest Game Ever Played - 2005 - Biography / Drama / History / Sport
 The Great Water - 2005 - Drama / War
 Grizzly Man - 2005 - Documentary / Biography
 A History of Violence - 2005 - Crime / Drama / Thriller
 House of 9 - 2005 - Drama / Horror / Mystery / Thriller

Keep Your Distance - 2005 - Drama / Mystery / Romance / Thriller
 The Legend of Zorro - 2005 - Action / Adventure / Romance / Thriller / Western
 Lord of War - 2005 - Crime / Drama / Thriller
 Man to Man - 2005 - Drama
 Mary - 2005 - Drama / Thriller
 Memoirs of a Geisha - 2005 - Drama / Romance
 Nina's Tragedies - 2005 - Comedy / Drama
 Premonition - 2005 - Horror
 Pride & Prejudice - 2005 - Drama / Romance
 A Sound of Thunder - 2005 - Action / Adventure / Horror / Scientific Fiction / Thriller
 Star Wars: Episode III - Revenge of the Sith - 2005 - Action / Adventure / Fantasy / Scientific Fiction
 The Warrior - 2005 - Adventure / Drama
 Zathura: A Space Adventure - 2005 - Action / Adventure / Comedy / Family / Fantasy / Scientific Fiction
 An American Haunting - 2006 - Drama / History / Horror / Mystery / Thriller
 Aquamarine - 2006 - Comedy / Family / Fantasy / Romance
 The Beauty of Jane - 2006
 Black Christmas - 2006 - Horror
 Broken Bridges - 2006 - Drama / Music
 Checking Out - 2006 - Comedy
 Children of Men - 2006 - Drama / Scientific Fiction / Thriller
 Dark Ride - 2006 - Horror / Thriller
 Death of a President - 2006 - Crime / Drama / Mystery / Thriller
 The Death of Mr. Lazarescu - 2006 - Drama
 The Descent - 2006 - Adventure / Horror / Thriller
 Ever Again - 2006 - Documentary / History / War
 Facing the Giants - 2006 - Drama / Sport
 Final Destination 3 - 2006 - Horror
 Flags of Our Fathers - 2006 - Drama / History / War
 Flicka - 2006 - Adventure Drama / Family
 For Your Consideration - 2006 - Comedy
 Gabrielle - 2006 - Drama / Romance
 The Guardian - 2006 - Action / Adventure / Drama
 The Hills Have Eyes - 2006 - Horror / Thriller
 The House of Sand - 2006 - Drama
 The Illusionist - 2006 - Drama / Mystery / Romance / Thriller
 In Her Line of Fire - 2006 - Action / Drama
 Letters from Iwo Jima - 2006 - Drama / History / War
 Lonesome Jim - 2006 - Comedy / Drama
 Man About Town - 2006 - Comedy / Drama
 Mirage - 2006 - Drama
 My Country, My Country - 2006 - Documentary
 The Nativity Story - 2006 - Drama / Family / History
 The Night Listener - 2006 - Crime / Mystery / Thriller
 Opal Dream - 2006 - Drama / Family
 Pan's Labyrinth - 2006 - Drama / Fantasy / War
 Perfume: The Story of a Murderer - 2006 - Crime / Drama
 Secrets of the Code - 2006 - Documentary
 Shooting Dogs - 2006 - Drama / History / War

Superman Returns - 2006 - Action / Adventure / Scientific Fiction
Sympathy for Lady Vengeance - 2006 - Crime / Drama / Thriller
The Tiger and the Snow - 2006 - Comedy / Drama / Romance / War
Tomorrow Is Today - 2006 - Drama / Romance
The Treatment - 2006 - Comedy / Drama / Romance
Tristram Shandy: A Cock and Bull Story - 2006 - Comedy
Typhoon - 2006 - Action
Water - 2006 - Drama / Romance
When a Stranger Calls - 2006 - Horror / Thriller
The Wicker Man - 2006 - Horror / Mystery / Thriller
The Wind that Shakes the Barley - 2006 - Drama / War