

LIVES OF SOME GREAT FILM DIRECTORS

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INTRODUCTION

Human history as cultural history

We need to reform our teaching of history so that the emphasis will be placed on the gradual growth of human culture and knowledge, a growth to which all nations and ethnic groups have contributed. In fact, the millennia-long accumulation of knowledge and culture is a much more important part of human history than the wars and power struggles of rulers and national governments.

Against nationalism

Today, in an era of all-destroying nuclear weapons, instantaneous global communication and worldwide economic interdependence, nationalism has become a dangerous anachronism. History, as it is taught today, is centered on the country where it is being taught. Our own country is the most important. Our own country is always in the right, according to nationalist historians. Patriotic soldiers and generals are exalted. It is sweet and noble to die for one's country. But today, war has become prohibitively dangerous. Unless we rid the world of nuclear weapons, the end of human civilization and much of the biosphere is just around the corner.

Cultural history can be seen as an antidote for nationalism. It allows us to take a wider view of the world, where cooperation is more important than conflict, and where the contributions of all nations, cultures and ethnic groups are recognized.

Other books on cultural history

This book is part of a series on cultural history. Here is a list of the other books in the series that have, until now, been completed:

- Lives of Some Great Dramatists
- Lives in the Ancient World
- Lives in the Middle Ages
- Lives in the Renaissance
- Lives in the 17th Century
- Lives in the 18th Century

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- Lives in Physics
- Lives in Economics
- Lives in the Peace Movement

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Chapter 1

JEAN RENOIR 1894-1979

Jean Renoir's early life

Jean Renoir was the son of the famous French painter, Pierre-Auguste Renoir. He was born in the Paris district of Montmartre. He was largely raised by his mother's cousin, Gabrielle Renard, who was his nanny. She awakened his interest in drama by showing him the Guignol puppet shows in Montmartre and taking him to the cinema at an early age. In his 1974 memoirs *My Life and My Films*, Jean Renoir wrote, "She taught me to see the face behind the mask and the fraud behind the flourishes. She taught me to detest the cliché."

Selling his father's paintings to finance his films

Jean Renoir's early silent films did not produce enough revenue to pay for themselves, so he was reduced to selling paintings that he had inherited from his father to produce new films.

Renoir finally achieves national and international fame

Starting in the 1930's Jean Renoir achieved great success, both at home in France and internationally. His 1937 film, *La Grande Illusion* was an enormous success. It was banned in Germany, and later also in Italy, but today it is considered to be one of the greatest films of all time.



Figure 1.1: The young Jean Renoir with Gabrielle Renard in a painting by his father Pierre-Auguste Renoir (1895-96).



Figure 1.2: Jean Renoir in middle age.

1.1 La Grande Illusion (1937)

La Grand Illusion is a French war film, directed by Jean Renoir, and Co-written by Jean Renoir and Charles Spaak. The title is taken from the 1909 book, *The Great Illusion* by the British author and pacifist, Sir Norman Angell, winner of a Nobel Peace Prize.

The film deals with class relationships between French prisoners of war and their captors. German and French aristocrats bond together, although they are on different sides in the war.

La Grande Illusion is considered to be one of the greatest films in the history of cinema.

1.2 The Rules of the Game (1939)

La règle de jeu or, in English, *The Rules of the Game*, is a satirical comedy of manners, depicting the hard-heartedness of the French upper class on the eve of World War II. It was directed by Jean Renoir, and co-written by Renoir and Carl Koch. The film had a very large budget for the time, 5,500,500 francs, and the filming introduced many technical innovations.

The first release of the film was a disaster. It was rejected by the public and the critics alike, and during World War II it was banned. Nevertheless, over time, the reputation of *La règle de jeu* has grown, and it is now considered to be one of the great films in cinematic history.

All of Jean Renoir's films. English names are given where available

1. The Whirlpool of Fate (1925)
2. Nana (1926)
3. Catherine ou Une vie sans joie (1927)
4. The Little Match Girl (1928)
5. The Sad Sack (1928)
6. The Tournament (1928)
7. On purge bébé (1931)
8. La chienne (1931)
9. Night at the Crossroads (1932)
10. Boudu Saved from Drowning (1932)
11. Chotard and Company (1933)
12. Madame Bovary (1934)
13. Toni (1935)
14. The Crime of Monsieur Lange (1936)
15. The Lower Depths (1936)
16. Grand Illusion (1937)

17. La Marsaillaise (1938)
18. La bete humaine (1938)
19. Swamp Water (1941)
20. This Land Is Mine (1943)
21. The Southerner (1945)
22. The Diary of a Chambermaid (1946)
23. A Day in the Country (1946)
24. The Woman on the Beach (1947)
25. The River (1951)
26. The Golden Coach (1952)
27. French Cancan (1955)
28. Elena and Her Men (1956)
29. The Doctor's Horrible Experiment (1959)
30. Picnic on the Grass (1959)
31. The Elusive Corporal (1962)
32. The Little Theatre of Jean Renoir (1970)

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Chapter 2

JOHN FORD 1894-1973

The son of Irish immigrants

The famous film director John Ford was born in 1894, the son of two Irish immigrants to the United States. Ford's original name was John Martin Feeney, an Irish name. He was one of eleven children.

Feeney moves to California and becomes John Ford

After attending a local high school in Portland Maine, John Martin Feeney moved to California, where his older brother Francis was already involved in the film industry. He adopted the name John or Jack Ford when he started work as an actor in various films, such as D.W. Griffith's film, *The Birth of a Nation*. He also became involved in film production.

John Ford as a director

John Ford's older brother, Francis, 12 years his senior, was extremely talented. He acted in hundreds of silent films for filmmakers such as Thomas Edison, and eventually became a prominent actor-writer-director, with his own production company. John Ford started working for his brother, and finally became his chief assistant. As Francis began to decline, John Ford began his career as a director. He directed more than 140 films over 50 years. However many of his silent films are lost.



Figure 2.1: John Ford in 1915.



Figure 2.2: Victor McLaglen as “Gypo” in *The Informer* (1935).



Figure 2.3: Henry Fonda as Tom Joad.

2.1 The Informer (1935)

The Informer, directed by John Ford tells the story of the of a slow-witted man nicknamed “Gypo” who betrays an Irish Republican Army agent for the sake of a 20 pound reward. Gypo originally intended to use the money for passage to America for himself and his girlfriend, but instead squanders it foolishly, thus attracting suspicion of IRA members who believe him to be the informer. Gypo is tried in a kangaroo court, confesses, and is shot. The film won four Academy Awards.

2.2 The Grapes of Wrath (1940)

The Grapes of Wrath (1940) is a film, directed by John Ford, and based on the novel of the same name by John Steinbeck. It tells the story of the Joad family, forced to leave their dust bowl farm. They travel to California hoping for a better life. The journey is arduous, and the elderly grandfather dies along the way. When they reach California, their hopes for a better life are disappointed. They are exploited by greedy landowners, and persecuted by law enforcement officers. Nevertheless, they somehow manage to survive. The film stars Henry Fonda as the head of the family, Tom Joad.

The film is widely considered to be among the greatest in the history of cinema.

All of John Ford's films

1. The Tornado (1917)
2. The Trail of Hate (1917)
3. The Scrapper (1917)
4. The Soul Herder (aka The Sky Pilot) (1917)
5. Straight Shooting (1917)
6. The Secret Man (1917)
7. A Marked Man (1917)
8. Cheyenne's Pal (1917)
9. Bucking Broadway (1917)
10. The Phantom Riders (1918)
11. Wild Women (1918)
12. Thieves' Gold (1918)
13. The Scarlet Drop (1918)
14. Hell Bent (1918)
15. A Woman's Fool (1918)
16. Three Mounted Men (1918)
17. Roped (1919)
18. The Fighting Brothers (1919)
19. A Fight for Love (1919)
20. Rustlers (1919)
21. Bare Fists (1919)
22. Gun Law (1919)
23. The Gun Packer (1919)
24. By Indian Post (1919)
25. Riders of Vengeance (1919)
26. The Last Outlaw (1919)
27. The Outcasts of Poker Flat (1919)
28. Ace of the Saddle (1919)
29. Rider of the Law (1919)
30. A Gun Fightin' Gentleman (1919)
31. Marked Men (1919)
32. The Prince of Avenue A (1920)
33. The Girl in Number 29 (1920)
34. Hitchin' Posts (1920)
35. Just Pals (1920)
36. The Big Punch (1921)
37. The Freeze-Out (1921)
38. The Wallop (1921)
39. Desperate Trails (1921)

40. Action (1921)
41. Sure Fire (1921)
42. Jackie (1921)
43. Little Miss Smiles (1922)
44. Silver Wings (1922)
45. The Village Blacksmith (1922)
46. The Face on the Bar-Room Floor (1923)
47. Three Jumps Ahead (1923)
48. Cameo Kirby (1923)
49. North of Hudson Bay (1923)
50. Hoodman Blind (1923)
51. The Iron Horse (1924)
52. Hearts of Oak (1924)
53. Lightnin' (1925)
54. Kentucky Pride (1925)
55. Thank You (1925)
56. The Fighting Heart (1925)
57. The Shamrock Handicap (1926)
58. 3 Bad Men (1926)
59. The Blue Eagle (1926)
60. Upstream (1927)
61. Mother Machree (1928)
62. Four Sons (1928)
63. Hangman's House (1928)
64. Napoleon's Barber (1928)
65. Riley the Cop (1928)
66. Strong Boy (1929)
67. The Black Watch (1929)
68. Salute (1929)
69. Men Without Women (1930)
70. Born Reckless (1930)
71. Up the River (1930)
72. Seas Beneath (1930)
73. The Brat (1931)
74. Arrowsmith (1931)
75. Air Mail (1932)
76. Flesh (1932)
77. Pilgrimage (1933)
78. Doctor Bull (1933)
79. The Lost Patrol (1934)
80. The World Moves On (1934)
81. Judge Priest (1934)
82. The Whole Town's Talking (1935)

83. The Informer (1935)
84. Steamboat Round the Bend (1935)
85. The Prisoner of Shark Island (1936)
86. Mary of Scotland (1936)
87. The Plough and the Stars (1936)
88. Wee Willie Winkie (1937)
89. The Hurricane (1937)
90. Four Men and a Prayer (1938)
91. Submarine Patro (1938)
92. Stagecoach (1939)
93. Young Mr. Lincoln (1939)
94. Drums Along the Mohawk (1939)
95. The Grapes of Wrath (1940)
96. The Long Voyage Home (1940)
97. Tobacco Road (1941)
98. How Green Was My Valley (1941)
99. Sex Hygiene (1942)
100. The Battle of Midway (1942)
101. Torpedo Squadron (1942)
102. December 7th (1943)
103. We Sail at Midnight (1943)
104. How to Operate Behind Enemy Lines (1943)
105. They Were Expendable (1945)
106. My Darling Clementine (1946)
107. The Fugitive (1947)
108. Fort Apache (1948)
109. 3 Godfathers (1948)
110. She Wore a Yellow Ribbon (1949)
111. When Willie Comes Marching Home (1950)
112. Wagon Master (1950)
113. Rio Grande (1950)
114. This is Korea! (1951)
115. The Quiet Man (1952)
116. What Price Glory (1952)
117. The Sun Shines Bright (1953)
118. Mogambo (1953)
119. The Long Gray Line (1955)
120. The Red, White, and Blue Line (1955)
121. Mister Roberts (1955)
122. The Searchers (1956)
123. The Wings of Eagles (1957)
124. The Growler Story (1957)
125. The Rising of the Moon (1957)

126. *The Last Hurrah* (1958)
127. *Gideon's Day* (US title: *Gideon of Scotland Yard*) (1958)
128. *The Horse Soldiers* (1958)
129. *Sergeant Rutledge* (1958)
130. *Sergeant Rutledge* (1960)
131. *Two Rode Together* (1961)
132. *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance* (1962)
133. *How the West Was Won* (1962)
134. *Donovan's Reef* (1963)
135. *Cheyenne Autumn* (1964)
136. *7 Women* (1966)
137. *Chesty: A Tribute to a Legend* (1970)

Suggestions for further reading

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Chapter 3

FRANK CAPRA 1897-1991

Capra's early life

Francesco Rosario Capra was born in a small Sicilian village near to Palermo. When he was five years old, his family emigrated to America, taking a steerage passage. Capra later remembered it as a terrible experience: "You're all together - you have no privacy. You have a cot. Very few people have trunks or anything that takes up space. They have just what they can carry in their hands or in a bag. Nobody takes their clothes off. There's no ventilation, and it stinks like hell. They're all miserable. It's the most degrading place you could ever be."

Education as an engineer

Capra's family settled in Los Angeles, in what he described as "an Italian Ghetto". While growing up, Capra sold newspapers after school. After he graduated from high school, his family wanted him to start working, but instead he enrolled in the California Institute of Technology, where he studied engineering and paid for himself by playing banjo at nightclubs, and taking odd jobs. He wrote later that his education "changed his whole viewpoint on life from the viewpoint of an alley rat to the viewpoint of a cultured person".

Capra's career in films

During Capra's career as a film director, sound began to be introduced. Many directors thought (or hoped) that the addition of sound to films was just a fad, and that it would go away. However, Capra recognized at once the great importance of sound in films, and because of his education as an engineer, he was much better able to use the new technology than other directors.



Figure 3.1: A portrait photo of Frank Capra.



Figure 3.2: A frame from the trailer of *It Happened One Night*.



Figure 3.3: Original poster for the 1938 American film, *You Can't Take It With You*.



Figure 3.4: James Stewart and Jean Arthur in *You Can't Take It With You*.



Figure 3.5: George Bailey (James Stewart), Mary Bailey (Donna Reed), and their youngest daughter Zuzu (Karolyn Grimes) in *It's a Wonderful Life*.

3.1 It Happened One Night (1934)

It Happened One Night is a 1935 film directed by Frank Capra. It tells the story of Ellie, the spoiled daughter of an immensely rich father. She wishes to marry a pilot and fortune hunter named Westerly, whom Ellie's father judges to be interested only in Ellie's money. Ellie runs away, intending to marry Westerly, but on the way she meets a recently-fired reporter, Peter, who gives her a choice: Either she will give him exclusive rights to her story, and he will help her, or else he will inform her father of her whereabouts. She chooses the first option, and during their travels, they fall in love. Ellie meets with Westerly, and is about to be married to him, but changes her mind, abandons him at the altar, and goes off with Peter.

In the film, the role of Ellie is played by Claudette Colbert, while Peter is played by Clark Gable. They both won Academy Awards for their performances as Best Actress and Best Actor respectively. Frank Capra won an Oscar too, as Best Director. The film also won two additional Academy Awards, for Outstanding Production, and for Best Adaptation, making a total of five.

3.2 You Can't Take It With You (1939)

You Can't Take It With You is a 1939 film, directed by Frank Capra. The plot involves the engagement of Tony Kirby (played by James Stuart), the son of a very wealthy family, to Alice Vanderhof (played by Jean Arthur), the only normal member of a less wealthy and very eccentric family. Love triumphs in the end, because, as Grandpa Vanderhof says, money isn't everything, "You can't take it with you!"

The film won two Academy Awards, Best Director, for Frank Capra, and Best Picture. It was nominated for five other Academy Awards.

3.3 It's a Wonderful Life (1946)

It's a Wonderful Life is a 1946 film, directed by Frank Capra, and starring James Stewart, Donna Reed and Lionel Barrymore. The film is about George Bailey (played by Stewart) who contemplates suicide on Christmas eve, convinced that his life has been a failure. He is saved by his guardian angel, who shows him his life, and also what would have happened if he had not been there to save others. George realizes that his life has not been a failure after all.

Although rejected by both audiences and critics on its initial release, *It's a Wonderful Life* grew in popularity and critical acclaim over the years. The film has now become a beloved classic, and it is broadcast on television at Christmas every year.

