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Top Ten Heist Films

Article (972 words):

When it comes to getting in the mood for a game of *Perfect Crime*, nothing does it better than a good movie about the heisting life. It's a lot safer and easier than the real thing (plus you won't be able to play *Perfect Crime* in jail!) while still delivering that tense edge to get you in the mood. How about queueing these movies up on your playlist while you wait for *Perfect Crime*? Who knows -- it might even give you some inspiration for strategies to use in the game!

10. Reservoir Dogs

Reservoir Dogs is about a heist that goes horribly wrong. Six criminals are sent on a mission to retrieve some diamonds. The police appear to be one step ahead of them and managed to take down two of the gang during the heist. Suspicion arises that someone within the group is actually sided with the police. While a much-loved film, it comes with an 18+ rating for some particularly violent scenes -- maybe not for the faint of heart!

9. The Town

Focusing on a group of Boston bank robbers, *The Town* is about a robbery where the bank's manager, Claire, is taken hostage blindfolded. After releasing her, they decide to track her after discovering she lives in the same neighbourhood as them. Given she never saw their faces, they could track her themselves without being ousted as the thieves. One of the robbers, Doug, meets up with her to keep tabs and find out what she told the police, but the pair fall in love with one another. Wanting to leave the town with Claire, Doug finds himself torn between upholding his criminal ties and hiding his true life from Claire.

8. Point Break

A 1991 film that saw a modern day remake, *Point Break* takes a different viewpoint for a bank heist movie. This one is about an FBI agent Johnny Utah who is trying to catch a gang of bank robbers. The robbers are known as 'The Ex-Presidents', given how they wear the masks of older US presidents while performing their heists. When the FBI suspect that the robbers are also surfers, Johnny is sent to the beaches to try to locate them.

7. Heat

Another 1995 film starring Al Pacino and Robert De Niro, it tells the story of a criminal group wanting to perform one final heist to secure a bank robbery of \$12 million to secure their futures. All the while, however, the police are on their tail, taking clues from

earlier crimes in the movie in a bid to shut down the gang and stop the robbery.

6. Bonnie & Clyde

A film from the 1960s, *Bonnie & Clyde* is about the famous pair of robbers. It tells the story of how they met, and their beginning as somewhat petty thieves before moving onto bank robberies. While the movie was very controversial at the time for its level of violence, it's tame by today's standards, and a solid movie overall.

5. Dog Day Afternoon

Based on a real life bank robbery and starring Al Pacino, *Dog Day Afternoon* is about a bank robber trying to raise funds for his lover's operation. However what was meant to be a simple grab and go job becomes more complex; the cash had been transported out of the bank at an earlier time. Leaving the robbers with nothing to steal. Even worse, the police then arrive and surround the bank. The movie is based on a real bank robbery that took place.

4. The Italian Job

Probably needs no introduction, but just in case! *The Italian Job* is a very iconic movie from 1969 which has won the hearts of movie enthusiasts ever since. The movie is about a gang of criminals aiming to steal a donation of gold from China to Turin. The goal is to jam up the automated traffic systems of Turin to stop the police from giving chase, and three iconic Mini Cooper Ss are the only ones that can navigate the gridlock. Getaway cars can be a key element to a successful heist in *Perfect Crime*, so it's perfect for when you plan your own heists! |

3. The Usual Suspects

Five men are arrested after a truck is hijacked in New York. All of them attend the police lineup, but the police don't believe any of them are guilty and let them go. The five, however, don't call it quits; they band together to get revenge against the police. Their actions eventually step on the toes of criminal mastermind Keyser Söze, and each member of the gang has wronged him in some way in the past.

2. Inside Man

A more modern movie than some of the entries in this list! *Inside Man* is a little less action-orientated than the other movies on this list. The main plot is a bank heist that turns into a hostage situation, leading to a tense standoff between the criminal, the police, and a third broker brought in by the bank manager to protect his assets. Will your own *Perfect Crime* turn into a hostage situation?

1. Ocean's Eleven

A remake of an older film, and known as one of the best heist movies out there. Fresh out of jail, Daniel Ocean plans his next heist against the entrepreneur Terry Benedict. To do this, he plans a simultaneous heist on three of the casinos that Terry owns. He can't do it alone, so he bands together a group of professionals from around the world who can infiltrate every part of the casinos.

