

History of the World's Cinema

Website: <https://history-of-cinema-ka.weebly.com>

During the course of the History of the World's Cinema we look at the history of cinema from the selective point of view, of course. We cannot see everything. Yet, we discuss the ways in which some films become masterpieces and why indeed everybody should know them. Because just like in history of literature, in history of cinema some films, some directors, some camera operators change the history itself.

Darek Jarman, the English film director, said once "Oh how Shakespeare would have loved cinema!" Of course, he would. Because as Shakespeare is all about the storytelling in a captivating way, the beauty of language, the setting of scenes, the choice of glancing at things and the best films follow the same rules to keep us interested.

During the course we discuss the masterpieces of cinematic history and we will find out why everybody have to see them and why we sometimes have the right to ask: haven't you seen it? And be truly stunned if not. During the course and let's together discuss the best of the best films ever.

The programme:

The lecture is based on the multimedia lectures, reading and self-learning (with leading questions after each lecture) and the leading book:

David Thomson, Big Screen: The History of the Movies and What They Did to Us, London: Penguins, 2013 (Further on as Lecture-book)

1. The Story of the Movies and What They Do to Us? The beginnings of the cinema: cinema as an invention at the turn of the 19th / 20th century (short films by the Lumière brothers and Georges Méliès).

Must see:

Concise History of Cinema: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pBahe2_sZk0

Additionally:

History of Film: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_film

The History of the Discovery of Cinematography:
<http://www.precinemahistory.net>

In Polish:

<http://wyborcza.pl/7,101707,22316829,bracia-lumiere-i-ich-pierwszy-film->

[rodzi-sie-akcja-swiat.html](#)

2. The Birth of Hollywood. The story of the cinema industry.

Paul Merton's documentary: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UtCj4ajbNc>

3. Silent cinema. The beginnings of genres: comedy, melodrama, the Westerns (early films by Charlie Chaplin e.g. Gold Rush 1925)

Main figure: Charlie Chaplin

4. German film expressionism: the birth of horror movies, relationships with Romanticism

("Cabinet of doctor Caligari" directed by R. Wiene 1920

"Nosferatu: symphony of terror" by F.W. Murnau 1922

Also:

Sunrise (1927).

Main figure L F.W. Murnau

FW Murnau: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6UkZpncOpc>

Film: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6NayFytQeBE>

5. Experimental cinema/the avant-garde cinema: in the search of the new poetics of film ("The Man with the Movie Camera" directed by Dziga Vertov 1928, "The Adventure of a Good Citizen" directed by F. and S. Themersons, 1937)

Lecture-book: State Film-Film State: 73-89

Film: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z97Pa0ICpn8>

About Vertov: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wTcII0rSICA>

Themersons: <https://artmuseum.pl/en/filmoteka/praca/franciszka-and-stefan-themersonowie-przygoda-czlowieka>

6. The sound breakthrough in the cinema / genre cinema in the sound cinema (musical, gangster movie, horror) ("Dracula", directed by T. Browning 1931)

The History of Sound at the Cinema:

Text (introduction): https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sound_film

Lecture: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ot5IryUt9SM>

7. Classical Cinema / film adaptation / Cinema personalities ("Citizen Kane" directed by Orson Welles, 1941)

Additional reading:

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/infamous-war-worlds-radio-broadcast-was-magnificent-fluke-180955180/>

8. Italian neorealism / realism as an issue in the cinema ("Bicycles Thieves"

directed by Vittorio De Sica, 1945)

9. **France:** the French beginning of the cinema.

French New Wave/ *La Nouvelle Vague* ("Breathless" directed by Jean-Luc Godard, 1960 or "Last year at Marienbad" directed by Alain Resnais, 1961)

<https://www.newyorker.com/culture/richard-brody/in-memory-of-alain-resnais>

10. **New trends in Europe** / transformation in literature and culture after World War II (Czechoslovakian new wave, British "young angry", e.g. "The Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner", by Tony Richardson, 1962)

11. **Cinema personalities** (Europe): Fellini, Bergman, Antonioni ("Persona" dir. I. Bergman, 1966)

12. **USA: cinema of contestation and the youth culture** ("The Graduate", directed by M. Nichols, 1967)

13. **Cinema personalities: the Japanese, Indian cinema** ("Throne of Blood" directed by Akira Kurosawa, 1957), Satyajit Ray (The Apu Trilogy, 1955-1959)

14. **Postmodernism** (Pulp Fiction by Quentin Tarantino, 1994)

15. **Contemporary adaptations of literature:** "Macbeth" by Justin Kurzel and other adaptations.)

Series online recommended to watch

1. Birth of Cinema: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R0jm6j3s_uE
2. Paul Merton's: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UtCJj4ajbNc&t=1446s>
3. Crash Course Film History: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vsnB4iBb78o>