All of Frank Capra's films

1. La Visita Dell'Incrociatore Italiano Libya a San Francisco (1921)
2. Fultah Fisher's Boarding House (1922)
3. The Strong Man (1926)
4. Long Pants (1927)
5. For the Love of Mike (1927)
6. That Certain Thing (1928)
7. So This Is Love? (1928)
8. The Matinee Idol (1928)
9. The Way of the Strong (1928)
10. Say It with Sables (1928)
11. Submarine (1928)
12. The Power of the Press (1928)
13. The Younger Generation (1929)
14. The Donovan Affair (1929)
15. Flight (1929)
16. Ladies of Leisure (1930)
17. Rain or Shine (1930)
18. Dirigible (1931)
19. The Miracle Woman (1931)
20. Platinum Blonde (1931)
21. Forbidden (1932)
22. American Madness (1932)
23. 1The Bitter Tea of General Yen (1933)
24. Lady for a Day (1933)
25. It Happened One Night (1934)
26. Broadway Bill (1934)
27. Mr. Deeds Goes to Town (1936)
28. Lost Horizon (1937)
29. You Can't Take It With You (1938)
30. Mr. Smith Goes to Washington (1939)
31. Meet John Doe (1941)
32. Arsenic and Old Lace (1944)
33. It's a Wonderful Life (1946)
34. State of the Union (1948)
35. Riding High (1950)
36. Here Comes the Groom (1951)
37. Our Mr. Sun (1956)
38. Hemo the Magnificent (1957)
39. The Strange Case of the Cosmic Rays (1957)
40. A Hole in the Head (1959)
41. Pocketful of Miracles (1961)

Suggestions for further reading

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Chapter 4

SERGEI EISENSTEIN 1898-1948

Eisenstein's family and early life

Sergei Eisenstein was born in 1898 in Riga, Latvia, which was then a part of the Russian Empire. His father, Mikhail Osipovich Eisenstein, was a successful half-Jewish and half-Swedish architect, while his mother came from a prosperous merchant family. Sergei Eisenstein at first followed in his father's footsteps and studied architecture and engineering at the Petrograd Institute of Civil Engineering. However, in 1918, he left the school and joined the Russian revolutionary army. Later he had success in providing propaganda for the revolution.

Early work in theatre and film

In 1920, Eisenstein moved to Moscow, and began theatre work with Proletcult, an experimental Soviet project to provide art and culture for the proletariat. After a number of productions for the theatre, he made his first film, *Glumov's Diary* (1923).

Travels in the United States and Mexico

As Eisenstein's fame as a film maker grew, he was given the opportunity to visit Europe and the United States. He visited Europe for two years, 1928 and 1929. In 1930 he travelled to Hollywood, where Paramount proposed that he should make a film version of Theodore Dreiser's *An American Tragedy*. However, Eisenstein came under attack from Major Pease, president of the Hollywood Technical Director's Institute. Pease, an virulent anti-communist, and the project had to be dropped.

Eisenstein had long been fascinated with the culture of Mexico. Thus when his film projects in Hollywood came to nothing he and his entourage traveled to Mexico, where they met Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera. Eisenstein began to make a film with the title *Que viva México!*. However, before the filming was complete, Stalin insisted that Eisenstein should return to the Soviet Union. Arriving there, Eisenstein made his historical film *Alexander Nevsky*, which contained implied warnings of a German invasion.



Figure 4.1: Young Sergei with his parents Mikhail and Julia Eisenstein.



Figure 4.2: Sergei Eisenstein.



Figure 4.3: Eisenstein in 1939.



Figure 4.4: The actor Nikolay Cherkasov as Prince Alexander Nevsky in Eisenstein's *Alexander Nevsky* (1938).

4.1 Battleship Potemkin (1925)

Eisenstein's film, *Battleship Potemkin*, is about a real event, the revolt of sailors against their officers on the Potemkin, at the start of the Russian Revolution in 1905. The Potemkin was stationed in Odessa, a port on the Black Sea. The meat to be used in making borscht was full of maggots, but the ship's doctor insisted that it would be fit for human consumption when cooked. A number of sailors refused to eat the maggot-filled meat, and they were sentenced to be shot for insubordination. However, the sailors in the firing squad, instead of shooting their comrades, turned on the ship's officers and quickly took over the Potemkin. Authorities in the Czarist regime reacted to the revolt by sending a number of other ships to punish the revolt, but the sailors on these ships also joined the growing revolution.

These events really took place, but Eisenstein's film is far from being a documentary. It is carefully designed at every point to maximize the viewer's sympathy with the revolutionaries and the viewer's hatred for the oppressors. To achieve this propagandist goal, Eisenstein even distorts the truth. In one dramatic scene, Czarist troops advance down a long flight of steps in Odessa, firing into a crowd of protesters, and killing hundreds. But this never happened on the Odessa steps, although there were other cases where hundreds of protesters were shot by Czarist troops.

Battleship Potemkin was made as a silent black-and-white film in 1925, but in 1930, sound was added. The film is considered to be one of the greatest of all time.

4.2 Alexander Nevsky (1938)

Sergei Eisenstein's film, *Alexander Nevsky* was made in 1938, a time when Stalin was in power in Russia, and a time when Russia was threatened by an invasion by Nazi Germany. The film depicts an invasion of Russia by the forces of the German Teutonic Knights which took place in the 13th Century. The hero of the film, Prince Alexander Nevsky (1220-1263) rallies the people of Novgorod to resist the German invasion. The climax of the film is a battle on the ice of the frozen Lake Chudskoe, in which the forces of the Teutonic Knights are defeated.

The music for the film was composed by Sergei Prokofiev, and it is considered to be the best film score ever written. The film itself is ranked among the 100 best in cinematic history.

All of Sergei Eisenstein's films

1. Glumov's Diary (1923)
2. Strike (1925)
3. Battleship Potemkin (1925)

4. October: Ten Days That Shook the World (1928)
5. The General Line (1929)
6. Women's Misery - Women's Happiness (1929)
7. Romance sentimentale (1930)
8. El Desastre en Oaxaca (1931)
9. Alexander Nevsky (1938)
10. Ivan the Terrible, Part I (1944)
11. Ivan the Terrible, Part II (1958)

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15. Sergei Eisenstein *Correspondence with Theodore Dreiser, 1931-1941 (9 letters) is housed at the Rare Book and Manuscript Library at the University of Pennsylvania.*

Chapter 5

CHARLIE CHAPLIN 1889-1977

Chaplin's early life

Charlie Chaplin was born in London in 1889. Both of his parents were vaudeville stage performers. But when Chaplin was a young boy, his father deserted the family. His mother struggled to support her children, but the family experienced extreme poverty and hardship. When Charlie Chaplin was 14, his mother became insane, and was committed to a mental institution.

Charlie Chaplin began to appear on the stage at a very early age. He was so successful that by the time he was 19, he was an established actor. He signed a contract with the Fred Karno company, which took him to the United States.

In the United States

While Charlie Chaplin was on tour in the United States, he was scouted by the Keystone studios. He appeared in many short silent films, and soon developed his Tramp character, which won him a large fan base. Finally he became so popular that he was given his own studio United Artists, to develop and distribute his films.

The most famous man in the world

By 1918, Charlie Chaplin had become one of the most widely known people in the world. He continued to develop his craft, and produced the great films for which he is famous. Chaplin resisted introducing sound in his films, but finally used it in *The Great Dictator*. No one has had a greater influence on the development of cinema as an art form.

Accused of Communism, Chaplin was not allowed to return to the United States after a trip abroad. He settled in Switzerland with his wife, Oona, and his large family. He was knighted by the British government, and became Sir Charles Spencer Chaplin, KBE - an almost incredible rags-to-riches story.



Figure 5.1: *A Dog's Life* (1918). It was around this time that Chaplin began to conceive the Tramp as a sad clown.



Figure 5.2: *The Kid* (1921), with Jackie Coogan, combined comedy with drama and was Chaplin's first film to exceed an hour.



Figure 5.3: The Tramp resorts to eating his boot in *The Gold Rush* (1925).

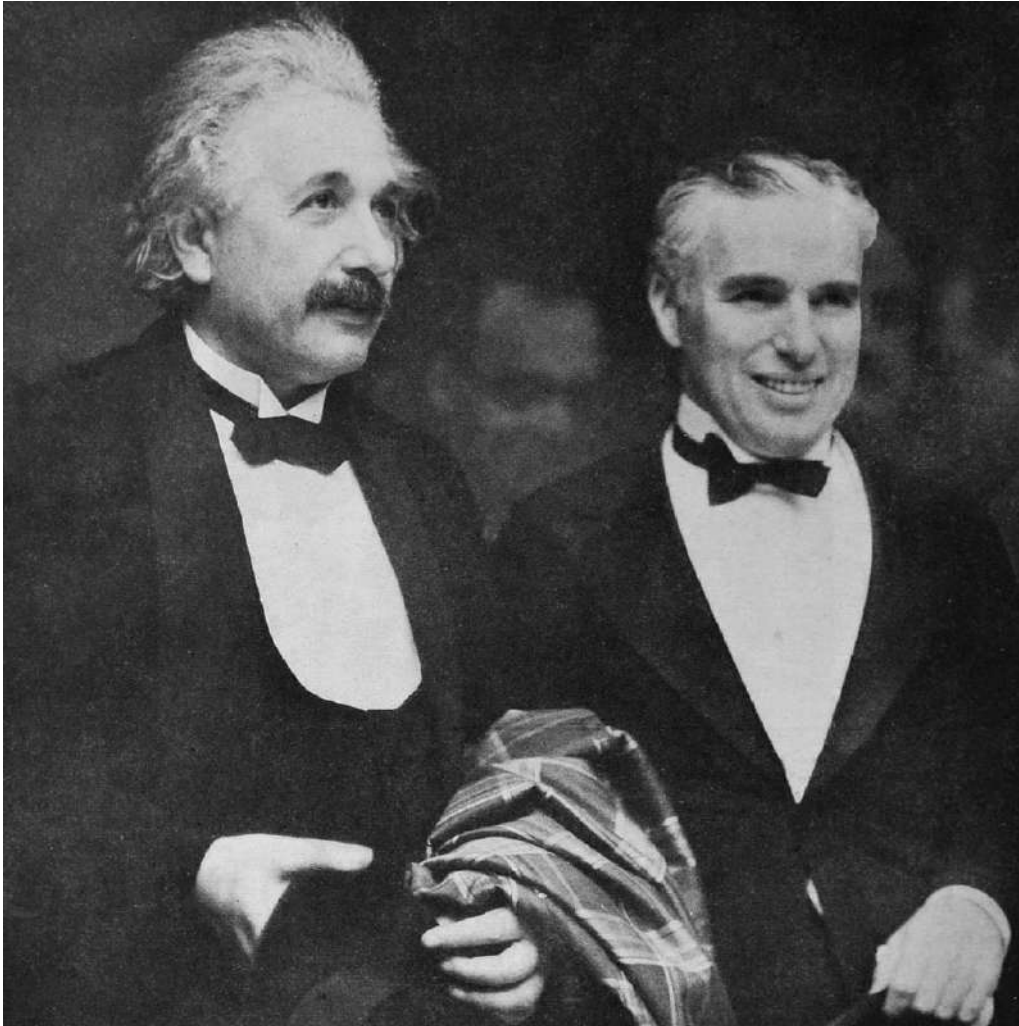


Figure 5.4: Charlie Chaplin with Albert Einstein at the premiere of *City Lights*.



Figure 5.5: The Tramp meets the Blind Flower Girl and falls in love in *City Lights*.



Figure 5.6: Chaplin with his fourth and last wife, Oona, and six of their children in 1961. She was the daughter of the Nobel laureate dramatist, Eugene O'Neill. The marriage was a very happy one.

5.1 The Gold Rush (1925)

In Charlie Chaplin's silent film *The Gold Rush*, the little tramp character, played by Chaplin, becomes a gold prospector in Alaska. In his Prospector role, Chaplin seeks shelter from a blizzard in a cabin which is also occupied by Big Jim and by the criminal, Black Larsen. The blizzard lasts so long that the three become mad with hunger, and are reduced to cooking and eating the Prospector's shoe. Big Jim becomes delirious and imagines the Prospector to be an enormous chicken, which he tries to eat. The three draw lots to see who shall go out to look for food. Black Larsen loses. and the Prospector is left in the cabin with Big Jim. A bear enters the cabin and is killed, thus finally providing food.

Later, Big Jim, who has discovered a huge gold deposit, is knocked out by Black Larsen. Black Larsen is later killed by an avalanche, while Big Jim has lost his memory from Black Larsen's blow. He remembers that his gold find was near to a cabin, and he recruits the Prospector's help in finding the cabin. When they find it together, Big Jim shares his wealth with the Prospector (Charlie Chaplin's tramp figure). The film also has a love story, involving a dance hall girl called Georgia, with whom the Prospector falls in love.

The Gold Rush was both a commercial and critical success and Charlie Chaplin said that it was the film by which he wanted to be remembered.

5.2 City Lights (1931)

Charlie Chaplin's film, *City Lights*, was made in 1931, four years after the end of the silent era. Nevertheless, Chaplin defiantly chose to produce it as a silent film. However, he composed the background music for *City Lights*, and this was synchronized with the action of the film. The plot concerns a romance between Chaplin's Tramp character (played, of course, by himself) and a blind flower girl. A subplot concerns the Tramp and a millionaire whom the Tramp saves from suicide. The millionaire is kind and generous to the Tramp, but unfriendly when sober.

With money from the millionaire, the Tramp helps the flower girl to undergo an operation, and her sight is restored. At first she does not recognize the Tramp, but when she touches his hand, and feels his features she recognizes him, and love prevails.

City Lights was both a financial and critical success, and it is considered to be one of Chaplin's best films.

5.3 The Great Dictator (1940)

In his 1940 film, **The Great Dictator**, Charlie Chaplin satirizes Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini. In the film they become "Adenoid Hynkel" and "Benzino Napolini". The plot concerns a Jewish barber and his girlfriend Hannah. The barber looks somewhat like the great dictator, Adenoid Hynkel, and at the end of the film, he has to give a speech to an enormous crowd, who believe him to be Hynkel. The speech is also broadcast on the radio,

In the barber's speech, Charlie Chaplin suddenly abandons satire and speaks to us directly with his own voice, his own idealism. Here is the speech:

Hynkel: I'm sorry, but I don't want to be an Emperor - that's not my business. I don't want to rule or conquer anyone. I should like to help everyone, if possible - Jew, gentile, black man, white. We all want to help one another; human beings are like that. We want to live by each other's happiness, not by each other's misery. We don't want to hate and despise one another. In this world there's room for everyone and the good earth is rich and can provide for everyone.

The way of life can be free and beautiful.

But we have lost the way.

Greed has poisoned men's souls, has barricaded the world with hate, has goose-stepped us into misery and bloodshed. We have developed speed but we have shut ourselves in. Machinery that gives abundance has left us in want. Our knowledge has made us cynical, our cleverness hard and unkind. We think too much and feel too little. More than machinery, we need humanity. More than cleverness, we need kindness and gentleness. Without these qualities, life will be violent and all will be lost.

The aeroplane and the radio have brought us closer together. The very nature of these inventions cries out for the goodness in men, cries out for universal brotherhood for the unity of us all. Even now my voice is reaching millions throughout the world, millions of

despairing men, women, and little children, victims of a system that makes men torture and imprison innocent people.

To those who can hear me I say, "Do not despair." The misery that is now upon us is but the passing of greed, the bitterness of men who fear the way of human progress. The hate of men will pass and dictators die; and the power they took from the people will return to the people and so long as men die, liberty will never perish.

Soldiers: Don't give yourselves to brutes, men who despise you, enslave you, who regiment your lives, tell you what to do, what to think and what to feel; who drill you, diet you, treat you like cattle, use you as cannon fodder. Don't give yourselves to these unnatural men, machine men, with machine minds and machine hearts! You are not machines! You are not cattle! You are men! You have the love of humanity in your hearts. You don't hate; only the unloved hate, the unloved and the unnatural.

Soldiers: Don't fight for slavery! Fight for liberty! In the seventeenth chapter of Saint Luke it is written, "the kingdom of God is within man" - not one man, nor a group of men, but in all men, in you, you the people have the power, the power to create machines, the power to create happiness. You the people have the power to make this life free and beautiful, to make this life a wonderful adventure.

