

# Cineliteracy Workshop Online



## DIFFERENT GENRES OF CINEMA

Mentor: **Prof. Vikas Singh**

Academically- M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D in Films  
Filmmaker, Research Scholar and Academician

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# Film or Cinema or Movies

- What term to use? and where to use?

# Film or Cinema

## **Film:**

- A Product
- Series of moving pictures with proper structure (telling a story).

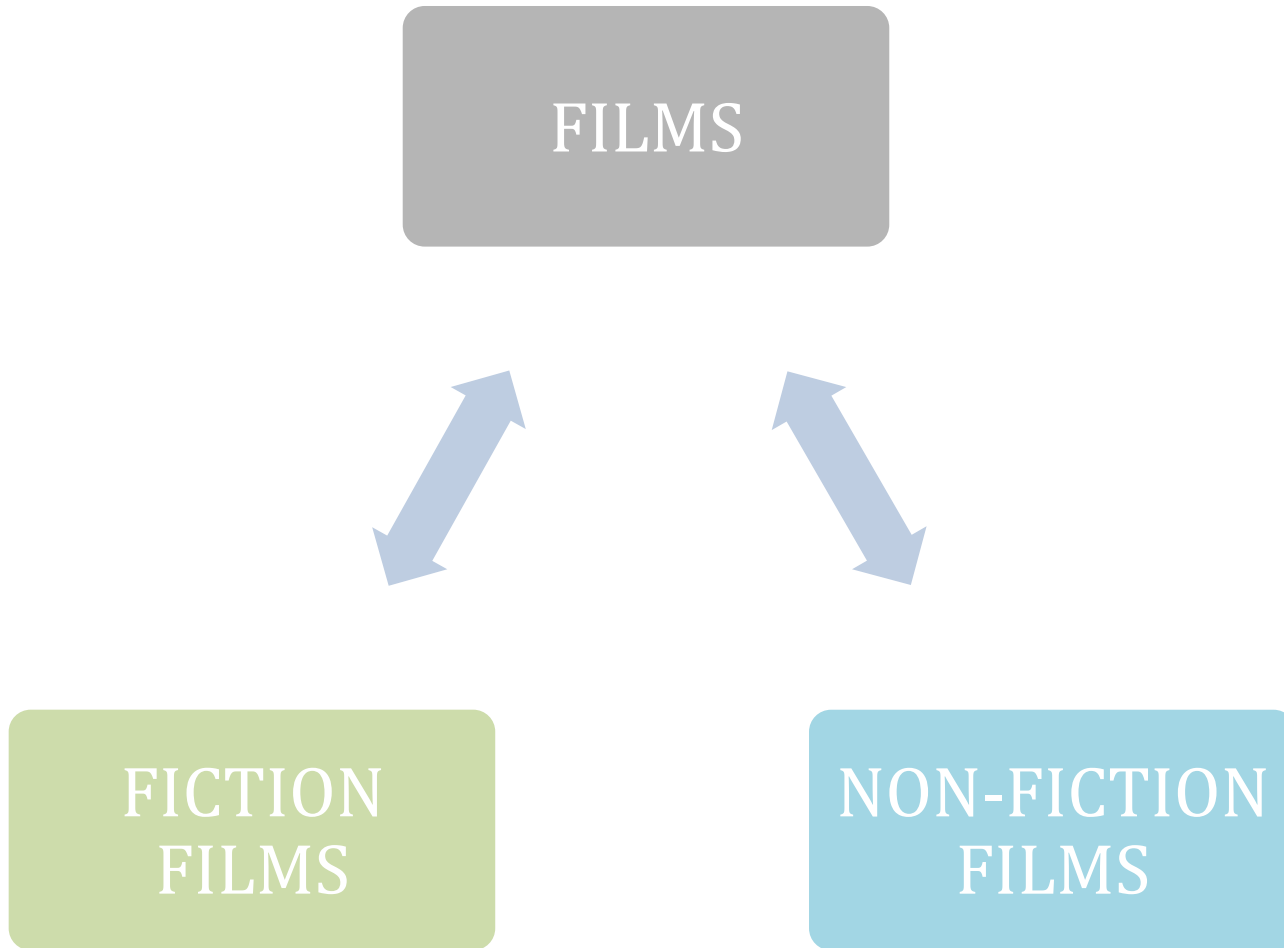
## **Cinema:**

- Group of films  
(Similar 'theme')
- An Industry  
(Process from Idea to Screen to Exhibition)
- **Cinema Hall:** A place/ theater
- **Movie:** Recording of moving images

# Which film will you watch?

- DGC Images 1
- DGC Images 2
- DGC Images 3

# Broad Categories of films



# Fiction v/s Non-Fiction

- **Fiction** refers to plot, settings, and characters created from the imagination  
“imagination”  
Purpose- to entertain
- **Non-fiction** refers to factual **stories** focused on actual events and people  
“fact”  
Purpose- to inform, to educate.

