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**Chapter 1 - Intro to Genre - Quiz**

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

The word auteur is defined as an individual/director who, before a single frame is shot, knows every aspect of the story (characters, plot, climax, locations, tones, etc.) he/she is working on. They know exactly, without fail, what message he/she wants to communicate, how it is to be accomplished, and how that message can impact their audience. To such a person, the elements of film are like oxygen with which they cannot survive or thrive without. The realities of the business are cast off and overshadowed by the need to tell a story. In essence, an auteur has no other purpose in life than to turn words on paper into a living, breathing film. This idea was made popular by a famous director and critic named Francois Truffaut. A high school dropout and eventual movie critic, Truffaut was given the nickname “The Gravedigger of French Cinema,” because of his damaging reviews. It didn’t take him long to transition into directing and, for his part, became responsible for some of the most memorable films ever to be produced.

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

Truffaut didn’t seem to suffer without formal training, probably due to his determination and willingness to do whatever it took to get what he wanted. I think it speaks more to his personality than anything else. You have to want to have the drive and the patience to get where you want to go and the passion to not give up. Discipline is very important but, at the same time, you have to have some semblance of a talent or skill present in order to weave a story into a finished product. You have to have vision and the ability to follow it through to the end.

1. Being a good director requires what?

I would imagine that the answer to this question could go on for many a page, however, I will list, in no particular order, some of the most important qualities that a good director should possess. He/she should be a auteur, that is, they should live and breathe both the script and the movie their making. To put it a different way, they must thoroughly understand every aspect of the story they wish to tell. They must have vision and the know-how to accomplish that vision (i.e. genius). He or she should recognize the important concept of tone within a visual piece. The tone of the story must be utilized in every aspect of the intended film. This can be accomplished through the use of camera angles, casting, special effects, music, etc. How accurately the tone of a story is upheld can determine how successful the movie will be. Next, he/she must properly cast the film their working on. A director can have the best script ever written but have the movie bomb because the actor/actress doesn’t deliver the dialogue or action convincingly enough. Determination and patience are a huge factor when developing a film, as is faith and belief in oneself. These are perhaps the most important traits to have. These, more than anything else, are what will keep you motivated to achieve your dreams.

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

Sam Raimi and Quentin Tarantino, both award winning-directors, are well known for the unique style and voice they bring to each of their films. By Hollywood’s standards, they are considered two of the best directors living today. But, despite their present celebrity, Raimi and Tarantino got their start in two very different ways. Raimi, after going through the necessary steps to make a short film version of the *Evil Dead,* sought financial backing from a company to make the actual film. He didn’t know anything about filmmaking, but he was determined to convince investors that he did. Part of the façade included his wardrobe. The old adage, “Dress for the job you want, not the job you have,” comes into play here. Dawning suites and false pride, he and his friends met with investor after investor until they found one that was interested.

Tarantino, on the other hand, who wrote while working in a video rental store, had one of his scripts passed along until it fell into the right hands. Obviously, luck played a major role in his rise to success. However, had he kept it to himself and not given it to a Hollywood player, it and subsequent movies would have never been made and he would not be the mogul he is today.

Their differences aside, Raimi and Tarantino’s outlook is quite similar. They had enough belief in themselves to “go for broke”. They knew what they wanted to do and, though it took time, they never lost sight of their goals. Rejection after rejection, it was their faith, coupled with talent and an unceasing resolve, that propelled them to superstardom.