Then, in the name of democracy, let us use that power! Let us all unite!! Let us fight for a new world, a decent world that will give men a chance to work, that will give you the future and old age a security. By the promise of these things, brutes have risen to power, but they lie! They do not fulfill their promise; they never will. Dictators free themselves, but they enslave the people!! Now, let us fight to fulfill that promise!! Let us fight to free the world, to do away with national barriers, to do away with greed, with hate and intolerance. Let us fight for a world of reason, a world where science and progress will lead to all men's happiness.

Soldiers: In the name of democracy, let us all unite!!!

Hannah, can you hear me? Wherever you are, look up, Hannah. The clouds are lifting. The sun is breaking through. We are coming out of the darkness into the light. We are coming into a new world, a kindlier world, where men will rise above their hate, their greed and brutality.

Look up, Hannah. The soul of man has been given wings, and at last he is beginning to fly. He is flying into the rainbow - into the light of hope, into the future, the glorious future that belongs to you, to me, and to all of us.

Look up, Hannah. Look up!



Figure 5.7: **Look up, Hannah!**

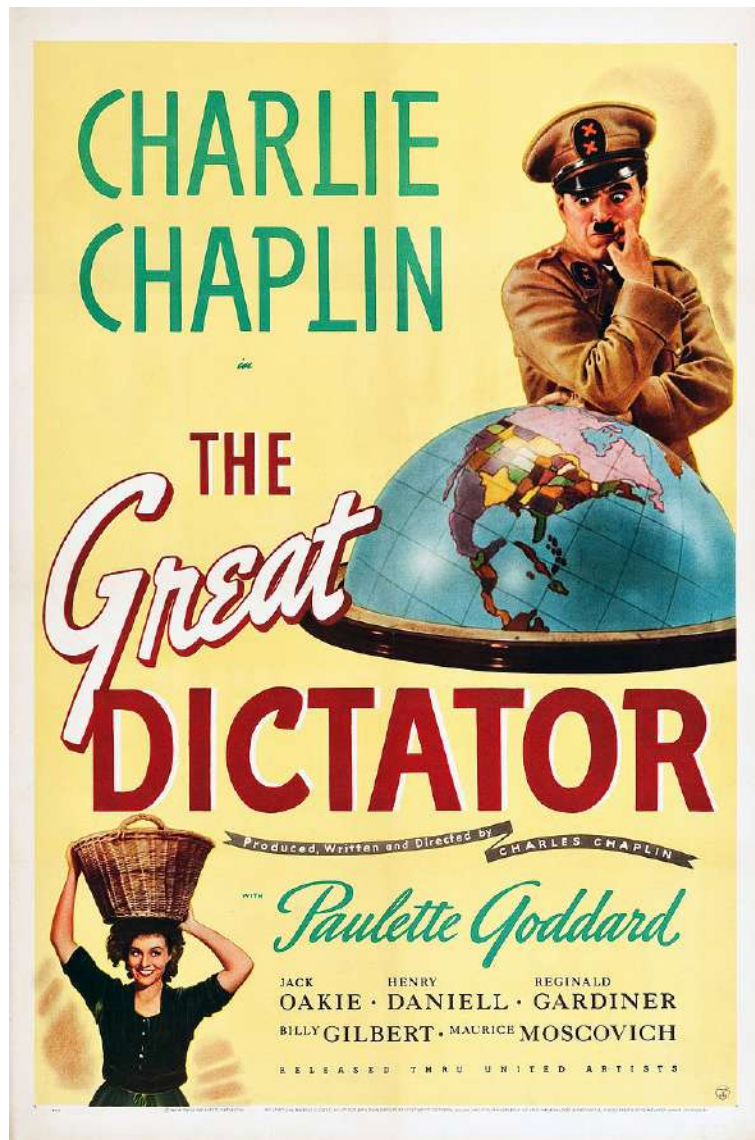


Figure 5.8: Poster for the American theatrical release of Charlie Chaplin's 1940 film *The Great Dictator*.



Figure 5.9: Chaplin as Adenoid Hynkel



Figure 5.10: Chaplin as Adenoid Hynkel (right) with Jack Oakie as Benzino Napaloni (left).



Figure 5.11: Chaplin (as the barber) absentmindedly tries to shave Goddard (as Hannah).

All of Charlie Chaplin's films

1. Making a Living (1914)
2. Kid Auto Races at Venice (1914)
3. Mabel's Strange Predicament (1914)
4. A Thief Catcher (1914)
5. Between Showers (1914)
6. A Film Johnnie (1914)
7. Tango Tangles (1914)
8. His Favorite Pastime (1914)
9. Cruel, Cruel Love (1914)
10. The Star Boarder (1914)
11. Mabel at the Wheel (1914)
12. Twenty Minutes of Love (1914)
13. Caught in a Cabaret (1914)
14. Caught in the Rain (1914)
15. A Busy Day (1914)
16. The Fatal Mallet (1914)
17. Her Friend the Bandit (1914)
18. The Knockout (1914)
19. Mabel's Busy Day (1914)
20. Mabel's Married Life (1914)
21. Laughing Gas (1914)
22. The Property Man (1914)
23. The Face on the Barroom Floor (1914)
24. Recreation (1914)
25. The Masquerader (1914)
26. His New Profession (1914)
27. The Rounders (1914)
28. The New Janitor (1914)
29. Those Love Pangs (1914)
30. Dough and Dynamite (1914)
31. Gentlemen of Nerve (1914)
32. His Musical Career (1914)
33. His Trysting Place (1914)
34. Getting Acquainted (1914)
35. His Prehistoric Past (1914)
36. Tillie's Punctured Romance (1914)
37. His New Job (1915)
38. A Night Out (1915)
39. The Champion (1915)

40. In the Park (1915)
41. A Jitney Elopement (1915)
42. The Tramp (1915)
43. By the Sea (1915)
44. Work (1915)
45. A Woman (1915)
46. The Bank (1915)
47. Shanghaied (1915)
48. A Night in the Show (1915)
49. A Burlesque on Carmen (1915)
50. Police (1916)
51. The Floorwalker (1916)
52. The Floorwalker (1916)
53. The Fireman (1916)
54. The Vagabond (1916)
55. One A.M. (1916)
56. The Count (1916)
57. The Pawnshop (1916)
58. Behind the Screen (1916)
59. The Rink (1916)
60. Easy Street (1917)
61. The Cure (1917)
62. The Immigrant (1917)
63. The Adventurer (1917)
64. A Dog's Life (1918)
65. A Dog's Life (1918)
66. Shoulder Arms (1918)
67. Triple Trouble (1918)
68. Sunnyside (1919)
69. A Day's Pleasure (1919)
70. The Kid (1921)
71. The Idle Class (1921)
72. Pay Day (1922)
73. The Pilgrim (1923)
74. A Woman of Paris (1923)
75. The Gold Rush (1925)
76. The Circus (1928)
77. City Lights (1931)
78. Modern Times (1936)
79. The Great Dictator (1940)
80. Monsieur Verdoux (1947)
81. A King in New York (1957)
82. A Countess from Hong Kong (1967)

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Chapter 6

ALFRED HITCHCOCK 1899-1980

Alfred Hitchcock's early life and education

Alfred Hitchcock was born in 1899 in a flat above his parent's grocery shop. In 1913, when he was 14 years old, he told his parents that he wanted to be an engineer, and he enrolled in night classes at the London County Council School of Engineering and Navigation in Poplar. The following year, his father died, and Alfred Hitchcock took a job to help support himself and his mother. He continued to take night classes, this time in art history, painting, economics, and political science.

Hitchcock becomes a director

In 1919, Alfred Hitchcock was hired by the London production arm of Paramount as a title card designer. While working at the studio, he gained experience as a co-writer, art director and production manager on at least 18 silent films.

In 1922, Paramount left London, but a firm called Gainsborough Pictures began working at the same location, and they hired Hitchcock as an assistant director. He did so well that he soon became a director. Hitchcock also spent some time directing films in Berlin, before moving to the United States.

The master of suspense

Working in the United States, Alfred Hitchcock developed a unique style that made the viewer feel part of the action of the film. He became known as "the master of suspense", and he was uniquely able to make the viewer feel fear. Hitchcock became one of the best known and most influential of all directors. He was knighted by his home country, Britain, and became Sir Alfred Joseph Hitchcock KBE.



Figure 6.1: The Hitchcocks on their wedding day, Brompton Oratory, 2 December 1926.



Figure 6.2: Alfred Hitchcock in 1972.



Figure 6.3: Advertisement for *Blackmail* (1929).



Figure 6.4: Cary Grant and Joan Fontaine in a publicity shot for *Suspicion* (1941).



Figure 6.5: Gregory Peck and Ingrid Bergman in *Spellbound* (1945).



Figure 6.6: James Stewart and Grace Kelly in *Rear Window* (1954).



Figure 6.7: Hitchcock at Mount Rushmore filming *North by Northwest* (1959).

6.1 Notorious (1946)

The film *Notorious* is both a spy story and a love story. The plot deals with attempts of a US government agent named Devlin (played by Cary Grant) to uncover members of a Nazi group of executives from I.K. Farben, hiding in postwar Argentina. Devlin is helped by Alica Huberman (played by Ingrid Bergman). Huberman is supposed to seduce one of the Nazi leaders, to obtain information from him, but she and Devlin have fallen in love, so this does not happen.

6.2 Rear Window (1954)

In Hitchcock's *Rear Window*, James Stewart plays the part of a young man with a broken leg. To while away the time, he watches his neighbors across the courtyard through his rear window. The evenings are hot, and his neighbors keep their windows open. The young man with the broken leg becomes convinced that one of his neighbors has murdered his wife. Stuart's socialite girlfriend, played by Grace Kelly, helps by climbing up the fire escape and entering the suspect's apartment, but now she too is in danger.

6.3 North by Northwest (1959)

Like *The 39 Steps* and *Notorious*, Hitchcock's 1959 film *North by Northwest* is a spy story. An advertising executive named Roger Thornhill (played by Cary Grant) is mistaken for a government agent, and is pursued across the United States by Cold War enemy agents, finally ending at Mount Rushmore. Here cliff-hanging suspense scenes occur, the cliff being the giant sculptures of US presidents.

6.4 Psycho (1960)

Hitchcock's 1960 film *Psycho* shocked audiences, and changed the boundaries of what is acceptable to show on the screen. It is considered to be one of his most important films. Anthony Perkins plays the part of a psychologically deranged young man who stabs a girl to death in the shower, the film's most iconic scene.

All of Alfred Hitchcock's films

1. Number 13 (1922)
2. The Pleasure Garden (1925)
3. The Mountain Eagle (1926)
4. The Lodger: A Story of the London Fog (1927)

5. The Ring (1927)
6. Downhill (1927)
7. The Farmer's Wife (1928)
8. Easy Virtue (1928)
9. Champagne (1928)
10. Champagne (1929)
11. Blackmail (1929)
12. An Elastic Affair (1930)
13. Juno and the Paycock (1930)
14. Murder! (1930)
15. The Skin Game (1931)
16. Mary (1931)
17. Rich and Strange (1931)
18. Number Seventeen (1932)
19. Waltzes from Vienna (1934)
20. The Man Who Knew Too Much (1934)
21. The 39 Steps (1935)
22. Secret Agent (1936)
23. Sabotage (1936)
24. Young and Innocent (1937)
25. The Lady Vanishes (1938)
26. Jamaica Inn (1939)
27. Rebecca (1940)
28. (1940)
29. Foreign Correspondent (1940)
30. Mr. & Mrs. Smith (1941)
31. Saboteur (1942)
32. Shadow of a Doubt (1943)
33. Lifeboat (1944)
34. The Fighting Generation (1944)
35. Spellbound (1945)
36. Notorious (1946)
37. The Paradine Case (1947)
38. Rope (1949)
39. Stage Fright (1950)
40. Strangers on a Train (1951)
41. Dial M for Murder (1954)
42. Rear Window (1954)
43. To Catch a Thief (1955)
44. The Trouble with Harry (1955)
45. The Man Who Knew Too Much (1956)
46. The Wrong Man (1956)
47. Vertigo (1958)

48. North by Northwest (1959)
49. Psycho (1960)
50. The Birds (1963)
51. Marnie (1964)
52. Torn Curtain (1966)
53. Topaz (1969)
54. Frenzy (1972)
55. Family Plot (1976)
56. Bon Voyage (1993)
57. Aventure Malgache (1993)

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Chapter 7

BILLY WILDER 1906-2002

Wilder's family and early life

Samuel Wilder, nicknamed Billy, was born in 1906 in Sucha Beskidzka, a small town in the vicinity of Vienna. At that time, the town was a part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. His parents were Polish Jews, and they operated a very successful cake shop, which grew into a chain of cake shops. The family later moved to Vienna, where Billy Wilder became a journalist and writer.

Billy Wilder's career as a writer

Billy Wilder then moved to Berlin, where his writing career continued. In Berlin, besides writing for newspapers, he began working as a screenwriter. Between 1929 and 1930 he produced twelve German films.

When Adolf Hitler rose to power in Germany, Wilder moved to Paris to escape anti-Jewish persecution. In Paris, he made his debut as a director.

Hollywood and fame

In 1933, Billy Wilder moved to Hollywood, where he continued his career as a screenwriter. He later made the classic films for which he is famous - *Sunset Boulevard*, *Some Like It Hot*, *The Apartment*, and many others.



Figure 7.1: Gloria Swanson with Wilder on the set of *Sunset Boulevard*.



Figure 7.2: Curtis, Lemon and Monroe in *Some Like it Hot*.



Figure 7.3: Theatrical poster for the release of the 1959 film *Some Like it Hot*, starring Marilyn Monroe, Tony Curtis, and Jack Lemmon.



Figure 7.4: Greta Garbo and Melvyn Douglas in *Ninotchka*.



Figure 7.5: Jack Lemmon and Shirley MacLaine in *The Apartment*.



Figure 7.6: Theatrical poster for the release of the 1960 film, *The Apartment*.

7.1 Sunset Boulevard (1950)

Sunset Boulevard, directed by Billy Wilder, tells the story of Norma, an aging film star from the silent era, who dreams of making a comeback. She lives in a mansion with her loyal butler, Max, who helps her to dream by writing fan mail for her to read. The film starts with a shot of a scriptwriter, Joe, lying dead, face-down in a pool in front of the mansion. In flashbacks, we learn that he has been murdered by Norma for brutally telling her that a comeback is a hopeless dream.

Sunset Boulevard was nominated for 11 Academy Awards and won three. It is often ranked among the greatest films ever made.

7.2 Some Like It Hot (1959)

Some Like It Hot was directed, produced and co-written by Billy Wilder. It stars Marilyn Monroe, Tony Curtis and Jack Lemmon. The film is a comedy about two musicians, Joe and Jerry, who disguise themselves as women (‘ Josephine’ and ‘Daphne’) to escape from gangsters. They join an all-female band and travel with the group on a train to Miami. In Miami, ‘Daphne’ is pursued by the aging millionaire, Osgood, who proposes marriage. When Jerry reveals that he is a man, Osgood replies, ‘Well, nobody’s perfect’. *Some Like It Hot* is considered to be one of the greatest films of all time.

7.3 The Apartment (1960)

The Apartment was co-written and directed by Billy Wilder. It is a romantic comedy-drama about an insurance clerk (played by Jack Lemmon) who hopes to improve his chances of promotion by letting his corporate superiors use his New York apartment for their extramarital affairs. He falls in love with the elevator operator (played by Shirley MacLaine), unaware that she is having an affair with his immediate superior. The film was nominated for eight Academy Awards, and won five. It is often ranked among the greatest films ever made.

