

Film Connection Quiz 2

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

Eadweard Muybridge created motion studies of animals in 1872. This came about because he was helping the Governor of California to settle a bet by filming a running horse. His technique was the first example of using a series of still photographs projected onto a screen; a method that is used to this date. In 1879 he used over 40 still cameras rigged with trip wires to capture images and then ran them together and projected them onto a screen.

2. How did sound synchronization affect the film industry?

During the first three decades of cinema, the technology that was available to filmmakers changed drastically. Of all these changes sound was not popular at first. Many industrialists weren't willing to accept it. This all changed when Warner Bros introduced the Vitaphone system. With sound synchronization becoming popular due to this system, the technique called sound on film was introduced, one that is still used today. This had a huge impact creatively speaking. Producers started hiring actors and directors with a theater background and the gangster and musical genres became prevalent.

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

The Golden Age of Hollywood existed during the decade surrounding WWII. Film noir, fantasy and propaganda films became prevalent during this time for all the countries that were involved in the war. With the war ending much of the films that were popular during that time weren't as appealing later. Also the establishment of the HUAC affected the film industry dramatically due to hundreds of actors, directors and producers becoming blacklisted for their association with communist groups.

4. What is the significance of the French New Wave

The studio system was quite a mess during the '60s because of anti-trust lawsuits from the '40s and HUAC in the '50s. A new style of filmmaking was becoming mainstream due to movies like Dr. Strangelove and Psycho. Essentially because studios were only able to make moneymakers like The Sound of Music there was a lot of room for cheaper independent films to be made that raised the artistic bar for films. The French New Wave was important because these American directors were inspired by the films that were coming out of France and took ideas from them to produce great films that were eventually being distributed by the big studios.

5. Define Genre and explain why it is important.

Simply put genre is the categorization of art. This applies to all forms of art. It is the way to distinguish between story types and the way they are presented. Its important because knowing your genre is the way to define yourself as a filmmaker.

6. Compare and contrast Drama and Comedy

Dramas are based on deep character developments and have very emotional themes. A successful drama should be able to invoke a sense of empathy from the audience for the main character of the film. Scripts of dramas should be well developed with multi faceted characters. Comedies are quite different. They depend on funny characters or normal characters that you could see on daily basis but face over the top kind of situations. Character development isn't as important in comedies as it is in dramas but one should be wary when making a comedy film and not think that it would be okay to have a sloppy bunch of characters.

Dramas and comedies are the original film genres and the rest come from them in one way or another. Both of these genres were developed by the Greeks back in the day.

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

They do this so that at the end when the two main characters unite in love, that love is much more powerful.