Casey Pylant

 **Quiz 2**

1. Explain how and why Muybridge shot his first film.

 Originally used to help the Governor of California win a bet in 1872, Muybridge filmed, using a series of photographs projected onto a screen, a running horse. More specifically, he rigged 40 still cameras with tripwire and then projected the images they produced onto a screen. This, of course, was an early predecessor to the single camera method. Interestingly enough, his original method is still used today; for example in the movie *The Matrix*.

1. How did sound synchronization affect the film industry?

In 1926, a device called the Vitaphone was created to accompany a film. The record-like invention contained the sounds of the film and would be played simultaneously with it. *The Jazz Singer* was the first successful use of the Vitaphone. The sound on film method quickly surpassed the previous technique. This system required the film’s soundtrack be placed next to the frames in the film stock. Actors and crew with stage experience were now sought, as films now called for vocal performances. It wasn’t long after this new method was introduced that two new genres, Musicals and mob films, took center stage.

1. What is the significance of the French New Wave?

The French New Wave, or the nouvelle vague, consisted of a group of trailblazing directors, who exploded onto the film scene in the late 1950s; revolutionizing previous cinematic conventions. With an emphasis on re-invigorating the cinematic narrative through substitutional forms of filming, the directors rejected traditional linear types of storytelling and created a new language of film; A more personal, more sincere one. Ignoring the conventional pre-stablished rules for filming, the directors used jump cuts, created montages, established the ideas that the director was the over-all creative force behind the film, and that he/she should use their camera as a writer would use a pen. These ideas allowed the directors creative freedom to personalize their films through personal trademarks or styles. They also introduced the concept of shortening scenes and the notion that the audience doesn’t always need to be shown or told that something has happened. Sometimes, it’s better for the story to just cut to the action. With the French New Wave also came more in the way of camera movement. Before, directors would keep their cameras, for the post part, stationary. Allowing movement of the camera effected the situational space, and therefore the tone, of a film. The development of alternate frame techniques such as freeze-frame, in lieu of close-ups, was also indicative of this movement. They were also the first to break the 4th wall.

1. Define Genre and explain why it is important.

Genre deals with how we differentiate or categorize the kinds of stories that we tell. The two basic forms of genre are comedy and drama. Just as Latin is the bases of most languages, other perceived genres are simply offshoots of the original two. The Greeks not only established the guidelines for genre, but they pioneered a structural blueprint for storytelling.

1. Compare and contrast Drama and Comedy

Both Dramas and Comedies are generally low-concept, character driven films. Similarly, they generally deal with complex moral, religious, or political issues. However similar they may be, they differ a great deal in identifiable ways.

In dramas, emphasis is put on multi-dimensional characters and in-depth character development. Likewise, the audience is treated to larger than life characters dealing with everyday emotional situations. Forced to solve these problems using intense self-reflection and self-realization, the character’s stories are made to mimic the woes of the audience. In this way, the viewer is able to identify and feel for the characters; some even seeing themselves in the character or the struggle. Shakespeare, as well as every culture since, has added to the structure of dramas. Drama, the root genre, is by far the most prevalent genre ever established. With comedies, in contrast to dramas, the writer relies on common place characters, placed in over-the-top humorous situations, to affect the viewing audience. This differs from dramas, because here there is slightly more lee-way with character development because of the level of humor portrayed. As mentioned above, both genres are generally used to put forth some kind of favorable message. In the case of comedies, these messages are seen as more easily deliverable when either preceded or trailed by a joke.

1. Explain why Romance films always show the protagonist going through pain and rejection initially.

Romance films are very popular because they appeal emotionally to their audience. Likewise, they touch on the human need for romantic companionship. The basic storyline for this kind of film is as follows: (1). There is a hate-hate relationship between two characters, (2). The sexual tension becomes palpable, and (3). Through overcoming obstacles together, the relationship develops into a passionate love affair. The main character, a female in most cases, is at first subjected to pain, rejection, self-loathing, and depression in an effort to make the end result, the unyielding love he/she gains, even sweeter than would normally be. Although this idea is repeated in every romance film, the idea that people still flock to see them isn’t surprising.