All of Billy Wilder’s films

1. Mauvaise Graine (1934)
2. The Major and the Minor (1942)
3. Five Graves to Cairo (1943)
4. Double Indemnity (1944)
5. The Lost Weekend (1945)
6. Death Mills (1945)

7. The Emperor Waltz (1948)
8. A Foreign Affair (1948)
9. Sunset Boulevard (1950)
10. Ace in the Hole (1951)
11. Stalag 17 (1953)
12. Sabrina (1954)
13. The Seven Year Itch (1955)
14. The Spirit of St. Louis (1957)
15. Love in the Afternoon (1957)
16. Witness for the Prosecution (1957)
17. Some Like It Hot (1959)
18. The Apartment (1960)
19. One, Two, Three (1961)
20. Irma la Douce (1963)
21. Kiss Me, Stupid (1964)
22. The Fortune Cookie (1966)
23. The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes (1970)
24. Avanti! (1972)
25. The Front Page (1974)
26. Fedora (1978)
27. Buddy Buddy (1981)

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Chapter 8

DAVID LEAN 1908-1991

Lean's family and early life

Davis Lean was born in 1908 in South Croyden, Surrey, which is now a part of Greater London. His parents were Quakers, and David Lean attended a Quaker school. He was not a very good student, however, and at the age of 18 he dropped out of school and entered his father's firm as an apprentice accountant. He had been given a box camera at the age of 10 (unusually early at that time) and this led him to become a dedicated photographer, developing and printing all of the photos that he took. His other great passion was for the cinema. and that was where he spent every evening.

Career as a film editor

David Lean's aunt advised him to find a job the he really enjoyed. As a result, he visited Gaumont Studios where his enthusiasm earned him a month's trial without pay. He did so well that by 1930 he was working as an editor of newsreels. Later he began editing feature films, and still later he made his debut as a director. The film *Brief Encounters*, which Lean directed, shared the Grand Prix at the Cannes film festival and also earned two Academy Award nominations.

David Lean's epic dramas

David Lean went on to direct the great epic films, *The Bridge on the River Kwai* (1957), *Lawrence of Arabia*, (1962), and *Doctor Zhivago*, (1965). He was knighted by the British government, and became Sir David Lean, CBE.



Figure 8.1: Lean in Northern Finland in 1965 while shooting *Doctor Zhivago*.

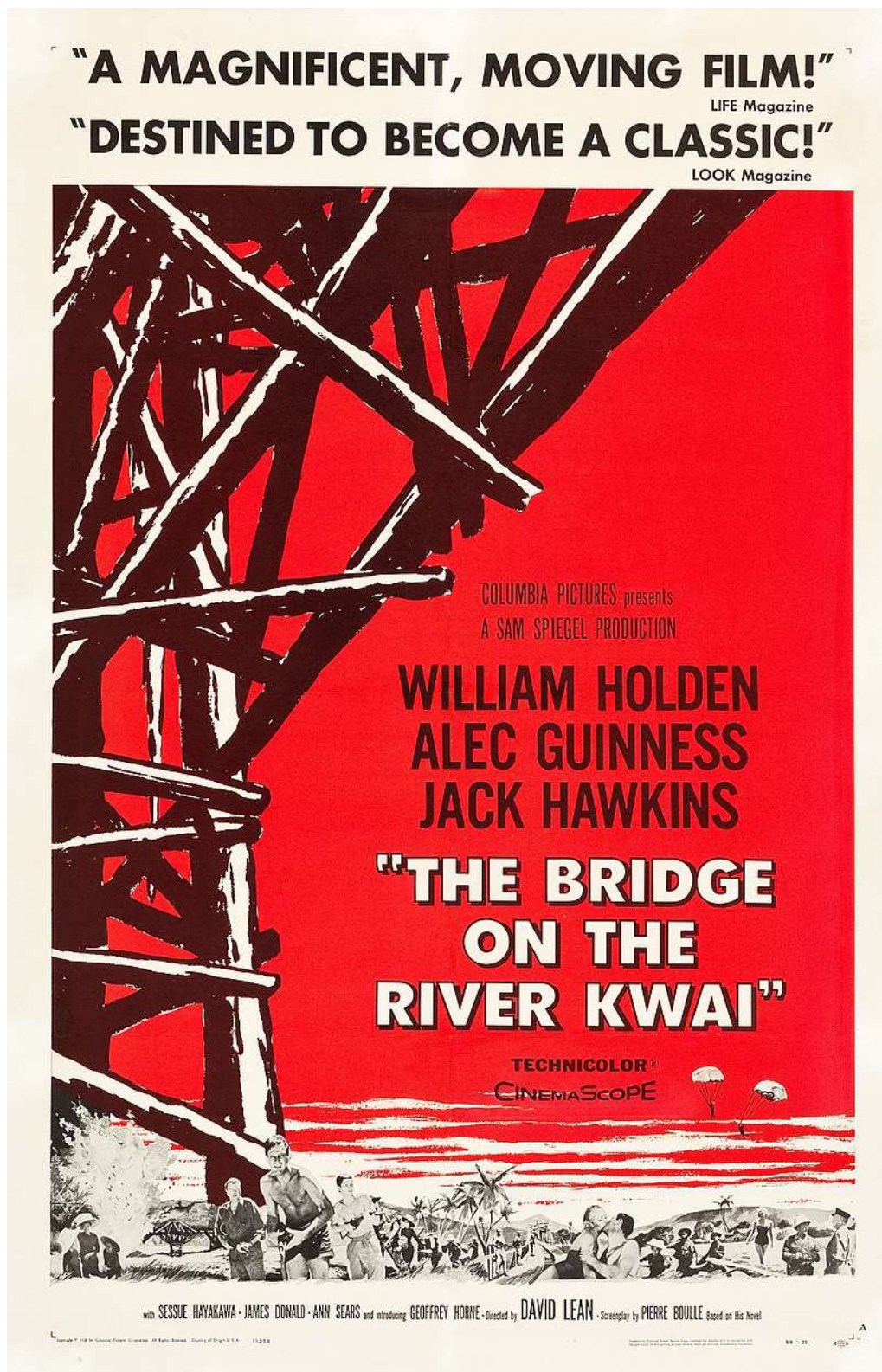


Figure 8.2: *The Bridge on the River Kwai* was directed by David Lean.



Figure 8.3: Peter O'Toole as T. E. Lawrence in *Lawrence of Arabia*.



Figure 8.4: Alec Guinness and Rita Tushingham in the 1965 film *Doctor Zhivago*.



Figure 8.5: A poster for the film *Doctor Zhivago*.

8.1 The Bridge on the River Kwai (1957)

David Lean's film *The Bridge on the River Kwai* is loosely based on an historical event - the construction of a railway during the World War II Japanese occupation of Burma. However, the details of the plot are fictional. The film stars William Holden, Alec Guinness, Jack Hawkins, and Sessue Hayakawa. The film won seven Academy Awards, including Best Picture, and it has been included on the American Film Institute's list of best American films ever made.

8.2 Lawrence of Arabia (1962)

Lawrence of Arabia is based on the autobiographical book *Seven Pillars of Wisdom* by T.E. Lawrence. The film is set in Arabia during World War II, when the British made efforts to enlist the help of the Arabs to overthrow the Turkish Empire. David Lean's film stars Peter O'Toole as Lawrence with Alec Guinness as Prince Feisal. Others in the cast include Jack Hawkins, Anthony Quinn, Omar Sharif, Anthony Quayle, Claude Rains and Arthur Kennedy. The film won seven Academy Awards, including Best Picture and Best Director. It is widely regarded as one of the best films ever made.

8.3 Doctor Zhivago (1965)

Doctor Zhivago, directed by David Lean, is a historical and romantic drama set in Russia at the time of World War I and the Russian Civil War. It is based on a book by the same name by Boris Pasternak. Pasternak's book was banned by Soviet authorities of the time, and its publication was forbidden in Russia. However, a copy of the manuscript was smuggled out of the country, and the book was published in the west. The Swedish Academy awarded Pasternak a Nobel Prize in Literature, partly because of the merits of the book, and partly to protest against its banning in Russia.

David Lean's film stars Omar Sharif in the title role, Julie Christie as his loved one, with supporting roles played by Geraldine Chaplin, Tom Courtenay, Rod Steiger, Alec Guinness, Ralph Richardson, Siobhán McKenna, and Rita Tushingham.

All of David Lean's films

1. In Which We Serve (1942)
2. This Happy Breed (1944)
3. Blithe Spirit (1945)
4. Brief Encounter (1945)
5. Great Expectations (1946)

6. Oliver Twist (1948)
7. The Passionate Friends (1949)
8. Madeleine (1950)
9. The Sound Barrier (1952)
10. Hobson's Choice (1954)
11. Summertime (1955)
12. The Bridge on the River Kwai (1957)
13. Lawrence of Arabia (1962)
14. Doctor Zhivago (1965)
15. Ryan's Daughter (1970)
16. Lost and Found: The Story of Cook's Anchor (1979)
17. A Passage to India (1984)

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Chapter 9

ELIA KAZAN 1909-2003

Elia Kazan's early life and education

Elia Kazantzoglou was born in 1909 in Constantinople. His parents, George and Athena Kazantzoglou were Cappadocian Greeks, a special ethnic group from the Cappadocian region of Turkey. When Elia was eight years old, they moved their family to the United States. There, Elia shortened his surname to Kazan. He attended Williams College, and afterwards, the Yale School of Dramatic Arts.

Kazan as an actor

Elia worked in New York both as an actor, and as a theatre director. He was a co-founder of the famous Actor's Studio, where Stanislavsky's methods of acting were taught. In 1942 Kazan achieved his first notable success by directing a play by Thornton Wilder, *The Skin of Our Teeth*, starring Tallulah Bankhead and Fredric March.

Elia Kazan's career as a director

Among the great films that Elia Kazan directed are *A Streetcar Named Desire* (1951), *On the Waterfront* (1954), and *East of Eden*. Kazan was one of the most honored and influential directors in Broadway and Hollywood history.



Figure 9.1: **Elia Kazan** (1909-2003) was an American director, producer, writer and actor.

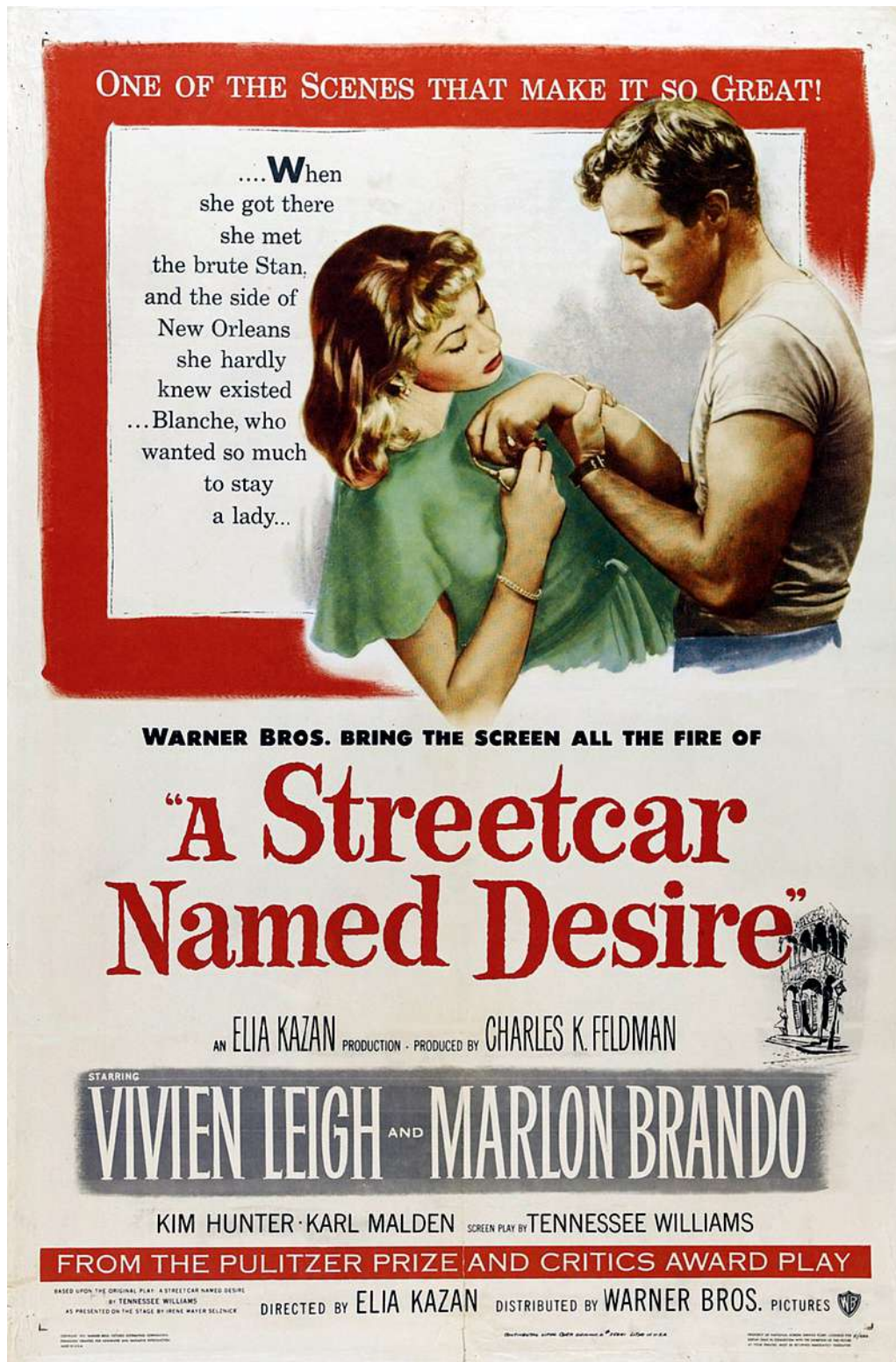


Figure 9.2: A poster for *A Streetcar Named Desire*. The film was directed by Elia Kazan.



Figure 9.3: A poster for *On the Waterfront*, directed by Elia Kazan.



Figure 9.4: Julie Harris and James Dean in *East of Eden*, directed by Elia Kazan.

9.1 A Streetcar Named Desire (1951)

The film *A Streetcar Named Desire*, directed by Elia Kazan, is based on Tennessee Williams' Pulitzer Prize-winning play by the same name. The film stars Vivian Leigh and Marlon Brando, with Kim Hunter, and Karl Malden in supporting roles. The film raised Marlon Brando to Hollywood stardom, and won him his first Academy Award nomination. Vivian Leigh was awarded a Best Actress Academy award for her role as Blanch DuBois.

9.2 On the Waterfront (1954)

Elia Kazan's film *On the Waterfront* was inspired by a series of articles in the New York Sun reporting on violence, racketeering and corruption in New Jersey's waterfront unions. The film stars Marlon Brando, with Karl Malden, Lee J. Cobb, Rod Steiger, Pat Henning, and Eva Marie Saint in supporting roles. The musical score was composed by Leonard Bernstein.

On the Waterfront received twelve Academy Award nominations, and won eight, including Best Picture, Best Actor for Brando, Best Supporting Actress for Saint, and Best Director for Kazan.

9.3 East of Eden (1955)

Elia Kazan's film, *East of Eden*, is loosely based on John Steinbeck's novel of the same name. In his novel, John Steinbeck (who won the Nobel Prize for Literature) retells the biblical story of the rivalry of Cain and Abel for the approval of their father. Kazan's film stars James Dean, Julie Harris and Raymond Massey, with Burl Ives, Richard Davalos, and Jo Van Fleet in supporting roles.

All of Elia Kazan's films

1. A Tree Grows in Brooklyn (1945)
2. Boomerang! (1947)
3. Gentleman's Agreement (1947)
4. Pinky (1949)
5. Panic in the Streets (1950)
6. A Streetcar Named Desire (1951)
7. Viva Zapata! (1952)
8. Man on a Tightrope (1953)
9. On the Waterfront (1954)
10. East of Eden (1955)

11. Baby Doll (1956)
12. A Face in the Crowd (1957)
13. Wild River (1960)
14. Splendor in the Grass (1961)
15. America America (1963)
16. The Arrangement (1969)
17. The Visitors (1972)
18. The Last Tycoon (1976)

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Chapter 10

AKIRA KUROSAWA 1910-1998

Kurosawa's childhood and early years

Akira Kurosawa was born in 1910 into a moderately wealthy samurai family living in Tokyo. His father was very open to Western ideas, and he encouraged his many children to watch films. A major influence on Akira Kurosawa was his elder brother, Heigo, who was academically gifted. During the silent film era, Heigo worked in theatres as a film narrator.