Hopefully, this should give you enough to watch while you wait for the release of *Perfect Crime*. Have fun!

Types of Heist Film

Article (1016 words):

As any criminal movie aficionado will tell you, there isn't just one kind of heist film. We may be very familiar with the action-orientated movies of today, but the evolution of the crime film has taken a long time coming to this point. *Perfect Crime* may not have been the game it is today if it weren't for the long and gradual developments in crime-based entertainment! As such, let's take a look at how crime films developed, when they started, and how they appear in today's world.

Early Days -- Where It All Began

It may be surprising to hear that one of the great-grandfathers of the heist movie genre originated even before World War I had taken off. *The Great Train Robbery* came into play in 1903, and not only did it revolutionise heist films, but films in general. Its then-amazing methods of filming, including -- gasp! -- *non-static* camerawork, helped push movie making forwards technologically.

Another movie to hit the screens early one was the 1925 movie *The Unholy Three*, which featured a very strange plot. Carnival freaks would encourage punters to purchase talking parrots, which only 'talked' due to the trick of ventriloquism. When the unlucky customer bought one and took it home, they'd find it surprisingly **mute**. When they left to complain about the bird, the burglars would strike at their home. Maybe not realistic, but definitely one for fans of something more off-kilter than usual!

1930s -- Story-Focused Heisting

The 1930s saw an insurgence of heist films as the movies began to move away from using a crime as a simple arcing story focus, and started using it as an independent plot point. Instead of using crime as a simple motive for the actions in the movie to take place, film-makers and writers took the time to look at the heists themselves, who performed them, and who was trying to stop them. This allowed for story-crafting around the relations between the criminals, the police, and the victims; sometimes in a comical light.

Movies released at this time includes *Raffles*, which was nominated for an Oscar for Sound in the category's beginning year. It features the story of a cricketer who also moonlights as a gentlemen cat burglar, whose tracks are being scoured by an ace detective of the Scotland Yard. The burglar's career comes to a halt when he falls in love, and decides to take his newly beloved to a fancy ball. The detective is thrilled, thinking the burglar is targeting the ball to stage a theft. As such, they all end up under the same roof when an actual thief enters the scene, causing confusion as to who the real criminal

is. This shows that crime film writers were moving away from using crime as the main character's motive. They began to explore the dynamics of every character getting involved with a heist, regardless of if they were good or bad.

Film Noir -- Dark and Gritty

Taking place in the 1940s-1950s, the noir period is when the crime genre found its footing. Examples in this period include *Rififi*, which would go on to inspire other crime movie greats such as *Reservoir Dogs*, *Heat*, and *The Usual Suspects*. It features a gang of crooks that carry out the perfect gem heist, before being torn apart by their own human natures. Other monumental films to come out in this period include *Bob le flambeur*, *Asphalt Jungle*, *The Lavender Hill Mob*, and *The Killing*.

1960-2000 -- The Comical and the Serious

Leaving the darker and grittier tones of film noir, crime movies took a more jovial turn in the 1960s. More fun-loving examples that came out during the 60s are *Crooks and Coronets*, *It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World*, and the original *Ocean's Eleven*. This continued throughout the century with the comical 1980s crime movie *A Fish Called Wanda*. These gave a more humorous edge to the dark and gritty tones that moviegoers had come to respect during the noir period, and would set the bar for comedy movies to come.

That doesn't mean that the darker kind of movie was going anywhere, however; this time period saw some of the more infamous examples of how gritty movies can get. We saw the more serious *Dog Day Afternoon* arrive in 1975, and the violent 1992 movie *Reservoir Dogs* released too. All these movies would show what a crime film can be, and become timeless examples to which other crime movies would be compared to.

2000-Today -- The Heist Genre Established

Nowadays, we still see a healthy dose of both gritty and fun-loving heist films on our screens. *Ocean's Eleven* got a better-received remake in 2001, and continued on with *Ocean's Twelve* in 2004 and *Ocean's Thirteen* in 2007. The famous *The Italian Job* movie from 1969 also reappeared in 2003 as a remake, featuring its iconic Mini Cooper Ss and its memorable quotes. They showed that the fun and capers in crime films were anything but dead.

