WOW! A Pennsylvania man, Zachariah Swope, holds the record for having seen the most films—777—in a theater in one year.

Expand your film horizons

Be an expert movie watcher with these helpful tips.

With so many movies available to see, it can be difficult to decide which ones to watch. When you do settle in for a film, it can also be challenging to stay focused on the screen if you're getting interrupted by distractions. But there are ways you can enjoy movies more. Here's how to get started.

Check out reviews

To select a film, start by asking friends or family for their recommendations. Another way to find movies to watch is to read reviews from professional film critics and movie audiences, such as those on the website Rotten Tomatoes (rottentomatoes.com). If you're worried that a movie might be too scary or mature for you, check out Common Sense Media (commonsensemedia.org), where you can sort movie suggestions by age range and read young people's reviews under the tab "Kids Say."

Find more of what you like

Make a list of movies you've seen. You can give each film your own rating, from zero (the worst score) to 100 (the best). Look back on your list to see if you notice any patterns. Maybe you really like comedies, or you might prefer dramas. If you found that you really enjoyed a particular movie, you can look up the director or actors online and see what other movies they've made.

Try a new genre

Look over your list to see what kinds of movies you haven't tried yet. That could be an animated short film like *For the Birds*, a mockumentary like *Marcel the Shell with Shoes On*, an action movie like *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse*, or a biographical movie based on real people, such as *Hidden Figures*. Y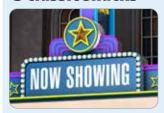ou could also find movies to watch on the Library of Congress website (loc.gov), where you can find out about the National Film Registry. The registry accepts nominations online and selects 25 films per year that show the range and diversity of American film heritage.

Invite a friend to a movie!

Create a theater experience

Movie theaters are dark and quiet so you can focus on one thing—the movie. When you watch a film at home, try to mimic this environment as best you can. Dim the lights, and put distracting devices away. Watching a movie with friends or family can make it especially enjoyable because you can share the experience—plus snacks!—and discuss the movie together afterward.

3 classic snacks

How did these popular movie-theater concessions come about?

Popcorn Theater owners installed popcorn poppers during the Great Depression, a period of high unemployment in the 1930s. Popcorn was an affordable snack, and sales of it helped save their businesses.

Pickles The tradition of selling pickles in movie theaters in Texas may have started with German immigrants in the 1950s. It's still a popular theater treat today.

Reese's Pieces The candy's appearance in the 1982 movie *E.T.*, which depicted the fictional alien following a path of Reese's Pieces, increased its popularity.