Kurosawa's films

Akiro Kurosawa was good at painting, and at first he hoped to make painting his career. However, he found that he was unable to make a living from the money that he gained from selling his paintings. Therefore he decided to change his goals and to try to find work in the Japanese film industry. He applied for work at a studio called P.C.L., which had advertised for an assistant director. He was hired, and did so well that he was rapidly promoted. He became a scriptwriter and director. Among his most famous films are *Rashomon*, *Seven Samurai*, and *Throne of Blood*.

Worldwide fame

In 1951, *Rashomon*, was awarded the Venice Film Festival's highest prize, the Golden Lion. This event took the international community by surprise. Previously Western critics and audiences had been unaware that Japan had an excellent film industry. Kurosawa's films then began to be popular with worldwide audiences, and he gained international fame as a great director. In 1990, he was given a Lifetime Achievement Academy Award. Kurosawa was also named Asian of the Century in the "Arts, Literature and Culture" category by AsianWeek magazine.

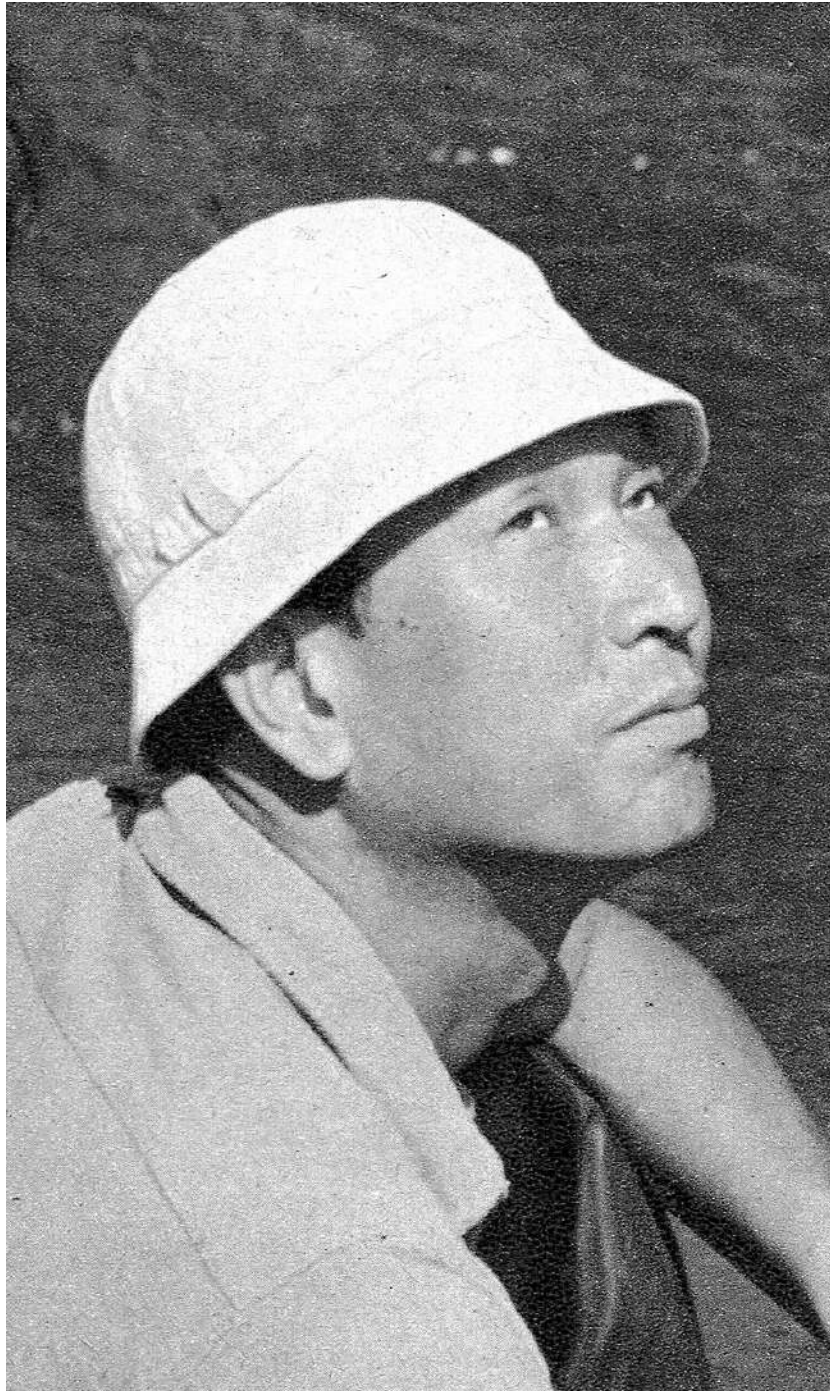


Figure 10.1: Akira Kurosawa (March 23, 1910 - September 6, 1998) was a Japanese film director, screenwriter, producer, and editor. This 1953 photo shows him on the set of *Seven Samurai*.



Figure 10.2: A film poster for *Rashomon*.

10.1 Rashomon (1950)

Akira Kurosawa's film, *Rashomon*, tells the story of how a samurai was murdered in a forest. The story is told by several different people, all of whom give mutually contradictory accounts of what happened, lying to show themselves in a better light. It was the first Japanese film to win significant recognition in the West. It won the Golden Lion at the Venice Film Festival, and was given an Academy Honorary Award in 1952.

10.2 Seven Samurai (1954)

Seven Samurai, co-written and directed by Akira Kurosawa, is sometimes called *The Magnificent Seven*. The film tells the story of desperate villagers who hire seven masterless samurai to defend their village against marauding bandits. The film was acclaimed by critics. It was also voted the greatest foreign-language film of all time in BBC's 2018 international critics' poll.

10.3 Throne of Blood (1957)

The film *Throne of blood* was co-written, produced and directed by Akira Kurosawa. It is based on William Shakespeare's play *Macbeth*, with the action and characters shifted to the feudal period in Japan.

All of Akira Kurosawa's films

1. Sanshiro Sugata (1943)
2. The Most Beautiful (1944)
3. Sanshiro Sugata Part II (1945)
4. The Men Who Tread on the Tiger's Tail (1945)
5. No Regrets for Our Youth (1946)
6. One Wonderful Sunday (1947)
7. Drunken Angel (1948)
8. The Quiet Duel (1949)
9. Stray Dog (1949)
10. Scandal (1950)
11. Rashomon (1950)
12. The Idiot (1951)
13. Ikiru (1952)
14. Seven Samurai (1954)
15. I Live in Fear (1955)

16. Throne of Blood (1957)
17. The Lower Depths (1957)
18. The Hidden Fortress (1958)
19. The Bad Sleep Well (1960)
20. Yojimbo (1961)
21. Sanjuro (1962)
22. High and Low (1963)
23. Red Beard (1965)
24. Dodes'ka-den (1970)
25. Dersu Uzala (1975)
26. Kagemusha (1980)
27. Ran (1985)
28. Rhapsody in August (1991)
29. Madadayo (1993)

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Chapter 11

ORSON WELLS 1915-1985

Orson Wells' childhood

George Orson Wells was born in 1915 in Kenosha, Wisconsin into an affluent family. However, after the family had moved to Chicago, his father, who had made a fortune from an invention, became an alcoholic and stopped working. Orson Wells' parents separated, and his mother, who was a pianist, supported herself and Orson by playing at the Chicago Art Institute. In 1925, when Wells was ten years old, his mother died of hepatitis. In 1930, his father also died, from heart and kidney failure. A friend of the family named Maurice Bernstein became his guardian.

An impresario at 22!

After his father's death, the teenaged Orson traveled to Europe, using a small portion of his inheritance. While on a walking and painting tour through Ireland, he walked into Dublin's Gate Theatre and claimed to be a Broadway star. Although the theatre managers didn't believe him, they gave him an audition, and were so impressed by his performance that they hired him as an actor. This was the start of his theatrical career. Returning to the United States, Wells produced a version of Shakespeare's play, *Julius Caesar*, which broke all performance records. He also produced a version of Shakespeare's *Macbeth* with an entirely black cast of characters.

One of the greatest actors and directors

Orson Wells' film *Citizen Kane* in which, as well as directing, he also starred in the title role, is very often ranked as the greatest film ever made. Wells himself is considered to be one of the greatest and most influential directors who ever lived.



Figure 11.1: At age 22 Welles was Broadway's youngest impresario - producing, directing and starring in an adaptation of *Julius Caesar* that broke all performance records for the play (1938).



Figure 11.2: Welles at the press conference after *The War of the Worlds* broadcast (October 31, 1938). The radio broadcast, narrated by Wells, was based on H.G. Wells science fiction novel. Many listeners panicked, believing that Planet Earth was really being invaded by extra-terrestrials. Wells instantly became famous, or perhaps notorious.



Figure 11.3: *Citizen Kane* (1941).



Figure 11.4: The Magnificent Ambersons (1942).

11.1 Citizen Kane (1941)

The film *Citizen Kane* was co-written and directed by Orson Wells, and it also starred Wells in the title role. It is a semi-biographical film based on the lives of several media barons, especially William Randolph Hearst. The film is considered to be one of the greatest ever made. It stood at number 1 in the British Film Institute's Sight and Sound decennial poll of critics for 50 consecutive years.

11.2 The Magnificent Ambersons (1942)

Orson Wells' film *The Magnificent Ambersons* tells the story of the declining fortunes of a wealthy middle western family, who gradually lose their wealth because of changes in society. The film stars Joseph Cotten, Dolores Costello, Anne Baxter, Tim Holt, Agnes Moorehead and Ray Collins, with Welles providing the narration. Unfortunately, Wells lost control of the editing to RKO Studios, and large portions of Wells' film were removed and destroyed, and the ending changed.

All of Orson Wells' films

1. Citizen Kane (1941)
2. The Magnificent Ambersons (1942)
3. Journey into Fear (1943)
4. The Stranger (1946)
5. The Lady from Shanghai (1947)
6. Macbeth (1948)
7. Othello (1951)
8. Mr. Arkadin (1955)
9. Touch of Evil (1958)
10. The Trial (1962)
11. Chimes at Midnight (1965)
12. The Immortal Story (1968)
13. F for Fake (1973)
14. Filming Othello (1978)
15. Don Quixote (1992)
16. The Other Side of the Wind (2018)

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Chapter 12

INGMAR BERGMAN 1918-2007

Ingmar Bergman's childhood

Ernst Ingmar Bergman was born in Uppsala, Sweden, in 1918. His father, who was a Lutheran minister, and who later became chaplain to the king of Sweden, was a strict disciplinarian. He would lock his son Ingmar in a dark closet for many hours for very minor offenses.

Young Ingmar Bergman's life was changed when he traded a set of tin soldiers for a "magic lantern", which could project images onto a wall. He used it to create his own dramas, speaking the parts of all the characters. Later, as a university student, he became a "genuine movie addict".

Bergman's great films and worldwide fame

At university, Bergman wrote several plays and an opera. He was given the opportunity to direct one of his own plays. This was seen by members of the Swedish film industry, who offered him a position working on scripts. This was the beginning of a career, in which wrote and directed films that brought him worldwide fame. He is widely considered to be one of the greatest filmmakers of all time. Bergman worked with an unchanging group of actors and actresses: Harriet Andersson, Bibi Andersson, Liv Ullmann, Gunnar Björnstrand, Erland Josephson, Ingrid Thulin, and Max von Sydow.

Falsely accused of tax evasion

In 1976, Ingmar Bergman was arrested for tax evasion. Although the charges were soon shown to have no basis, the effect on Bergman was devastating. He was hospitalized with a nervous breakdown. Although the Swedish government apologized, and pleaded with Bergman to remain in Sweden, he closed down his film production and left Sweden, intending never to return again. Finally, however, he did return, to make *Fanny and Alexander*.



Figure 12.1: Ingmar Bergman in 1966.



Figure 12.2: Director Ingmar Bergman drew on personal experiences with actress Liv Ullmann in writing the teleplay for *Scenes From a Marriage*.

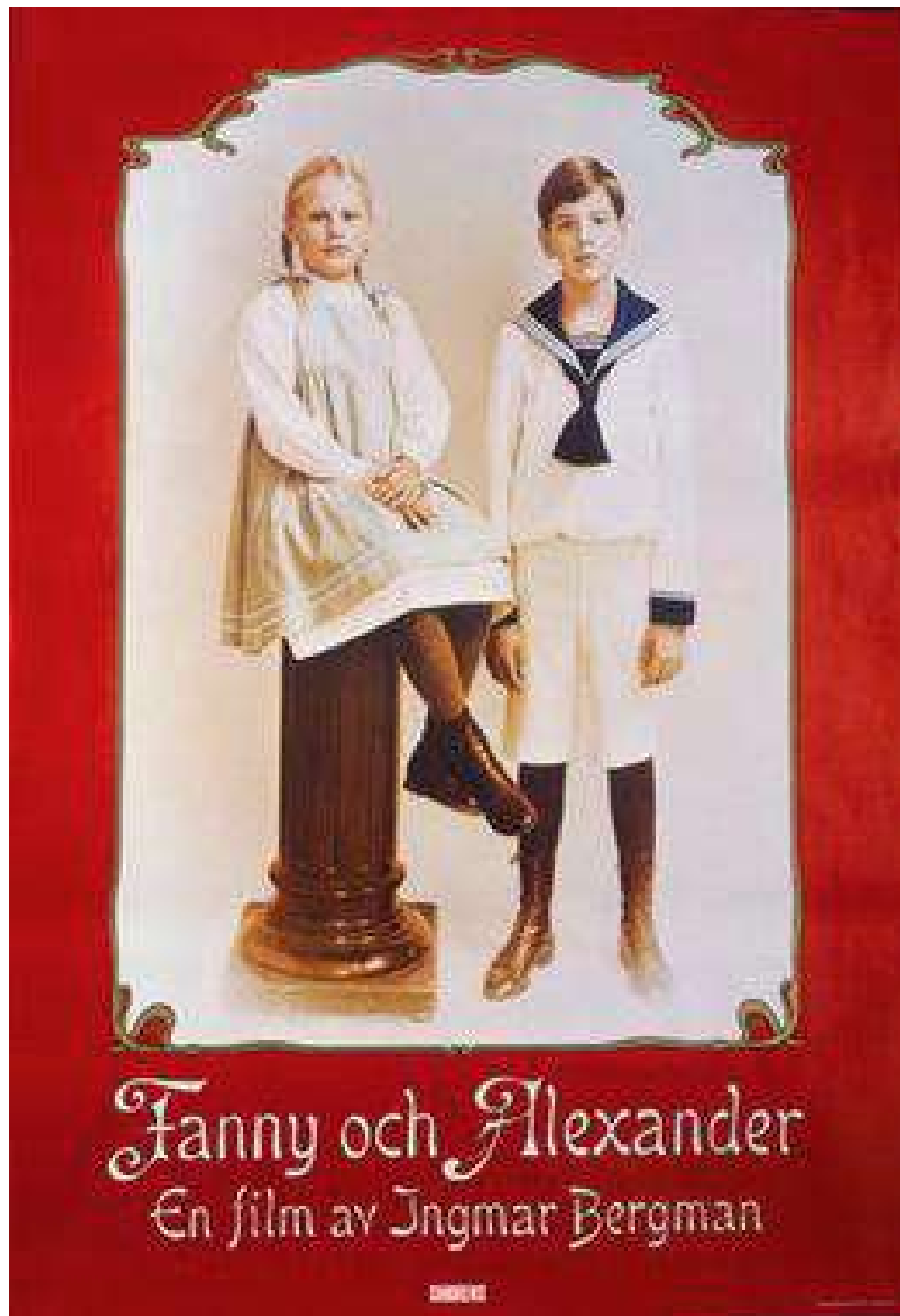


Figure 12.3: *Fanny and Alexander*.



