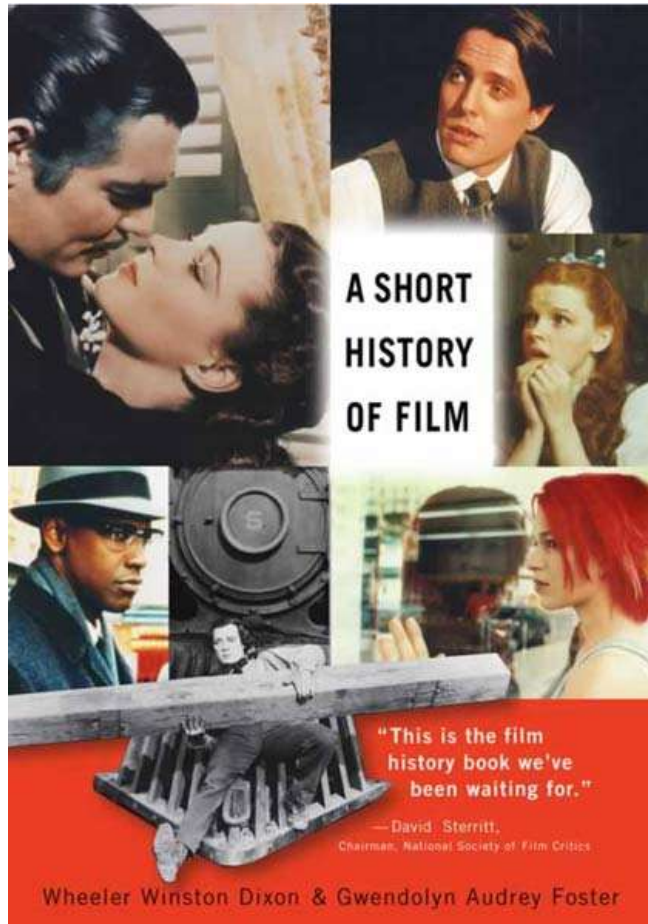


# History of Film



Precursor: Plays and dancers had scripts, costumes, lighting, and acting.

# Silent Era

- Sound and synchronization started in 1923 so all films before this were silent with accompanied orchestras.
- 1920-1930 America was the leading producer of film.
- “The Sprinkler Who Sprinkled”-  
The First Comedy



# Kinetoscope

- The Kinetoscope machine was invented so audiences could view movie and hear audio.
- One down fall (only one could see into it at a time).
- Thomas Edison invented this in 1890.



# Kinetograph

- The camera that is used to record moving images for playing in the Kinetoscope.
- Invented by Thomas Edison and William Dickson.



# *The Kiss*

- Thomas Edison is responsible for the first ever film involving a kissing scene.
- 23 seconds in length, it was filmed in his Black Maria studio in New Jersey in 1896.,
- A time when public kissing was greatly frowned upon by Victorian society. In that era, the act of kissing was referred to as “sparkin’” if it took place indoors, usually the parlor, or “spoonin’” when performed outdoors, in a secluded spot far from the public’s eye.

# *The Great Train Robbery* 1903

- With the combination of film editing and the telling of narrative stories, The film was the one-reel, 14-scene, approximately 10-minute long
- it was based on a real-life train heist
- it was the first narrative Western film with a storyline, and included various western clichés (a shoot-out, a robbery, a chase, etc.) that would be used by all future westerns
- it was a ground-breaking film - and one of the earliest films to be shot out of chronological sequence, using revolutionary parallel cross-cutting (or parallel action) between two simultaneous events or scenes; it did not use fades or dissolves between scenes or shots
- it effectively used rear projection in an early scene (the image of a train seen through a window), and two impressive panning shots

# 1895-1906

- Still cameras with one or more shorts without editing.
- In 11 years cinema transformed from a novelty to an established market.
- First cameras were fastened to the head of tripod- This left many still camera shots.
- Common shots were in the front a railway engine – “phantom rides”. Filming on a train was known as a panorama.
  - Panorama-



# Critics

- Critics felt films in the 1900's were morally objectionable.
- Films were new and had content that many people should not be on display for the public.





# The Camera Moves

- 1897- Robert Raul had a first rotating camera head for a tripod.
- Panning cam into play in 1900.



# Nickelodeons

- the early 1900s, motion pictures ("flickers") were no longer innovative experiments.
- Escapist entertainment medium for the working-class masses.
- The normal admission charge was a nickel - hence the name *nickelodeon*.
- They usually remained open from early morning to midnight.
- The first nickelodeon, a small storefront theater or dance hall converted to view films, was opened in Pittsburgh by Harry Davis in June of 1905, showing *The Great Train Robbery*.



