Film Connection- QUIZ 1

1. What is an auteur? Who popularized the idea?

An auteur is someone who singlehandedly takes creative control of a film. This person is the director of the film and has a perfect idea of what he/she wants from it. They know and understand everything about the movie before a single frame is shot. They know what they want to achieve from a film and how to achieve it. An auteur movie reflects the ideas and vision of the director. Because the auteur director has such control over his/her film, the credit or blame goes to him/her depending on how the film is received by critics and audiences.

Francois Truffaut is said to have popularized this idea and style of film making. He was an extremely influential writer, director and producer who was one of the founding members of the french new wave cinema.

2. What effect did the lack of formal education have on Truffaut's career?

Coming from an unstable home, Francois Truffaut used movies as an escape. Once he decided to drop out of school, he knew he wanted to pursue a career in film and used all his determination to become the best at it by keeping to a strict routine of watching films and reading books. He developed an unapologetic attitude towards filmmakers when he became a film critic for a popular french magazine. Essentially what he lacked in a formal education he gained through informally teaching himself everything he believed he needed to succeed.

3. Being a good director requires what?

Many of the best directors have varying ideas and use distinct tones to represent their vision of some aspect of the world we live in. Some explore darker areas using grim cinematography while others use humor and satire to make their point. There are however certain commonalities that exist amongst the greatest of them. An important one is that they don't deviate from their vision whatsoever. They have a team that helps them bring a script to life but they understand that too many cooks in the kitchen tends to mess things up. Another characteristic is that they are persistent and have the right attitude to move past what most would consider the ultimate obstacle. They take every challenge as they come and still don't rest till their ideal film is complete. Another thing that makes a good director is that they plan ahead. They're prepared for any unforeseen circumstances taking shape. They have every single detailed planned out in their head and develop a schedule to best succeed. To put it simply, a good director eats, sleeps and breathes their film.

4. Compare and contrast the way Sam Raimi made Evil Dead and the way Tarantino made Reservoir Dogs.

The key difference in how Sam Raimi made Evil Dead and Tarantino made Reservoir Dogs is that Sam Raimi used a short film to influence a group of people to invest in him and his film while Tarantino had a script that was passed around to different people until it reached Harvey Keitel who helped make the movie.