Gabe Strauss

Film Connection Curriculum

Chapter Two: History of Film

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

Included in motion studies of animals he conducted in 1872, Muybridge took multiple single pictures with 40 still cameras of a horse running from the side, then strung the pictures together and displayed them on a projector to create the moving image.

1. How did sound synchronization affect the film industry?

Cut some careers at the time short when producers looked for directors and actors with stage experience. But sound synchronization also brought about the Golden age of Hollywood, during a time when only a few large studios had the resources necessary to create “talkies”, or films with sound.

1. How and why did the Golden Age of Hollywood end?

The Golden age of Hollywood ended in 1948 when the studio system was challenged by a Supreme Court ruling which dealt with anti-trust laws and separating distributors from producers. This immediately made the studios unable control all of the content that was created.

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

It was more of a documentary style shooting with much less equipment that was portable. This was soon adopted by Hollywood, and allowed for much cheaper production.

1. Define *Genre* and explain why it is important.

Genre is the categorization of art. It is important not only to attract the audience, but also to make the film more relatable and grounded, as relations to other films in said genre will make the audience feel more comfortable.

1. Compare and contrast Drama and Comedy.

Drama is the original genre, whose main focus is to use the emotions of the well-developed characters to drive the story and cause an emotional impact. Comedy’s main focus is to make the audience laugh and forget about the pains of real life. Although drama usually inspires fear and comedy inspires laughter, the best films in both of these genres are told through well developed and relatable characters.

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

They do this to make the love that much sweeter when it is finally attained.