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Film Connection – Producer and Screenwriter Program
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Chapter 2 – History of Film - Quiz

1. Explain how and why Muybridge shot his film.

Muybridge was helping California Governor settle a bet. He took 40 still frame shots (via setting up 40 single still frame cameras connected to trip wires to capture the image) and projected them on a screen running each still together, creating the motion. This method is still in use today.

2. How did sound synchronization affect the film industry?

The major change was creatively creating an opening for the genres of musicals and gangster films. It also was cause for producers to hire mainly theatre folks over former specific screen actors and directors. Though this changed back when it was clear sounds in film wasn't going anywhere.

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

The Golden Era was booming in the 30s and 40s, with WWII having a huge influence with propaganda films. However, with the advent of television as a competitor, movies and the industry changed. Movies became a grander more publicized event. Big name actors and studios, big budgets, and big stories.

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

Primarily the editing and cuts. It was a time and money saver. It allowed for a different point of view in story telling; from the actor and camera's perspective, and broke the mold from the staged studio camera filming and editing. Studios no longer had all the control.

5. Define Genre and why it is Important.

Genre is simply the categorization of an art. The difference between story types and how they are told. It's important to know your genre so you can define yourself in the industry.

6. Compare and contrast Drama and Comedy

Dramas rely heavily upon in-depth characters, interactions, and highly emotional themes. The goal to make the audience cry. Dealing with well-developed characters that must overcome dramatic circumstances through self-reflection or change, often characters an audience can relate to. Drama is the original genre.

Comedies rely on characters that are funny themselves, but also in awkward or difficult, but funny situations. Often based on real life situations with an over-the-top bend. Best comedies are character based and character driven.

7. Explain why Romances are always showing the protagonist going through pain initially.

Romances are important because they appeal to the basic need for companionship. They are highly character driven and always show a rejection first, to make the love that much sweeter. It's the winning formula.