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# Southern California LIVING

## Teach Your Children Well—With Movies

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Somewhere around 1 a.m. each morning, when his wife and kids are asleep, Jim Frieden tiptoes from his bed to his computer, where he types away for hours. By day, he's a litigator with a solo practice. But by night, he's insomniac and film critic, filling a Web site with his thoughts on movies from "Gone With the Wind" to "Gattaca."

On a recent afternoon, in the Friedens' cozy Pacific Palisades living room, where a comfy leather couch sits right beside a big TV, 15-year-old Alex rolled his eyes knowingly.

His dad, he says, is going through "his midlife crisis."

In fact, it was Alex's response to movies as a child that more or less inspired *teachwithmovies.org*, a Web site started by Frieden and his wife, Debbie Elliott.

The Teach With Movies site gives parents and teachers a guide to films that are entertaining and thought-provoking for kids.

"Debbie and I used to just wander around Blockbuster and be unable to find the right movie at the right time for our kids," said Frieden, 53. "Then three months later, we'd think of it. You think of a movie you'd like to show them, and

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"I have reached a level of cynicism even I would never have thought of."

## DRAWN TO