

Starting from the bottom of my list, at number ten is Barry Levinson's *Rain Man*. This moody and atmospheric road drama features yet another extraordinary performance by Dustin Hoffman, this time as an autistic savant. It also has some surprisingly solid acting from Tom Cruise.

Number nine on my list is the Mafia comedy *Married to the Mob*, in which Jonathan Demme goes wild with his directorial flourishes. Demme proves once again that he's the most stylish and innovative director in Hollywood. Michelle Pfeiffer proves that she is as stunning as a brunette as she is as a blonde.

At number eight is the year's best comedy. No, not the hilarious *A Fish Called Wanda*, but the hysterical *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*. Michael Caine and Steve Martin are in top form as two con men competing for the riches of lonely and wealthy women on the French Riviera. Director Frank Oz shows a genuine knack for comedy, as does supporting actress Glenn Headly.

Number seven on my list is director Chris Menges' emotional anti-Apartheid drama *A World Apart*. Barbara Hershey and Jodhi May give two of 1988's most powerful performances as a mother and a daughter who must confront the racial unrest in South Africa. Inspired by a true story, *A World Apart* is an intimate look at a family blown apart by their political activism.

My choice for the sixth best film of 1988, *Stand and Deliver*, is also based on fact. It stars Edward James Olmos as a real life computer programmer who challenges the educational system by teaching calculus to underprivileged minority students. Olmos is almost unrecognizable in a brilliant performance.

At number five on my list is *Punchline*, a dra-

matic look at stand-up comedians. Tom Hanks, as a narcissistic and anguished comic, gives the finest performance of his career—one worthy of an Oscar. Sally Fields and John Goodman solidly round out the cast.

At number four is the wild and zany *Who Framed Roger Rabbit?*—making my list not only for its amazing technical achievements, but also for its adult, film noir story line and for Bob Hoskins' underrated performance as the down-and-out private eye.

Number three on my list is *Bull Durham*, which in addition to being one of the best baseball movies ever made is also a superb romantic comedy. Kevin Costner, Susan Sarandon, and Tim Robbins create fresh and memorable characters and director/screenwriter Ron Shelton gives them the most crackling and witty dialogue of the year.

At number two is the political, coming-of-age drama *Running on Empty*. River Phoenix gives an Oscar-caliber performance as a young man who must choose between his family and his future. Under Sydney Lumet's sensitive and understated direction, *Running* packs a powerful emotional punch. The film also features inspired performances by Christine Lahti, Judd Hirsch, and Martha Plimpton.

And, finally, the only four star film I saw this year in the theaters and my pick for the best movie of 1988 is *Gorillas In the Mist*, director Michael Apted's incredibly passionate portrait of Diane Fossey starring Sigourney Weaver in one of the year's finest performances. The direction, acting, compelling story, and beautifully photographed African Mountain Gorillas create an intensely moving cinematic experience.