Figure 12.4: A bust of Bergman in Celebrity Alley in Kielce, Poland.

12.1 The Seventh Seal (1957)

The Seventh Seal is a film, written and directed by Ingmar Bergman. It tells the story of a knight, returning from the crusades, who finds his country in the grip of the Black Death. The knight, played by Max von Sydau, engages the personification of Death in a game of chess.

The Seventh Seal established Ingmar Bergman's reputation and it is considered to be one of the greatest movies of all time.

12.2 Through a Glass Darkly (1961)

Ingmar Bergman's film *Through a Glass Darkly* is set on the island of Fårö. It tells the story of a family vacationing on the island. The family members include a schizophrenic daughter, a sexually frustrated brother, and a novelist father, who attempts to use his daughter's illness in his writing. The film stars Harriet Andersson, Gunnar Björnstrand, Max von Sydow and Lars Passgård. *Through a Glass Darkly* won an Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film.

12.3 The Magic Flute (1975)

Ingmar Bergman's film *The Magic Flute*, is an extremely charming film version of Mozart's opera. It was made for broadcasting on Swedish television, and is considered to be the best film adaptation of an opera ever made.

12.4 Fanny and Alexander (1982)

Ingmar Bergman, who wrote and directed *Fanny and Alexander*, intended it to be his final film. It is a period drama, set in Uppsala, Sweden at the beginning of the 20th century. The film tells the story of the death of a sister and brother's father, and their mother's remarriage to a new husband, who is a preacher and a stern disciplinarian. He abuses his stepchildren, especially Alexander.

The film is semi-autobiographical. The harsh, disciplinarian cleric stepfather is modeled after Bergman's own father. The film won four Academy Awards, including Best Foreign Language film.

All of Ingmar Bergman's films

1. Crisis (1946)
2. It Rains on Our Love (1946)

3. A Ship Bound for India (1947)
4. Music in Darkness / Night Is My Future (1948)
5. Port of Call (1948)
6. Prison / The Devil's Wanton (1949)
7. Thirst / Three Strange Loves (1949)
8. To Joy (1950)
9. This Can't Happen Here (1950)
10. Summer Interlude / Illicit Interlude (1951)
11. Secrets of Women / Waiting Women (1952)
12. Summer with Monika (1953)
13. Sawdust and Tinsel (1953)
14. A Lesson in Love (1954)
15. Smiles of a Summer Night (1955)
16. The Seventh Seal (1957)
17. Wild Strawberries (1957)
18. Brink of Life (1958)
19. The Magician (1958)
20. The Virgin Spring (1960)
21. The Devil's Eye (1960)
22. Through a Glass Darkly (1961)
23. Winter Light (1963)
24. The Silence (1963)
25. All These Women (1964)
26. Persona (1966)
27. Stimulantia (1967)
28. Hour of the Wolf (1968)
29. Shame (1968)
30. The Rite (1969)
31. The Passion of Anna (1969)
32. The Touch (1971)
33. Cries and Whispers (1972)
34. Scenes from a Marriage (1973)
35. The Magic Flute (1975)
36. Face to Face (1976)
37. The Serpent's Egg (1977)
38. Autumn Sonata (1978)
39. From the Life of the Marionettes (1980)
40. Fanny and Alexander (1982)
41. The Blessed Ones (1986)
42. In the Presence of a Clown (1997)
43. The Image Makers (2000)
44. Saraband (2003)

Suggestions for further reading

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Chapter 13

STANLEY KUBRICK 1928-1999

Stanley Kubrick's family and childhood

Stanley Kubrick was born in Manhattan, New York City in 1928 to a Jewish family. His father was a physician, and the family was relatively wealthy. As a young boy, Stanley Kubrick displayed an interest in literature, and he spent much time reading Greek and Roman myths, and Grimm's fables. When he was 13, his father gave him a Graflex camera, which triggered his lifelong passion for photography. He was chosen to be his high school's official photographer.

Kubrick's career as a photographer

In 1945, Kubrick sold a series of photographs to Look Magazine. In 1946, he became an apprentice photographer for Look and later a full-time staff photographer. Two years later he was sent to Portugal to take photos documenting a travel article. He also photographed the Ringling Brother's and Barnum & Baley Circus in Sarasota, Florida, as well as boxing matches.

A great director

Kubrick began frequenting film screenings at Manhattan's Museum of Modern Art. He became obsessed with the possibilities of cinema as an art form. He began his film-making career with some short documentary films, financed by his family and friends. While playing chess in Washington Square, Kubrick was lucky enough to meet producer James B. Harris, who considered Kubrick to be "the most intelligent, most creative person I have ever come in contact with." They formed the Harris-Kubrick Pictures Corporation in 1955. This was the start of Kubrick's career as a director. Today he is ranked as one of the greatest and most influential film directors of all time.



Figure 13.1: Portrait of Kubrick with a camera at the Sadler's Wells Theatre in London, 1949, while a staff photographer for *Look*.

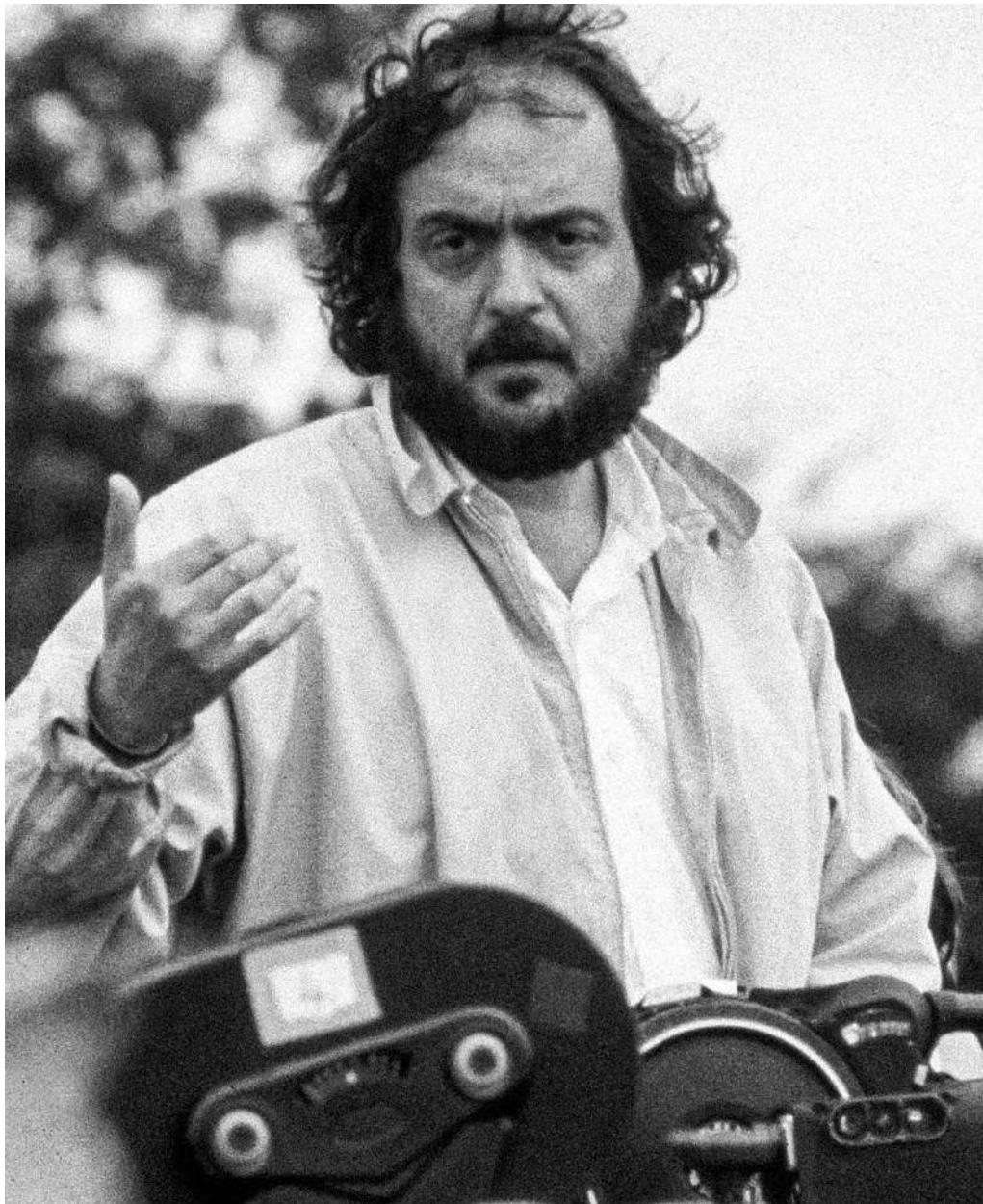


Figure 13.2: Production photo of director Stanley Kubrick on the set of the 1975 film *Barry Lyndon*.



Figure 13.3: Kubrick's Childwickbury Manor in Hertfordshire, England.

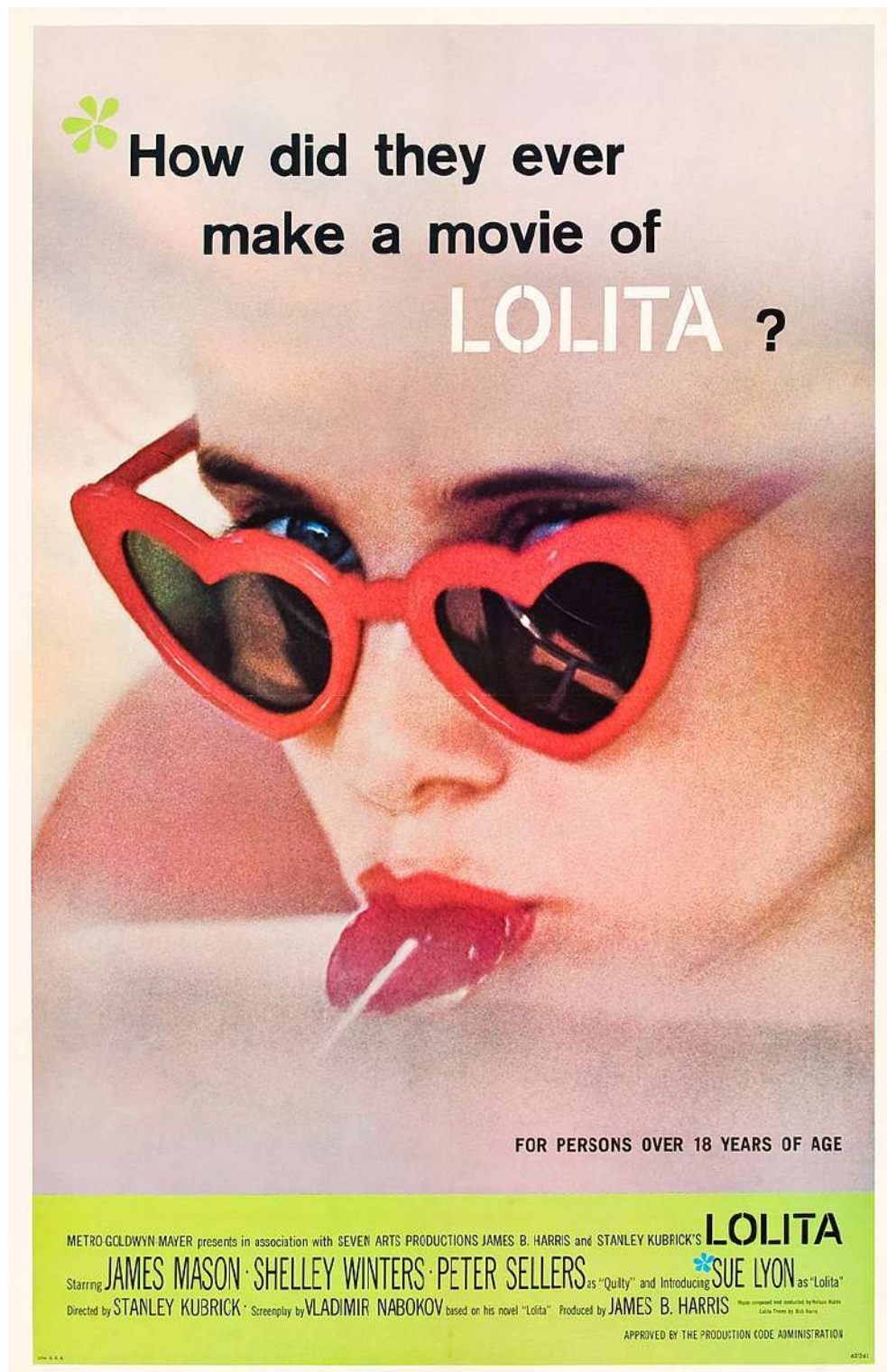


Figure 13.4: Theatrical release poster for the 1962 film *Lolita*, directed by Stanley Kubrick.



Figure 13.5: Peter Sellers (left) listens while Brigadier General Jack D. Ripper tells him about the Soviet conspiracy to steal his “precious bodily fluids”, in Stanley Kubrick’s nuclear black comedy, *Dr. Strangelove*



Figure 13.6: Peter Sellers as Dr. Strangelove. He has to restrain his black-gloved crippled hand, which keeps trying to give a Nazi salute.

/home/john/work/books/devdyn/sellers2.jpeg



Figure 13.7: General Buck Turgidson (George C. Scott) struggles with the Russian Ambassador. Peter Sellers (right) playing the US President, rebukes them for fighting in the War Room.



Figure 13.8: Major T. “King” Kong rides a nuclear bomb on its way down, where it will trigger the Soviet Doomsday Machine and ultimately destroy the world.

13.1 Lolita (1962)

Stanley Kubrick's film *Lolita* is based on a novel by Vladimir Nabikov. It follows the actions of a middle-aged literature lecturer, Humbert Humbert, who becomes sexually infatuated with a 14-year-old girl, nicknamed "Lolita". He courts the girl's mother in order to get close to the daughter. The film stars Sue Lyon as Lolita, James Mason as Humbert Humbert, and Shelly Winters as Lolita's mother, with Peter Sellers in a supporting role. Kubrick stated later that he would never have made the film if he had realized how severely the censors would cut it.

13.2 Dr. Strangelove (1964)

Stanley Kubrick's film *Dr. Strangelove: or How I Stopped Worrying And Learned To Love The Bomb* is a black comedy about the end of human civilization resulting from a nuclear disaster. Although the film is very funny, we should be aware of the very serious warning that it brings to us. In *Dr. Strangelove*, Peter Sellers brilliantly plays multiple roles, including the title character, Dr. Strangelove. Other roles are played by George C. Scott, Sterling Hayden, and Slim Pickens. The film is considered to be one of the greatest films ever made, and one of the best comedies of all time.

13.3 Barry Lyndon (1975)

Stanley Kubrick's film, *Barry Lyndon*, is based on the 1844 novel of the same name by William Makepeace Thackeray. The film is a period drama, and much of it takes place at the time of the Seven Years War, (1756-1763). It tells the story of the rise and fall of an Irish rogue, dishonest gambler, and soldier, who marries a rich widow and assumes the aristocratic position of her late husband. From that high point, however, he falls steadily downward.

Barry Lyndon is a film of tremendous visual beauty. Stanley Kubrick wished to film the candle-light scenes using only the light of the candles themselves. He used special very wide aperture lenses from NASA and highly light-sensitive film. In *Barry Lyndon*, Kubrick also uses camera shots in which the viewer seems to approach the action from a long distance away, and later recedes gradually from the scene until it fades from sight. The film won four Academy Awards.