# Birth & Evolution of Films

- A Quick Review

# Origin & Growth

- Birth and Origin of Films (in general)
  - 1) **Persistence of Vision** (in films 1895)
  - 2) **Zoetrope** (a Chinese Toy)
  - 3) **Series of Photography** (Eadweard Muybridge)- 1878
  - 4) **Lumiere Brothers** (Auguste & Louis)- 1895-1905
  - 5) **George Melies**
  - 6) **D.W. Griffith**

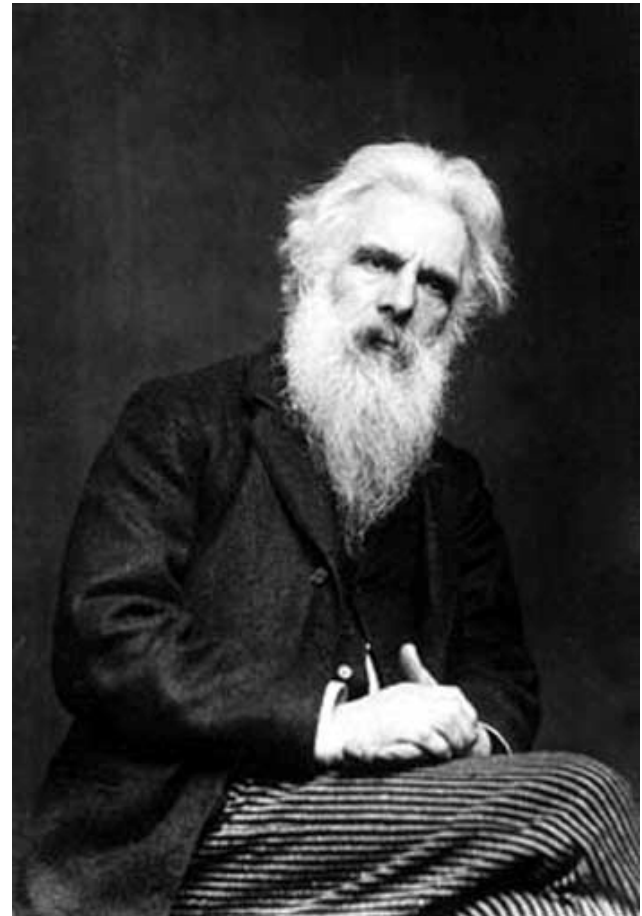


# Zoetrope



# Series of Photography

Eadweard Muybridge- 1878



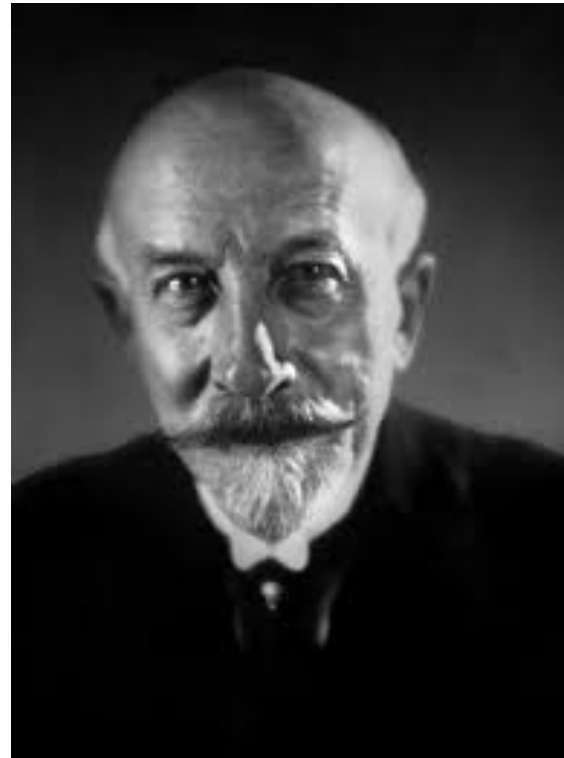
# Auguste & Louis Lumiere



- **Lumière brothers**, French inventors and pioneer manufacturers of photographic equipment who devised an early motion-picture camera and projector called the Cinématographe (“cinema” is derived from this name).
- 1895-1905
- Arrival of a Train
- Workers leaving the lumiere factory

# George Melies

- Dissolve
- Trick Camera
- Multiple Exposure



# D.W. Griffith + Biograph Company

- As Director in 1906 with Biograph
- 100 Short Films
- First Film- The Adventures of Dollie (1908)- 12 min.
- Implementation:
  - 1) Narrative Structure of a film
  - 2) Inter cuts or Cross-cutting
  - 3) Flashback
  - 4) Fade in/Fade out
  - 5) Interposition of CLOSEUPS within a scene
  - 6) Moderated Acting styles for films

- **The Birth of a Nation** (1915, D.W. Griffith)
  - 3 hours+ approx.
  - 100,000 dollars (Budget)
  - 100,000 million (Box Office)
  - Assassination of Abraham Lincoln and Reconstruction
  - Controversy
- **Intolerance** (1916, D.W. Griffith)
  - 3.5 hours
  
  - Four Storyline
    - I. A contemporary melodrama of crime & redemption
    - II. A Judean story: Christ's mission & death
    - III. A French story: St. Bartholomew's Day massacre (1572)
    - IV. A Babylonian Empire's fall (539 BC)

# FIRST FILM SCHOOL IN THE WORLD

- VGIK, aka The Moscow Film School
- Gerasimov Institute of Cinematography
- All-Russian State University of Cinematography named after S. A. Gerasimov), a.k.a. VGIK



- 1919 by the film director Vladimir Gardin as the Moscow Film School and is the oldest film school in the world.
- Since 1986, the school has been named after the film director and actor Sergei Gerasimov.
- A full member of the international CILECT network of film schools, the Institute became a university in 2008.