The heist genre's more serious side also see a nice array of films. *The Score*, *Heist*, *Inside Man* and *The Bank Job* continued to portray the darker elements of criminal heists. One of the more famous modern examples of the heist genre, *Inception*, took it a step further by mixing in science fiction elements to create a movie that was fresh and unique to the genre. While maybe not as prolific a genre as some, heist and crime films are still being made and still seeing positive media attention.

Next time you're in the mood for watching some criminal action, try something from the different time periods of crime movies and see what clicks with you best. Does film noir tickle your fancy the most? Or will the more comical capers appeal to you best? When it comes to planning your own heists in *Perfect Crime*, will you use stealth or subterfuge, or storm in with all guns blazing? Give these movies a try, and explore a genre that's not just all guns and action sequences.

Top 10 Real Life Heists

Article (1356 words):

Perfect Crime is all about staging a heist and getting away with it. While designing the game, one inspiration we drew from were heists that took place in the real world. What better way to deliver a gaming experience than to take from a real-life counterpart?

When it comes to heists, there are examples around the world of people doing extraordinary and cunning things in order to get their hands on the prize. Here are ten examples of heists to help you plan your own thefts in *Perfect Crime!*

10. The Santa Getaway (2014)

Disguises are nothing new in the world of heists. When the disguise also doubles as an escape plan, you know someone put the thought into this one.

A man entered a San Francisco bank in a Santa costume, passing a note to the teller that he was armed with a handgun. The teller complied and handed the robber the money. While every other person dressed like Santa would stick out like a sore thumb, there was a problem. SantaCon, an event where people turn up in crowds dressed as the iconic Christmas figure, was currently underway in the city. The man slipped into the crowd and vanished, the police never caught him.

Sources:

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-santa-claus-robs-bank-20141216-story.html>

<http://www.sfgate.com/crime/article/Pics-released-of-Santa-bandit-who-robbed-bank-5966969.php>

9. The Guard Heist (2007)

Hiring guards is a good way to keep a bank safe, but hiring the wrong people can have the reverse effect. The Baghdad bank usually kept three guards who would work and sleep at the bank overnight. One morning, employees arrived to find the front door wide open. The guards and \$300 million were no where to be seen. The guards were never caught.

Sources:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-iraq-robbery-idUSL1274958920070712>

8. The Diamond Theft (2007)

Sometimes you don't need disguises and master plans in order to pull off a heist. Sometimes, just being the wrong person to trust at the right time is all you need.

Carlos Hector Flomenbaum charmed his way into his heist. Visiting the ABN Amro bank at Antwerp's diamond centre, he claimed he was a diamond trader. He quickly became an employee favourite; he'd buy the people who worked there chocolates, spoke nicely of them, and was good company to have around.

So good, in fact, that the bank nominated for him to be one of the trusted few to give keys to the diamond vaults, so that diamond traders could access their diamonds in odd hours. Using the very key he was given, Carlos walked into the vault, swiped 120,000 carats (\$28 million) of diamonds, and walked out again. Even worse, it turned out that 'Carlos' was a fake name all along, making the hunt for the true criminal even harder. The criminal whatever his true name was, is still at **large**.

Sources:

<http://people.howstuffworks.com/diamond-thief2.htm>

7. The Tunnel Heist (2005)

Next time you're stuck with annoying neighbours, just be thankful they're not tunnelling into your house and stealing your valuables.

This is exactly what happened to a Brazilian bank after plotting robbers managed to secure a house nearby. Then, in the space of three months, they dug a tunnel running underneath two city blocks, at 656 feet in length. They came up the other side into the bank and made off with £36 million in cash. Since then, countless suspects have been arrested, but only £400,000 of the stolen money has been recovered.

Sources:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/americas/4133388.stm>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Banco_Central_burglary_at_Fortaleza

6. The Helicopter Heist (2009)

In 2009, just after 5am, ten gunmen took a helicopter to the roof of a cash depot in Sweden. They jumped out, smashed the windows with a sledgehammer, and entered. Twenty members of staff were inside, but that didn't stop the criminals from loading the still-hovering helicopter with money.

