

The Best Films from 2022's First Half

by RYAN AKLER-BISHOP | JUNE 24, 2022

As we arrive at the year's halfway point, here's eight of the most innovative and exciting films 2022's offered so far. These movies' stories range from high-speed pursuits across the L.A. freeway to slow cinema descents into Calabrian caves to intimate and terrifying late-night sessions in the darkest corners of the internet. Yet beyond their disparate narratives, each of these movies distinguish themselves with wholly unique image-making, deeply attuned to their characters, the worlds they inhabit, and new potentials cinema can offer.

Pygmalion's Ugly Season (Jacolby Satterwhite)



Jacolby Satterwhite is a postmodern video artist and unparalleled green screen wizard. His latest, *Pygmalion's Ugly Season*, is a companion to *Perfume Genius'* surreal avant-garde pop masterwork. Satterwhite's images emphasize both the madcap goofiness and tenderness of *Perfume Genius'* music: elements often overshadowed by the album's unnerving passages of orchestral brood. The film imagines a queer utopia represented in landscapes of 3D saturated and computer-generated artifice. Eroticized male bodies dance across synthetic architecture and communities form through touch and movement. Satterwhite's film presents a queer utopia divorced from all notions of purity, aesthetic or otherwise: a liberating rapture of hyper-digital images.