All of Stanley Kubrick's films

1. Fear and Desire (1953)
2. Killer's Kiss (1955)

3. The Killing (1956)
4. Paths of Glory (1957)
5. Spartacus (1960)
6. Lolita (1962)
7. Dr. Strangelove (1964)
8. 2001: A Space Odyssey (1968)
9. A Clockwork Orange (1971)
10. Barry Lyndon (1975)
11. The Shining (1980)
12. Full Metal Jacket (1987)
13. Eyes Wide Shut (1999)

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Chapter 14

FEDERICO FELLINI 1920-1993

Fellini's childhood

Federico Fellini was born in 1920 in Rimini, a small town on the Adriatic coast of Italy. His father's family were small landowners while his mother came from a bourgeois family of Roman merchants. Not interested in formal schooling, 17-year old Fellini thought that he would make a career as a cartoonist and gag writer. Later, to please his parents, he enrolled in law school at the University of Rome, but there is no record of his attending any classes.

Career as a writer and filmmaker

When Fellini was 19 and living in Rome, he obtained a steady job at Marc'Aurelio, a highly influential biweekly humor magazine. He joined the editorial board and wrote a weekly column entitled *But Are You Listening?*. He was steadily employed by the magazine for three critical years, and his job brought him into contact with writers, gagmen, and scriptwriters. These contacts led him to become a filmmaker.

Some of Fellini's greatest films

Fellini's best-known films include *La Strada* (1954), *Nights of Cabiria* (1957), *La Dolce Vita* (1960), *8 1/2* (1963), *Juliet of the Spirits* (1965), *Spirits of the Dead* (1968), *Fellini Satyricon* (1969), *Roma* (1972), *Amarcord* (1973), and *Fellini's Casanova* (1976). Fellini's unique style of filmmaking includes both fantasy and earthiness. He is considered to be one of the greatest and most influential directors of all time.

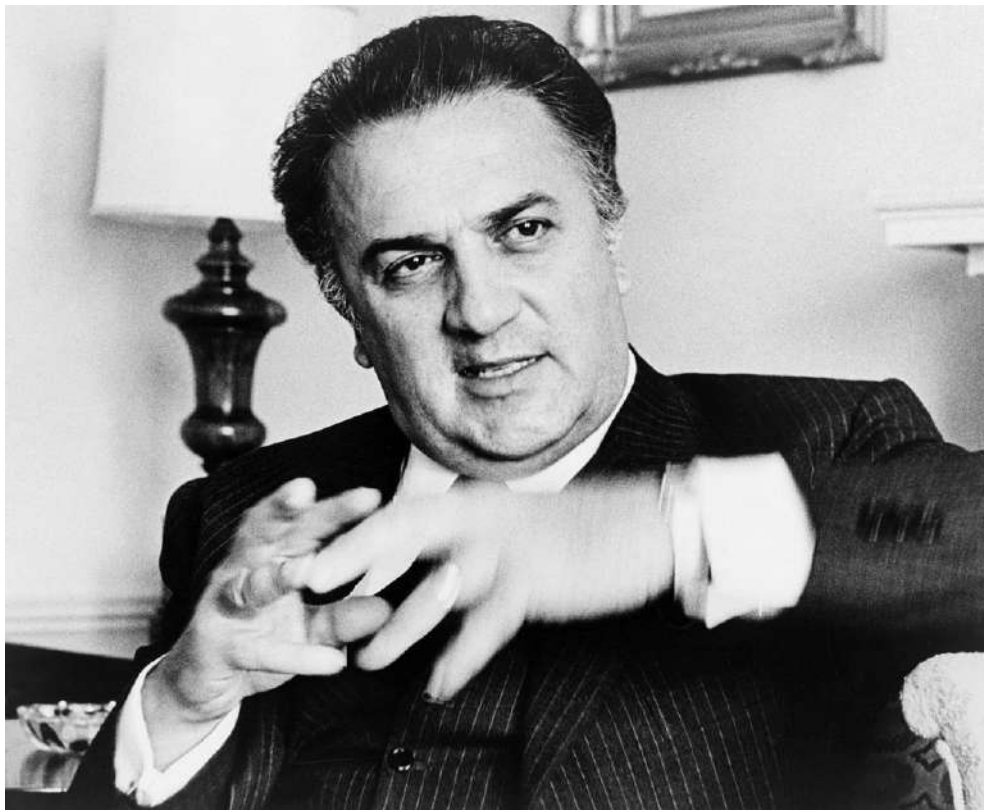


Figure 14.1: **Federico Fellini.**



Figure 14.2: Fellini and Bruno Zanin on the set of *Amarcord* in 1973.



Figure 14.3: A poster for *La Strada*.

14.1 La Strada (1954)

Fellini's film *La Strada* is about a simple-minded young woman (played by Giulietta Masina) who was bought from her impoverished mother by a strongman street performer (played by Antony Quinn). He treats her brutally, but is moved to tears when she dies. *La Strada* won the inaugural Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film in 1957, and it was placed fourth in the 1992 British Film Institute directors' list of cinema's top 10 films.

14.2 La Dolce Vita (1960)

Federico Fellini's film *La Dolce Vita* tells the story of a newspaper reporter, played by Marcello Mastroianni, who experiences the sweet life in Rome, becoming romantically involved with various women, including a Swedish actress, with whom he takes a midnight bath in one of the fountains of Rome. *La Dolce Vita* has come to be regarded as a masterpiece of Italian cinema, and one of the greatest films of all time.

14.3 Amarcord (1973)

Fellini's film *Amarcord*, meaning "I remember", is a nostalgic semi-autobiographical film, set in the 1930's, at a time when Italy was under the rule of the Fascists, led by Benito Mussolini. In the film, Fellini satirizes both Mussolini's ridiculous posturing and the Catholic Church that "imprisoned Italians in a perpetual adolescence". *Amarcord* won the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film.

All of Federico Fellini's films

1. Variety Lights (1950)
2. The White Sheik (1952)
3. I vitelloni (1953)
4. Love in the City (1953)
5. La strada (1954)
6. Il bidone (1955)
7. Nights of Cabiria (1957)
8. La Dolce Vita (1960)
9. Boccaccio '70 (1962)
10. Eight and a Half (1963)
11. Juliet of the Spirits (1965)
12. Spirits of the Dead (1968)

13. Fellini: A Director's Notebook (1969)
14. Fellini Satyricon (1969)
15. I Clowns (1970)
16. Roma (1972)
17. Amarcord (1973)
18. Fellini's Casanova (1976)
19. Orchestra Rehearsal (1978)
20. City of Women (1980)
21. And the Ship Sails On (1983)
22. Ginger and Fred (1986)
23. Intervista (1987)
24. The Voice of the Moon (1990)

Suggestions for further reading

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Chapter 15

MIKE NICHOLS 1931-2013

Childhood in Germany

Mike Nichols was born in Berlin, Germany, in 1931. His name, at birth, was Mikhail Igor Peschkowsky. Both of his parents were Jewish, and and, through his mother, he was distantly related to Albert Einstein. In 1939, because the Nazis were arresting Jews, he and his brother were sent to the United States to join their father, who was already there. Nichols' mother soon joined them, escaping through Italy. In 1950, Nichols enrolled in a pre-medical program at the University of Chicago. While at the University of Chicago, he joined the staff of a radio station and created a highly popular program called *The Midnight Special* which continues to this day.

Mike Nichols and Elaine May

Mike Nichols first saw Elaine May when he was playing the lead in a Chicago performance of *Miss Julie*. Near to the University of Chicago, was the Compass Tavern, where people could sit at tables, have a glass of beer, and simultaneously enjoy improvised sketches. Mike Nichols and Elaine worked together at the Compass, and later became an extremely famous comedy duo.

Nichols' career in theatre and films

In 1963, Nichols began his career as a director. He was chosen to direct Neil Simon's play, *Barefoot in the Park*. He realized at once that directing was what he wanted to do with the rest of his life. Nichols went on to direct many other Broadway plays, with great success. Time magazine called him "the most in-demand director in the American theatre." Although he had no previous experience in filmmaking, Warner Bros. invited him to Hollywood to direct *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*, a film that was nominated for thirteen Academy Awards.



Figure 15.1: A publicity photo of Mike Nichols.



Figure 15.2: Elizabeth Taylor won an Academy Award for her role in Mike Nichols' film, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*.

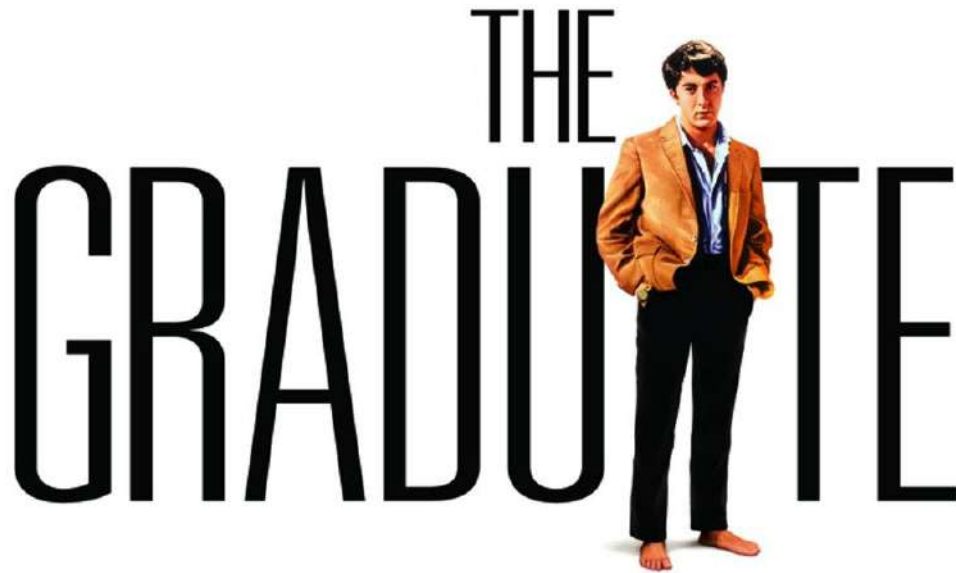


Figure 15.3: Mike Nichols' film, *The Graduate*, starred (then unknown) Dustin Hoffman together with Ann Bancroft.

15.1 Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? (1966)

Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf, directed by Mike Nichols in his debut as a director, stars Elizabeth Taylor, Richard Burton, George Segal and Sandy Dennis. The film shows us an acrimonious late night drunken party of academics. Burton plays the role of a history professor, married to the daughter of the college president (Elizabeth Taylor). The couple abuse each other in front of their guests. *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* was nominated for thirteen Academy Awards. It is one of only two films to be nominated for awards in every category.

15.2 The Graduate (1967)

Mike Nichols' film, *The Graduate*, is the story of a young man, Benjamin, who recently graduated from college, but who as yet does not know what he wants to do with his life. Mike Nichols chose Dustin Hoffman for this role, although Hoffman was unknown at the time. Nichols liked the hesitant and questioning way in which Hoffman delivered the lines. Benjamin is seduced by an older woman, Mrs. Robinson, (played by Ann Bancroft) but he then falls in love with Mrs. Robinson's daughter, Elaine (Katharine Ross). Mrs. Robinson absolutely forbids any contact between Benjamin and her daughter, but Benjamin pursues Elaine and wins her love nevertheless. *The Graduate* was a critical and commercial success. In 1997, the film was ranked as the 7th greatest American film of all time.

All of Mike Nichols' films

1. Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? (1966)
2. The Graduate (1967)
3. Teach Me! (1968)
4. Catch-22 (1970)
5. Carnal Knowledge (1971)
6. The Day of the Dolphin (1973)
7. The Fortune (1975)
8. Gilda Live (1980)
9. Silkwood (1983)
10. Heartburn (1986)
11. Biloxi Blues (1988)
12. Working Girl (1988)
13. Postcards from the Edge (1990)
14. Regarding Henry (1991)
15. The Remains of the Day (1993)
16. Wolf (1994)

17. *The Birdcage* (1996)
18. *Primary Colors* (1998)
19. *What Planet Are You From?* (2000)
20. *Closer* (2004)
21. *Charlie Wilson's War* (2007)

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Chapter 16

MILOS FORMAN 1932-2018

Milos Forman's early life

Milos Forman was born in 1932 in Cáslav, Czechoslovakia to Anna Svábová Forman, who ran a summer hotel. When he was young, he believed that his biological father was professor Rudolf Forman, but he later discovered that his biological father was in fact the Jewish architect Otto Kohn. In 1943, Milos Forman's mother was murdered by the Nazis in Auschwitz, and Forman was afterwards raised by two uncles, and by family friends. In his youth, Forman wanted to be a theatre producer, but he later studied screenwriting at the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague.

During the 1960's Forman became a leader in the Czech new wave of filmmaking. He made a number of successful films. *Black Peter*, which won the Golden Leopard award at the Locarno International Film Festival, *Loves of a Blonde* and *The Fireman's Ball*.

Emigration to the United States

In 1968, when Czechoslovakia was invaded by the Warsaw Pact nations, Forman emigrated to the United States, where he continued making films. He also became a professor at Colombia University.

Forman's greatest films

Among Milos Forman's greatest films are *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, which won all five major Academy Awards, *Hair* and *Amadeus*, which was nominated for 53 major awards and won 40. *Amadeus* is considered to be one of the best films of all time.



Figure 16.1: Czech/American film director Milos Forman at the 44th Karlovy Vary International Film Festival 2009, Czech Republic.



Figure 16.2: The performances of Jack Nicholson and Louise Fletcher in Forman's *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* received widespread praise and won them the Academy Awards for Best Actor and Best Actress respectively.



Figure 16.3: A scene from Milos Forman's film, *Amadeus*.

16.1 One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest (1975)

Milos Forman's film *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* tells the story of Randle McMurphy (played by Jack Nicholson), who has himself voluntarily admitted to a mental hospital in order to escape prosecution for having sex with a 15-year-old girl (statutory rape). However, in the mental hospital, he and other inmates are tormented by a sadistic head nurse. The film won all five major Academy Awards: Best Picture, Best Actor in a Lead Role, Best Actress in a Lead Role, Best Director, and Best Screenplay.

16.2 Hair (1978)

The anti-war musical drama *Hair*, directed by Milos Forman, is set against the background of the US hippie counter-culture's protests against the Vietnam War. It tells the story of a draft inductee on his way to an induction center, who meets a band of hippies. They introduce him to their unconventional lifestyle. As mentioned, it is a musical, a "Rock Opera". The film deserves praise for its anti-war message.

16.3 Amadeus (1984)

The film *Amadeus*, directed by Milos Forman is a period drama set in Vienna in the late 18th century. It tells the story of the (fictional) rivalry of the Italian composer Antonio Salieri and Mozart at the court of Emperor Joseph II. Salieri discovers that the supremely gifted Mozart is a misbehaving and bawdy adolescent, and he ask himself why God has given such enormous talents to such a person. Salieri resolves to take his revenge on God by murdering Mozart. Salieri succeeds in killing Mozart by conspiring to overwork him to death, but he ends his days in a mental hospital. *Amadeus* was nominated for 53 major awards and won 40. It is considered to be one of the greatest films of all time.

All of Milos Forman's films

1. Leave It to Me (1955)
2. Black Peter (1964)
3. Loves of a Blonde (1965)
4. Firemen's Ball (1967)
5. Taking Off (1971)
6. One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest (1975)
7. Hair (1979)
8. Ragtime (1981)
9. Amadeus (1984)

10. Valmont (1989)
11. The People vs. Larry Flynt (1996)
12. Man on the Moon (1999)
13. Goya's Ghosts (2006)

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Chapter 17

ROMAN POLANSKI 1933-

Polanski's early life in Poland

Roman Polanski was born in Paris in 1933 to Polish Jewish parents. In 1937, the family moved back to Poland, and settled in Kraków. When the Germans invaded Poland, the family was trapped. Polanski's mother was murdered by the Nazis in Auschwitz. Roman Polanski and his father both survived the Holocaust. Roman was sheltered by Catholic friends and given a false identity. but it was a narrow escape.

Career as a filmmaker

From early childhood, Roman Polanski was fascinated by cinema. He wrote later, "Movies were becoming an absolute obsession with me. I was enthralled by everything connected with the cinema." In 1962, He made the film *A Knife in the Water*. The film was a major commercial and critical success, and it was nominated for an Academy Award as Best Foreign Language Film. It gave Polanski and international reputation. As a result, he was invited to Hollywood and given the opportunity to direct the horror film, *Rosemary's Baby* (1968). Polanski made a number of important films, many of which were dark in mood, influenced by his wartime experiences in Poland, and by the murder of his pregnant wife, Sharon Tate, by the Charles Manson cult.

