

Amy Heckerling: The Must-Haves

You may not know her name, but you definitely know her films. Specializing in laugh-out-loud comedies, director Amy Heckerling has an uncanny knack for making films that define an era. Plus, she's a chick. Let's hear it for female directors!

The films below represent three of Heckerling's very best. They're all available on DVD, and hey - you might even be able to catch clips on YouTube of the TV show versions each one generated.

Clueless



Jane Austen's Emma is re-imagined as a totally '90s high school flick. Beverly Hills rich girls Cher (Alicia Silverstone) and Dionne (Stacey Dash), both named after "great singers of the past who now do infomercials," are meddling matchmakers. Will they fail in their attempt to turn the ensemble-y challenged Tai (Brittany Murphy) into a total Betty? As if! Tart, trendy dialogue and a spot-on performance from Silverstone make

Clueless an absolute essential for any girl's DVD collection.

Fast Times at Ridgemont High

The '80s precursor to Clueless, Fast Times takes a peek at life in a Southern California high school rife with sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll. Besides being a then-shocking (but totally hilarious) expose of the American teenager, the film (and Heckerling) introduced a gaggle of major young actors to Hollywood, including the stand-out Sean Penn as stoned surfer Jeff Spicoli and Jennifer Jason Leigh as naïve freshman Stacy Hamilton. Don't miss Phoebe Cates in her famous red bikini scene, which earned the top spot on the E! "25 Most Memorable Swimsuit Moments" list.



Look Who's Talking



While Quentin Tarantino gets all the glory for reviving John Travolta's sagging career, it was actually Heckerling who gave him a rebirth (and an adorable dance scene) in 1989's gimmick-y (in a good way) babbling baby flick. Look Who's Talking also features an always-funny Kirstie Alley as the babymama and Bruce Willis voicing little Mikey. See it for the classic montage scenes, then love

it for the tender moments between Travolta, Alley and the adorable tyke.