



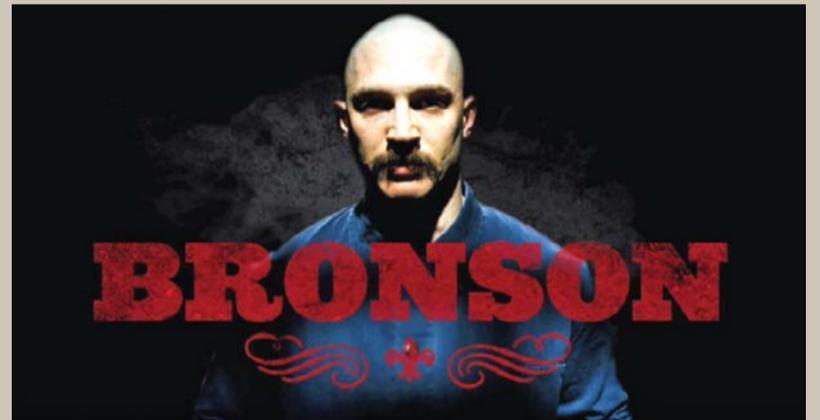
Friday Times MOVIES

The most critically-acclaimed films of **TOM HARDY**

This is a big year for Tom Hardy, with no fewer than five films on the calendar. In honor of Mr Hardy's return to theaters and in anticipation of everything to come, we've decided to dedicate this week's list to an appreciative look back at some of the brightest critical highlights from an impressive filmography that seems like it's only getting started.

7. Bronson (2009)

It wasn't a blockbuster by any means, but Bronson will inarguably go down as one of the most important films - if not the crucial one - in Tom Hardy's filmography. Resting wholly on his riveting star making turn in the title role, this fact-based drama hurls the viewer into the nightmarish rush of violence for violence's sake that seems to have defined the life of infamous British convict Michael "Mickey" Peterson, a.k.a. Charles Bronson. Hardy gained an astonishing 40-plus pounds, most of it muscle, to play Peterson, but even without all that imposing mass, he commands Bronson through sheer force of acting will.



6. Layer Cake (2005)

It sounds sweet, but Matthew Vaughn's Layer Cake is anything but - it's actually a pitch-black morality play about a successful drug dealer (Daniel Craig) who plans to retire from the business without tipping off his powerful supplier (Kenneth Cranham), partly with the assistance of a science-savvy young associate (Hardy). It's all for naught, of course, and he soon finds himself needing to stay one step ahead from a growing list of enemies intent on doing him in before he can walk away from the business.

5. Warrior (2011)

After countless entries - some of them classics - how do you add something new to the professional fighting movie genre in the 21st century? Well, you probably can't, but if you're going to add to the list, it definitely helps if you step into the ring with a cast that includes Tom Hardy, Joel Edgerton, and Nick Nolte, all of whom answered the bell for director Gavin O'Connor's Warrior. Starring Hardy and Edgerton as brothers whose separate quests for redemption put them on a collision course that can only be settled by beating people to bloody pulps, it made unlikely believers out of critics who'd seen more than their share of this kind of story.