# *Man with a Movie Camera* (1929, Dziga Vertov)

## cinematic techniques

- multiple exposure,
- fast motion,
- slow motion,
- freeze frames,
- match cuts,
- jump cuts,
- split screens,
- Dutch angles,
- extreme close-ups,
- tracking shots,
- reversed footage,
- stop motion animations and
- self-reflexive visuals

# Different Genres of Cinema (Fiction Films)

## Definition

*stylistic or thematic classification for films based on similarities either in the narrative elements, aesthetic approach, or the emotional response to the film.*

## Elements

**Story (Action) + Plot + Character + Setting  
= Genre**

# Different Genres

- Sci-Fi
- Comedy Films
- Action Films
- Biographical Films ("Biopics")
- Historical Films
- Melodrama Films
- Horror Films
- Drama Films
- Romance Films
- Detective & Mystery Films
- Sports Films
- Superhero Films
- Fantasy Films
- Thriller-Suspense Films

# Significance of Film Genre

- Deciding factor for **audience**
- Very first thing for a **film writer or filmmaker**
- Keeps the **film's visual narrative structure** secured and confined and maintaining the artistic and technical elements of the film

# Deciding Factor for Audience

What makes you decide whether you are going to watch any particular film or not?

- Poster of the film
- Trailer of the film

# Poster of the film

- features illustrations (visual explanation) of a film scene or systematic arrangement of covers the images from several scenes
- uses artistic interpretations of a scene or even the theme of the film, represented in a wide variety of artistic styles.

# Trailer of the film

- Trailers consist of a series of selected artistic shots from the film depicting the film's theme
- the purpose of the trailer is to attract an audience to the film



# Very first thing for a film writer or filmmaker

## DEVELOPMENT & PRE-PRODUCTION STAGE

### Paperwork/Documents

- Genre
- Subject
- Concept
- Idea
- Synopsis
- Story
- Script
- Screenplay
- Shot-Division
- Shooting Script
- Storyboarding

# Keeps the film's visual narrative structure secured and confined

## THREE-ACT STRUCTURE (by Syd Field)

- ACT- I (Beginning/SET-UP)
  1. Introduction of the subject
  2. Ambience & Mood of the story
  3. Hint of the problem of the subject
  4. Plot
- ACT- II (Middle/CONFRONTATION)
  5. Conflicts & Tension- Culmination-I
  6. Mentor
- ACT- III (End/RESOLUTION)
  7. Sense of relief
  8. Climax- Culmination- II
  9. Film Ends

# Maintaining the artistic and technical elements

## Mise-en-scene

- Placing/putting into the scene
- Arrangements of the important elements
  - Character, emotions, expressions, blocking
  - Make-up & Costume
  - Setting- ambiance/location/properties/Art Direction
  - Camera & Lighting
  - Editing & Sound & SFX or VFX

# Sum Up

- Film genres are various forms or identifiable types, categories, classifications or groups of films.
- Genre comes from the French word meaning "kind," "category," or "type".
- Genres provide a convenient way for scriptwriters and film-makers to produce, cast and structure their narratives within a manageable, well-defined framework (to speak a common 'language').
- Genres also offer the studios an easily 'marketable' product, and give audiences satisfying, expected and predictable choices

# Components of Film Genre

1. The creation of a

- characteristic **SETTING** or **PERIOD**:
- - modern day
- - specific decade or year
- - historical or fictional
- - urban/rural, etc.
- with various stereotypes, props, or icons

## 2. The use of **CHARACTERS**

3. The use of **REPRESENTATIVE CONTENT**  
and **SUBJECT MATTER:**  
(the storyline, themes, narrative or plot)

- The use of **FILMING TECHNIQUES AND FORMATS**

- camera angles (use of low and high angles) and shooting style (hand-held or stationary, POV, or 'found footage')
- lighting (high-key, or low/dark lighting)
- the style of editing (length of edits, use of jump cuts)
- color schemes
- make-up and costuming (use of blood, masks, special effects)



- 5. The use of **MUSIC AND AUDIO**:
  - to enhance or emphasize various characteristics
  - to advance the plot
  - to create a mood or atmosphere (danger, adventure, laughter, fear, sensual, excitement)
- Romance or Comedy: upbeat
- Horror: foreboding (a strong feeling of danger/trouble), eerie (strange/frightening)
- Drama: depressing, dramatic
- Sci-Fi: other-worldly

Thank You!

Q & A

# Assignment 1

- Choose your five favourite film posters and describe their "**Genre**" with few words of description (50 words minimum).

Email id: vikasingh82@gmail.com

- **DATE OF SUBMISSION AND DISCUSSION: 25 May 2021**