Robert Butler Recommendations
“Moving, diverting and life-affirming movies to get you through glum times.”

*My Darling Clementine*
1947, 1h 37min
Possibly the most poetic Western ever made. Directed by John Ford with Henry Fonda as Wyatt Earp.

*Departures*
2008, 2h 10min
Oscar-winning Japanese film about an out-of-work musician who takes a job with a funeral service.

*Young Mr. Lincoln*
1939, 1h 40min
Once again, John Ford directs Henry Fonda. When you’ve got a good thing, stick with it.

*Defending Your Life*
1991, 1h 52min
Schlub Albert Brooks finds that in the afterlife he must relive all the humiliations of his various reincarnations (at the Shirley MacLaine Past Life Pavilion). Hysterical but surprisingly touching, with Meryl Streep.

*Brooklyn*
2015, 1h 57min
Saoirse Ronan is sublime as an Irish girl who immigrates to NYC in the early 1950s.

*Our Little Sister*
2016, 2h 7min
Surely the most profound film ever based on a graphic novel. In Hirokazu Koreeda’s study of four Japanese sisters, seemingly insignificant moments add up to a transcendent statement about fate and family.

*A Matter of Life and Death*
1946, 1h 44min
After dying in a crash, RAF pilot (David Niven) is mistakenly returned to Earth, where he falls for an American WAC (Kim Hunter). Directed in glorious Technicolor by the great Michael Powell.
*The Band Wagon*
1953, 1h 52min
One of the last great MGM musicals. Fred Astaire plays a once-great movie song-and-dance man trying to restart his career with a Broadway revue. One show-stopping musical number after another, the best being “That’s Entertainment.” Vincente Minnelli directs.

*Groundhog Day*
1993, 1h 41 min
Crass TV weatherman Bill Murray must live the same day over and over, until he gets it right. Funny AND deep.

*Local Hero*
1983, 1h 51min
Texas oilman Peter Riegert tries to buy a quaint Scottish village for a refinery operation; instead he falls in love with the place. With Burt Lancaster in one of his last roles. Directed by Bill Forsyth.