# Patents and Copyrights

- A newly-formed cartel, the **MPPC** was created to legally control distribution, production, and exhibition of films, with agents and detectives to enforce its rules.
- To limit competition from other independent companies and to protect and increase profits, it bought and pooled major patents (on movie machines such as cameras and projectors), and charged anyone (by issuing licenses) who wanted to use their equipment or hire their films.
- Its goals were to reduce foreign imports, fight movie piracy, protect film copyrights, reduce the power of other emerging distributors, and drive other rivals out of business.
- 1910.

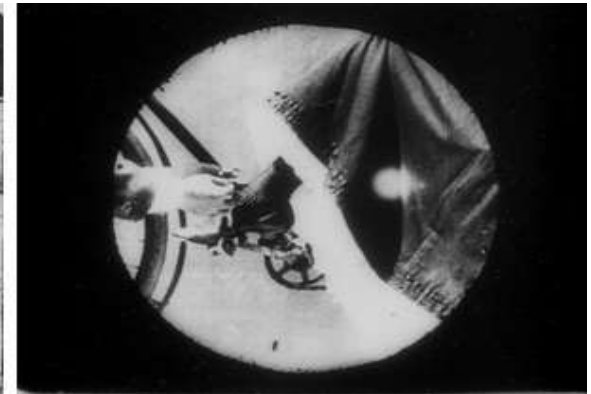
# Early Effects

- Ghost effect (dream bubble) What do we use?
  - They used black velvet backdrops while replaying negatives
- Superimpose (combining two imaged into one). What do we use?
  - They used the same black area projection image from a negative.
- Reverse Video; What do we use?
  - They used the print of a negative in forwards backwards through a frame.
- Ex: *Santa Claus (1899)*

# Continuity

- What is it?
  - Showing action movie from one shot into another joined smoothly.
  - First considered in 1889.
    - Shot one: A couple coming in through a door.
    - Shot Two: The couple inside.
    - Dissolves were later added in 1901 to transition.
  - POV shots were used.
    - Simulating looking through a telescope by a circular mask.

- Ex: *As Seen Through the Telescope* 1900



# 1906-1914

- By 1906 there were over 4,000 small cinemas.
- Pianists accompanied the films instead of sound.
- Patents and copyrights control began plaguing filmmakers.
- Multi-reel film was invented to allow for more to be shot in one take.

# Lighting Begins



- Increased production = studio sets and artificial lights.
- Use of fire effects are used.
- Symbolism between dark and light is born.
- Silhouettes on location begin to be more prominent showing mobility of lighting.

# Video Effects

- Cross-cutting/parallel editing
  - Continuity editing is more important now than ever.
- POV show grow more common rather than telescope shots
- Reverse-angle cutting/Shot reverse shot
- Flashback sequences were popular.



# 1914-1919



- WWI – many small cinemas closed
- Film Began:
  - Irising in and out to begin and end scenes.
  - Enclosing images inside vignettes or shapes.
  - Soft-focus
  - Shots tilted sideways to assimilate delirium
  - To add symbolism (“poetic cinema”)
  - Insert shots (close ups of objects)
  - Cutting to different angles in the same scene.
  - Decline of flashback sequence.

# Five Major Film Studios 1920

- Warner Brothers
- Paramount
- RKO (A Radio Picture)
- Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer
- Fox Film Corp.



# Talkies

- The first feature-length film with synchronized Vitaphone sound effects and musical soundtrack (without spoken dialogue) was Warner Bros.' Don Juan (1926).



# Sound

- First words spoken on film “Wait a minute! You ain’t seen nothing yet.”
- Sound caused a decline in films because of heavy audio equipment,
- Acting suffered
- Foreign films restricted English speaking views.



# The Code 1934

- The entire document was written with Catholic undertones and stated that art must be handled carefully because it could be "morally evil in its effects" and because its "deep moral significance"
- The production code sought not only to determine what could be portrayed on screen, but also to promote traditional values.
  - No Sexual relations outside of marriage
  - All criminal action had to be punished
  - Authority figures had to be treated with respect, and the clergy could not be portrayed as comic characters or villains.
- Films with a MPPDA seal of approval advertised and produced more easily until 1950 due to rebellion.
- Now we have MPAA that rates films based on age appropriateness.

