

**Visual Thinking: Video**  
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### **Presentations on the Origins of Cinema**

Throughout the semester, you will each give a 15-20 minute presentation on an important film in the history of cinema. We will have one presentation at the beginning of class throughout the semester. **Please email me your first and second choices of category and film by next week, first come first served.** Categories and films are listed below.

### **Your 15-20 minute presentation should include:**

- Brief bio and filmography of the director
- Brief summary of the film's plot and necessary story elements
- Screening and analysis of two important scenes: discuss the "mise-en-scène" -- framing, composition, POV, sets, lighting, acting, costumes, etc.
- Historical and critical analysis: why is this film important within the history of film, and what makes it unique?

### **Categories and Films**

#### **The Invention of Cinema**

- \*Anything by the Lumière brothers
- \*Anything by Georges Méliès, especially *A Trip to the Moon* (1902)

#### **Later Silent Cinema**

- Birth of a Nation* (1913), D. W. Griffith
- \**Intolerance* (1916), D. W. Griffith

#### **German Expressionism**

- \**Das Cabinet des Dr. Caligari* (*The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari*) (1920), Robert Weine
- \**Nosferatu* (1922), F. W. Murnau
- \**Metropolis* (1927), Fritz Lang

#### **Soviet Cinema in the 1920's**

- \**Potemkin* (1925), Sergei Eisenstein
- \**Man with a Movie Camera* (1929), Dziga Vertov

#### **The Hollywood Studio System 1930-1945**

- City Lights* (1931), Charlie Chaplin
- The Great Dictator* (1940), Charlie Chaplin
- \**Modern Times* (1936), Charlie Chaplin
- \**Citizen Kane* (1941), Orson Welles
- 42<sup>nd</sup> Street* (1933), Lloyd Bacon (choreography by Busby Berkeley)

#### **Surrealism and Experimental Films**

- \**Un Chien Andalou* (*An Andalusian Dog*) (1928), Salvador Dalí and Louis Buñuel
- The Seashell and the Clergyman* (1928), Germaine Dulac
- \**Ballet mécanique* (1922), Fernand Léger
- \**Beauty and the Beast* (1945), Jean Cocteau
- Orphée* (*Orpheus*) (1950), Jean Cocteau

### **Cinema and the State: The USSR and Germany 1930-1945**

*The Triumph of the Will* (1935), Leni Riefenstahl

*Olympia* (1938), Leni Riefenstahl

*Ivan the Terrible* (1944), Sergei Eisenstein

### **The French New Wave**

*À bout de souffle (Breathless)* (1950), Jean-Luc Godard

\**The 400 Blows* (1950), François Truffaut

*Jules and Jim* (1962), François Truffaut

### **Asian Cinema**

Anything by Satyajit Ray

Anything by Akira Kurosawa

Anything by Wong Kar Wai

Anything by Takashi Miike

\* = **available from the Fine Arts department**, 5<sup>th</sup> floor 25 East 13<sup>th</sup> St., see Mike Palumbo at the front desk.

All films are available from The New School libraries (check them out like books) or from the Avery Fisher Media Center at Bobst library / NYU (not available for checkout, but can be watched any time in the Media Center). If your film is only available from NYU, you need to watch it in the Media Center, then let me know so that I can check it out for your presentation.

If you would like to present another film from one of these categories that is not listed, let me know. I need to approve it before you can present it.