Due to a bomb scare, set up by the gang, at the police aircraft hangers, the police couldn't send their own helicopters after it. The team made their getaway, **soon** after two people were arrested for the crime. Not much is revealed about how much money was taken.

Sources:

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2009/sep/23/swedish-cash-depot-helicopter-raid>

<http://www.thelocal.se/20090924/22260>

<http://www.thelocal.se/20101007/29474>

5. The Poison Heist (2010)

One case where the manager of a bank was coerced into robbing his own bank. John Thomas Forrester claims he was forced to taking \$40,000 from a Gold Coast bank he ran after he was carjacked, injected with a poison, and told to secure the money to receive the antidote. Even after he followed the instructions, an antidote was not given. Regardless, John continued living without any signs of ill-health, which aroused suspicion as to if his story was false. He was trialled and found not guilty; the location of the \$40,000, and whether or not John lied, is still a mystery.

Sources:

<http://www.news.com.au/finance/carjacked-bank-boss-sent-to-trial/story-e6frfm1i-1225848401489>

<http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/bank-manager-john-thomas-forrester-not-guilty-of-robbing-own-branch/story-e6freon6-1226190452219>

4. The Stadium Heist (2013)

Popstars naturally draw in a lot of attention, and with that, opportunities to make money. When Justin Bieber performed in a stadium in South Africa during Mother's Day, some criminals decided they wanted a dip into the proceeds.

There was some prep beforehand. Days before the event, the robbers chipped their way through the thick stadium wall for access to the stadium's strongroom. Then, on the night of the concert, the criminals descended down and stole well over \$300,000 in bar and ticket funds, all while the concert itself continued outside.

Sources:

<https://www.enca.com/south-africa/what-happened-bieber-concert-cash-heist>

<http://www.billboard.com/articles/news/1561428/thieves-grab-cash-after-justin-bieber-south-africa-concert>

3. The Global Hacking Heists (2015)

Stealing from banks don't always mean you have to actually visit one, or even be near one. This was the case of a \$1 billion heist made by the hacking group Carbanak, which used insider knowledge of bank systems to gradually steal money over the span of two years. Their methods included a .doc file loaded with malware which executed code to steal from people's bank accounts. Another, more surprising, method saw Carbanak setting ATMs to spit out money at set times, so that people linked with Carbanak could snatch it and go. Kaspersky Lab is on the case of preventing the attacks, but the actual criminals are still in operation

Sources:

<http://www.securityweek.com/hackers-hit-100-banks-unprecedented-1-billion-cyber-attack-kaspersky-lab>

2. The Fake Policemen Heist (1990)

A story about how to always double-check the identities of those demanding access to a building, no matter who they claim they are. Two guards were on patrol in the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in 1990 when one of them noticed two policemen wanting to be let in, asking about a disturbance in the courtyard. When let in, the policemen stated the guard looked like the suspect they were looking for, and arrested both him and his guard mate.

Once 'arrested', the policemen revealed they were robbers and tied the guards up in the basement. The pair then stole \$500 million in paintings. The hunt for the paintings is still on to this day, but neither paintings nor perpetrators have been found.

Sources:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isabella_Stewart_Gardner_Museum_theft

1. The Craigslist Assistants (2008)

Watch out with those Craigslist ads; some might be wanting you to take part in a crime.

A job offer went out that claimed a pay of \$28.50 per hour for several road maintenance workers. People had to turn up near a Bank of America ready and equipped for the job -- that meant yellow vests, goggles, respirator mask and a blue shirt. At least twelve turned up looking for a spot on the job, dressed in the appropriate work attire.

Meanwhile, the person who set the advert -- the criminal-- had dressed the same way and sprayed someone unloading money into the bank with pepper spray, stealing the money and running. As a result, the area around the bank was dotted with people wearing the same clothes as the perpetrator, meaning finding the 'real' one was difficult.

The thief got away, but was caught a month later after a homeless person saw the perpetrator donning his disguise from a bin, thought of it as suspicious, and noted the number plate of the car he drove in on.

Sources:

<http://www.cnet.com/uk/news/bank-robber-hires-decoys-on-craigslist-fools-cops/>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anthony_Curcio

Hopefully, these heists will have got your creativity flowing for when *Perfect Crime* is officially released. Good luck out there!