# Style

- As time progress styles and themes changed and became more popular.
- 1930's Horror Movies became more prominent.
  - *Frankenstein, Dracula, King Kong*
- 1940's – The war and post war – Wartime propaganda
  - *49<sup>th</sup> Parallel, In Which We Serve*



# Golden Age



- 1930-1948- Although still black and white
- Depression
- Decade of the sound and color revolutions and the advance of the 'talkies', and the further development of film genres
- gangster films, musicals, newspaper-reporting films, historical biopics, social-realism films, lighthearted screwball comedies, westerns and horror.
- **Motion Picture Production Code**, administered set film guidelines regarding sex, violence, religion, and crime **Production Code Administration 1934 = Strict**



# The War Years

- Hollywood film production rebounded and reached its profitable peak of efficiency during the years 1943 to 1946 –
- Advances in film technology (sound recording, lighting, special effects, cinematography and use of color) meant that films were more watchable and 'modern'.
- Following the end of the war, Hollywood's most profitable year in the decade was 1946, with all-time highs recorded for theatre attendance.



# The War Years

- Films of the War Years:
  - *Hollywood Canteen*
  - *Casablanca*
  - *Island*
  - *Winged Victor*
  - *The Story of GI Joe*



# Film Noir

- The film noir 'genre' reflected the way Hollywood felt as it faced its greatest challenges during the war and post-war periods - darker and more cynical.
- The somber, pessimistic 'genre', literally meaning "black film," was already germinating and evolving from 30s gangster films - with dark plots, untrustworthy femme fatales, and tough, but cynical, fatalistic heroes.
  - *Maltese Falcon* 1941
  - *Citizen Kane* 1941
  - *Touch of Evil* 1941

# 1950

- The 50s decade was known for many things:
  - post-war
  - increased choice of leisure time activities,
  - conformity
  - the Korean War,
  - middle-class values
  - the rise of modern jazz
  - the rise of 'fast food' restaurants and drive-ins.
- Cold War Era brought paranoia manifested in themes:
  - *Invasion of the Body Snatchers*, *The War of the Worlds*
- Teen coming of age films
  - *La Bamba*
  - *Rock Around the Clock*
- James Dean and Elvis are worshipped



# 1960

- fun, fashion, rock 'n' roll, tremendous social changes (i.e., the civil rights era and marches) and transitional cultural values.
- foreign films (British film) became popular, Vietnam caused a fall in film production.
- Filmmakers remedied this by starting a social revolution in film (disturbing)
  - *Rosemary's Baby, The Good the Bad the Ugly, Bonnie and Clyde.*

# 1970's

- The “New Hollywood” or Post Classical Cinema is adopted.
  - Restrictions on language, adult content and sexuality, and violence had loosened up, and these elements became more widespread.
  - The hippie movement, the civil rights movement, free love, the growth of rock and roll, changing gender roles and drug use certainly had an impact.
  - Martin Scorsese, Roman Polanski, Steven Spielberg, and George Lucas
    - Jaws, Chinatown, The Godfather, Taxi Driver, The Exorcist*
  - Increased popularity in martial arts films.

# 1980's

- Sequels, blockbusters, and videotapes are born.
- Few original concepts derived in the 80's
- Cinemas loose popularity due to the VCR
- Directors are creating sequels rather than originals.
  - *Jaws, Batman, Star Wars, Back to the Future*
- Rich kids getting into trouble and doing drugs

# 1990's Money, Mega-Spending and Special Effects

- New Special effects, Indie Films, and DVDs.
  - *Terminator 2, Judgment Day, Titanic, Jurassic Park,*
- Many films cost over \$100 million to produce, and some of the most expensive blockbusters were even more.
- DTS is born. Digital Surround Sound is used in films and theaters.
- Trends:
  - Serious Themes (*Forest Gump, Philadelphia, Silence of the Lambs*)
  - African American Film Makers (*Hoop Dreams, Boyz n' the Hood*)
  - Action (*Demolition Man, FaceOff*)

# 2000's Change and Innovation

- It began with trumped fears over Y2K and major terrorists attacks on 9/11/2001
- Documentary Style: *District 9, Bowling for Columbine*
- War Films: *World Trade Center, Black Hawk Down, The Hurt Locker*
- Horror Films (Cheaply Made or Remade): *The Exorcist, The Amityville Horror, Halloween*
- Torture Films: *Saw, Hostel*



# Major Studios of 2000

**Time Warner**  
(formerly Warner Bros.)

**20th Century Fox**  
(purchased by Rupert  
Murdoch's  
News Corporation)

**Viacom**  
(formerly Paramount)

**Sony**  
(formerly Columbia  
Pictures)

**Walt Disney**  
(joined with Pixar)

**NBC Universal**  
(owned by GE and merged  
with NBC,  
formerly Universal)

# 2010's

- Movie sales down because
  - noisy or inconsiderate theatre patrons, poor image and sound in multiplexes, more viewing options (VOD, streaming, etc.), the use of social media to instantly broadcast word-of-mouth film reactions
- High Profile Sequels
  - *Twilight, Hunger Games, Harry Potter*
- Full Length Documentaries
  - *The Tillman Story, Waiting for Superman, Oceans*