

BEST OF 2022

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Col Needham's Best Documentaries of 2022

by [Col Needham](#) | last updated - 1 week ago

I am the Founder and CEO of IMDb and here are my choices for the 10 best documentaries of 2022, listed in alphabetical order.

For my favourite narrative features see: [Col Needham's Best Movies of 2022](#).

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- Brainwashed: Sex-Camera-Power** (2022)

107 min | Documentary

★ **6.1** [Rate this](#) **59** Metascore

Investigates the politics of cinematic shot design, and how this meta-level of filmmaking intersects with the twin epidemics of sexual abuse/assault and employment discrimination against women, with over 175 movie clips from 1896 - 2020.

Director: [Nina Menkes](#) | Stars: [Rhiannon Aarons](#), [Kathleen Antonia](#), [Rosanna Arquette](#), [Lara Dale](#)

Votes: 272
 - Good Night Oppy** (2022)

PG | 105 min | Documentary

★ **7.7** [Rate this](#) **65** Metascore

The film follows Opportunity, the Mars Exploration Rover affectionately dubbed Oppy by her creators and scientists at NASA. Oppy was originally expected to live for only 90 days but she ultimately explored Mars for nearly 15 years.

Director: [Ryan White](#) | Stars: [Angela Bassett](#), [Jon Stewart](#), [Stephen Colbert](#), [David Letterman](#)

Votes: 1,534
 - Is That Black Enough for You?!?** (2022)

R | 135 min | Documentary, History

★ **7.3** [Rate this](#) **83** Metascore

Tracks the history of Black cinema, focused mainly on the '70s, with archival and new interviews with many of the key players from the era.

Director: [Elvis Mitchell](#) | Stars: [Elvis Mitchell](#), [Margaret Avery](#), [Harry Belafonte](#), [Charles Burnett](#)

Votes: 625
 - The Janes** (2022)

101 min | Documentary

★ **7.6** [Rate this](#) **82** Metascore

Police arrested seven women who were part of a clandestine network. Using code names, blindfolds and safe houses, they built an underground service for women seeking safe, affordable, illegal abortions calling themselves JANE.

Directors: [Tia Lessin](#), [Emma Pildes](#) | Stars: [Judith Arcana](#), [Heather Booth](#), [Richard J. Daley](#), [Laura Kaplan](#)

Votes: 1,009
 - Last Flight Home** (2022)

106 min | Documentary

★ **7.3** [Rate this](#) **74** Metascore

In his final days, we discover Eli Timoner and an extraordinary life of wild achievements, tragic loss and most of all, enduring love. LAST FLIGHT HOME shares a stunning verité account of a courageous family confronting life and death.

Director: [Ondi Timoner](#) | Stars: [Morgan Doctor](#), [Rachel Maddow](#), [David Timoner](#), [Eli Timoner](#)

Votes: 146
 - Lyra** (2022)

92 min | Documentary

★ **9.5** [Rate this](#)

Follows the life of Northern Irish investigative journalist Lyra McKee by telling her story through her own work and words.

Director: [Alison Millar](#)

Votes: 22
 - Moonage Daydream** (2022)

PG-13 | 135 min | Documentary, Music

★ **7.9** [Rate this](#) **83** Metascore

A cinematic odyssey exploring David Bowie's creative and musical journey. From visionary filmmaker Brett Morgen, and sanctioned by the Bowie estate.

Director: [Brett Morgen](#) | Stars: [David Bowie](#), [Trevor Bolder](#), [Ken Fordham](#), [Mike Garson](#)

Votes: 7,269
 - My Old School** (2022)

104 min | Documentary, Animation, Comedy

★ **7.3** [Rate this](#) **67** Metascore

In 1993, 16-year-old Brandon Lee enrolled at Bearsden Academy, a secondary school in a well-to-do suburb of Glasgow, Scotland. What followed over the next two years became the stuff of legend.

Director: [Jono McLeod](#) | Stars: [Alan Cumming](#), [Dawn Steele](#), [Joe McFadden](#), [Clare Grogan](#)

Votes: 632
 - The Princess** (II) (2022)

109 min | Documentary, Biography

★ **7.4** [Rate this](#) **69** Metascore

Princess Diana's story is told exclusively through contemporaneous archive creating a bold and immersive narrative of her life and death. It also illuminates how the public's attitude to the monarchy was, and still is.

Director: [Ed Perkins](#) | Stars: [Princess Diana](#), [King Charles III](#), [Queen Elizabeth II](#), [Martin Bashir](#)

Votes: 1,171
 - Sidney** (2022)

PG-13 | 111 min | Documentary, Biography

★ **7.8** [Rate this](#) **70** Metascore

Follow the real life story of Sidney Poitier, the Oscar winner of 1964.

Director: [Reginald Hudlin](#) | Stars: [Sidney Poitier](#), [Harry Belafonte](#), [Halle Berry](#), [Willie Blue](#)

Votes: 740
- 10 titles

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