Rape accusations and exile in Europe

In 1977, Polanski was charged with various sexual offenses in connection with a 13 year old girl named Samantha Gailey. Whether or not any of the charges were true is unclear, but the result was the Polanski fled from the United States to Europe, to countries from which he cannot be extradited to the United States. He remains there today, and continues to make excellent films.



Figure 17.1: Sharon Tate about to kiss Roman Polanski in *The Fearless Vampire Killers* (1967).



Figure 17.2: Polanski with wife Emmanuelle Seigner at the 1992 Cannes Film Festival.



Figure 17.3: A poster for Polanski's film, *The Pianist*.

17.1 The Fearless Vampire Killers (1967)

The Fearless Vampire Killers, directed by Roman Polanski, who also plays a leading role in the film, is an extremely funny and entertaining vampire comedy. The film is set “deep in the heart of Transylvania” in the 19th century. It follows the adventures of the aging vampire hunter Professor Abronsius, formerly of the University of Königsberg, and his assistant Alfred (played by Polanski). The film also stars Sharon Tate, Polanski’s future wife.

17.2 Chinatown (1974)

Chinatown, directed by Roman Polanski, and starring Jack Nicholson and Faye Dunaway, is a mystery film based on the “water wars” that took place in southern California in the early part of the 20th century. *Chinatown* was nominated for 11 Academy Awards, and is frequently listed as one of the greatest films of all time.

17.3 The Pianist (2002)

The Pianist, directed by Roman Polanski, tells the story of a talented Polish-Jewish pianist, Wladyslaw Szpilman, who barely escapes death during the Nazi Holocaust. The story closely parallels Polanski’s own experiences. The film was nominated for seven Academy Awards and won three, including Best Director for Polanski.

All of Roman Polanski’s films

1. Knife in the Water (1962)
2. Repulsion (1965)
3. Cul-de-sac (1966)
4. The Fearless Vampire Killers (1967)
5. Rosemary’s Baby (1968)
6. Macbeth (1971)
7. What? (1972)
8. Chinatown (1974)
9. The Tenant (1976)
10. Tess (1979)
11. Pirates (1986)
12. Frantic (1988)
13. Bitter Moon (1992)
14. Death and the Maiden (1994)

15. The Ninth Gate (1999)
16. The Pianist (2002)
17. Oliver Twist (2005)
18. The Ghost Writer (2010)
19. Carnage (2011)
20. Venus in Fur (2013)
21. Based on a True Story (2017)
22. An Officer and a Spy (2019)
23. The Palace (2022)

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Chapter 18

WOODY ALLEN 1935-

Woody Allen's family and early life

Originally named Allan Stewart Konigsberg, Woody Allen was born in the Bronx in New York City. His grandparents were Jewish immigrants to the U.S. from Austria and the Lithuanian city of Panevezys. They spoke German, Hebrew and Yiddish, and as a boy, Woody Allen spoke German. At age 17, he legally changed his name to Heywood Allen and later began to call himself Woody.

Gag writer and stand-up comic

When he was 15, Woody Allen started writing jokes for newspapers and, radio, and playwrights. He was soon making more money this way than both of his parents combined. Because of his success in writing jokes, he was invited, aged 19, to join NBC's writer's development program. He was later given a job on the NBC Comedy Hour. Between 1960 and 1969, he also appeared as a stand-up comedian, with great success.

Allen's career as a filmmaker

Woody Allen began writing and directing films in 1969. His first film was the slapstick comedy, *Take the Money and Run*. He wrote and directed several others in the same genre, *Bananas* (1971), *Sleeper* (1973), and *Love and Death* (1975), before moving into dramatic material. Among Woody Allen's most memorable films are *Annie Hall*, *Hannah and Her Sisters*, and *Radio Days*. Woody Allen has received more nominations for the Best Original Screenplay Academy Award than anyone else; 16. In 2015, the Writers Guild of America named his screenplay for *Annie Hall* first on its list of the "101 Funniest Screenplays".

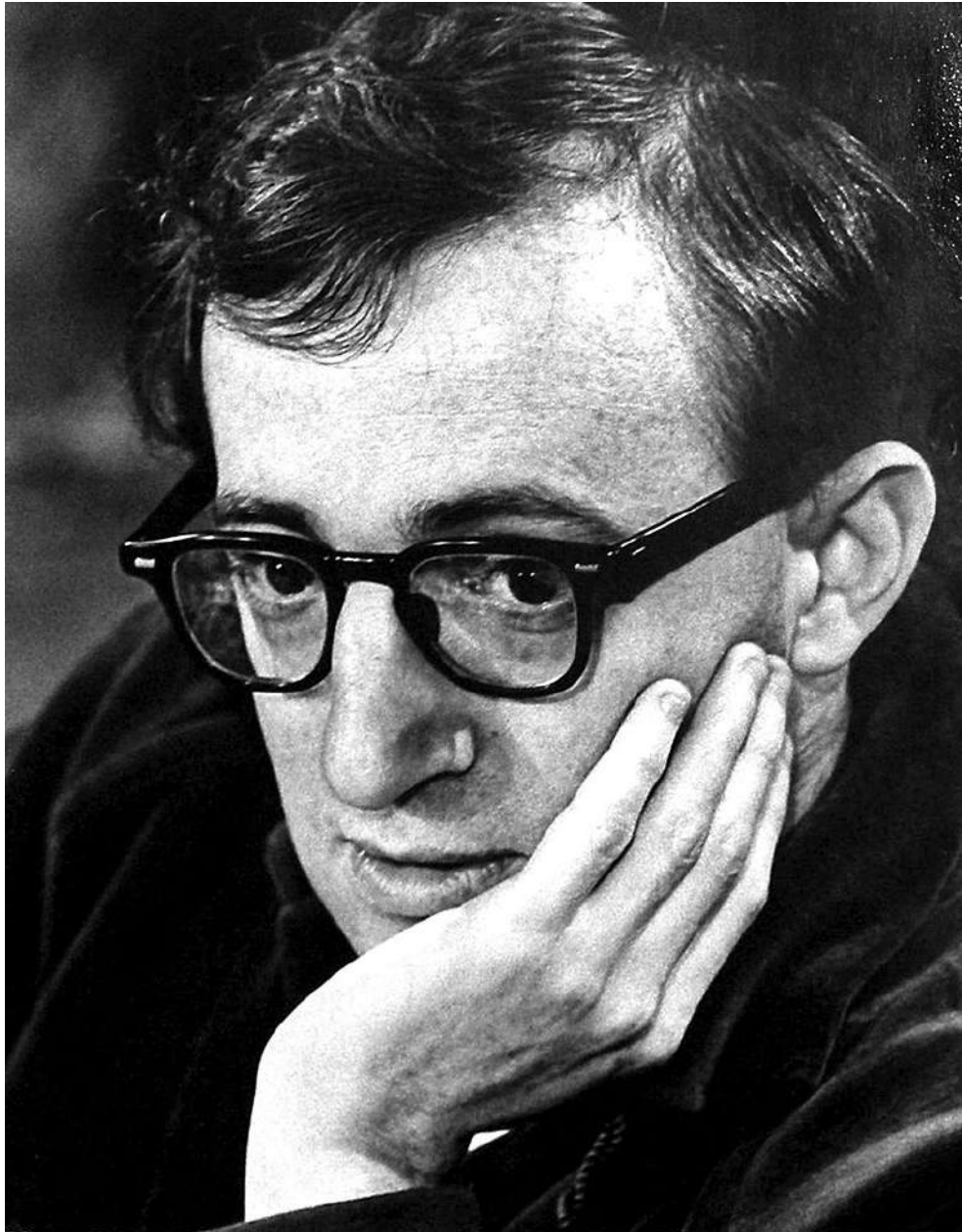


Figure 18.1: Woody Allen in the 1960s.

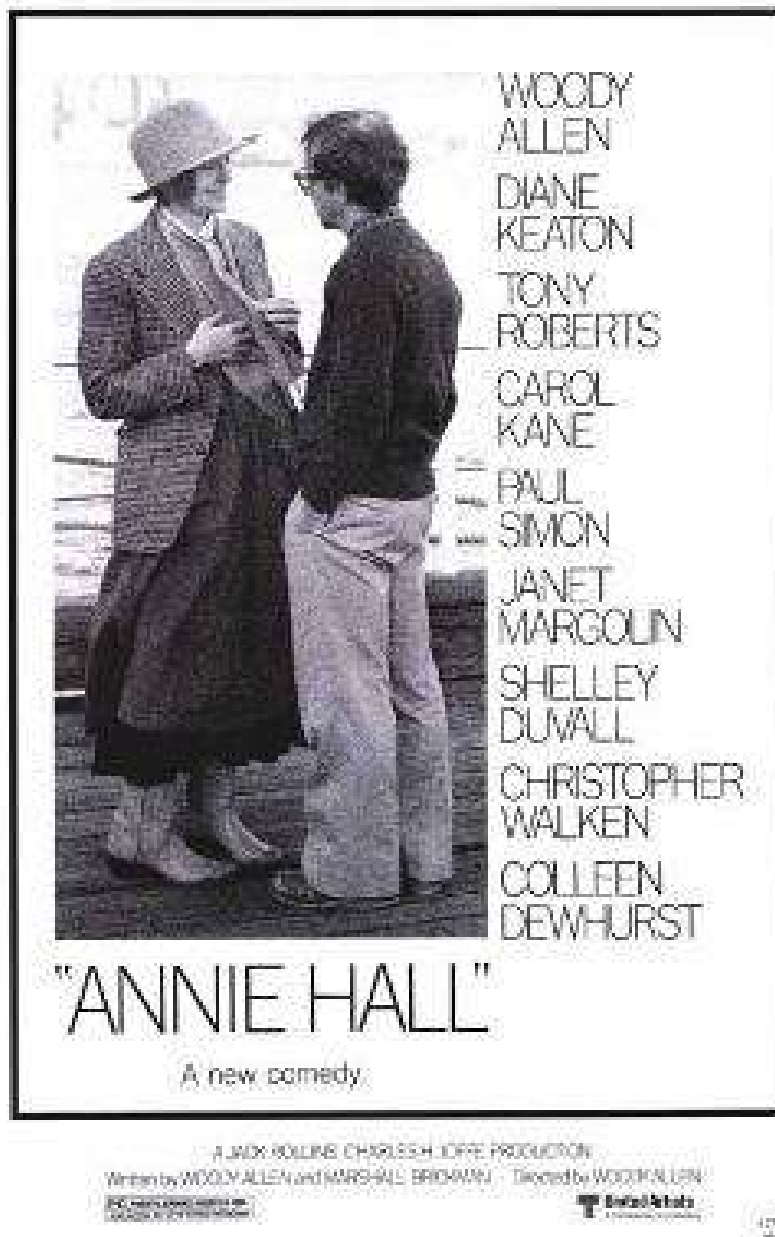


Figure 18.2: A poster for Woody Allen's film, *Annie Hall*.



Figure 18.3: A poster for Allen's film, *Hannah and Her Sisters*.

18.1 Annie Hall (1977)

Woody Allen's film *Annie Hall* is a satirical romantic comedy about the problematic relationship between Alfie (played by Allen) and Annie (played by Allen's real life girlfriend, Diane Keaton). The film won critical praise. It was nominated for the Big Five Academy Awards, and won four: Best Picture, Best Original Screenplay, Best Director, and Best Actress.

18.2 Hannah and Her Sisters (1986)

Hannah and Her Sisters was written and directed by Woody Allen, and he also appears in the film. Allen recalls that in writing the film, he was influenced by Ingmar Bergman's *Fanny and Alexander*, where an extended family celebrates Christmas together at the start and at the end of the film. In Allen's *Hannah and Her Sisters*, it is Thanksgiving that is celebrated at the beginning and the end. The film stars Mia Farrow as Hannah, Michael Cain as her husband, with Barbara Hershey and Dianne Wiest as her sisters. Woody Allen appears in the film in the comic role of Hannah's neurotic and hypochondriac ex-husband, Mickey. The film was a financial and critical success, receiving seven Academy Award nominations. Michael Caine and Dianne Wiest won Academy Awards for Best Supporting Actor and Best Supporting Actress.

18.3 Radio Days (1987)

Radio Days is a nostalgic film, written, directed and narrated by Woody Allen. about a Jewish boy, Joe, growing up in a modest home in Rockaway Beach. The film is set at a time before television, when everyone listened to the radio. The nostalgia and attractiveness of *Radio Days* is greatly increased by its soundtrack, which features popular songs from that era. The great director, Stanley Kubrick, loved the film because "it was like watching a home movie".

All of Woody Allen's films

1. What's Up, Tiger Lily? (1966)
2. Take the Money and Run (1969)
3. Bananas (1969)
4. Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Sex* (*But Were Afraid to Ask) (1972)
5. Sleeper (1973)
6. Love and Death (1975)

7. Annie Hall (1977)
8. Interiors (1978)
9. Manhattan (1979)
10. Stardust Memories (1980)
11. A Midsummer Night's Sex Comedy (1982)
12. Zelig (1983)
13. Broadway Danny Rose (1984)
14. The Purple Rose of Cairo (1985)
15. Hannah and Her Sisters (1986)
16. Radio Days (1987)
17. September (1987)
18. Another Woman (1988)
19. Crimes and Misdemeanors (1989)
20. Alice (1990)
21. Shadows and Fog (1991)
22. Manhattan Murder Mystery (1993)
23. Bullets Over Broadway (1994)
24. Mighty Aphrodite (1995)
25. Everyone Says I Love You (1996)
26. Deconstructing Harry (1997)
27. Celebrity (1998)
28. Sweet and Lowdown (1999)
29. Small Time Crooks (2000)
30. The Curse of the Jade Scorpion (2001)
31. Hollywood Ending (2002)
32. Anything Else (2003)
33. Melinda and Melinda (2004)
34. Match Point (2005)
35. Scoop (2006)
36. Cassandra's Dream (2007)
37. Vicky Cristina Barcelona (2008)
38. Whatever Works (2009)
39. You Will Meet a Tall Dark Stranger (2010)
40. Midnight in Paris (2011)
41. To Rome with Love (2012)
42. Blue Jasmine (2013)
43. Magic in the Moonlight (2014)
44. Irrational Man (2015)
45. Café Society (2016)
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47. A Rainy Day in New York (2019)
48. Rifkin's Festival (2020)

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Chapter 19

STEVEN SPIELBERG 1946-

Steven Spielberg's family and early life

Steven Spielberg was born in 1946. in Cincinnati, Ohio. His parents were Orthodox Jews, a fact that embarrassed him as a child. His youth was remarkable because of the fact that he started making films at home at the age of 12. When he was 13, he made a 40-minute war film, titled *Escape to Nowhere*, with a cast of school classmates. The film won first prize in a statewide competition.

Spielberg's career as a director

During the summer of 1964, Spielberg worked as an unpaid assistant at Universal Studios' editorial department. Four years later, in 1968, Universal gave Spielberg the opportunity to write and direct a short film for theatrical release, the 26-minute, 35 mm *Amblin'*. The studio was impressed by the award-winning film, and offered Spielberg a seven year contract to direct films. In 1975, Spielberg directed the film, *Jaws*. It was a blockbuster success, and it made Spielberg's name a household word.

Spielberg's most famous films

Among Spielberg's best-known films are *Jaws* (1975), *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* (1977), *Raiders of the Lost Ark* (1981), *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial* (1982), *Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom* (1984), *The Color Purple* (1985), *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade* (1989), *Jurassic Park* (1993), *Schindler's List* (1993), *Saving Private Ryan* (1998), and *A.I. Artificial Intelligence* (2001). Spielberg is the most commercially successful director of all time, and he is the recipient of numerous awards.



Figure 19.1: Steven Spielberg speaking at the 2017 San Diego Comic-Con International in San Diego, California.

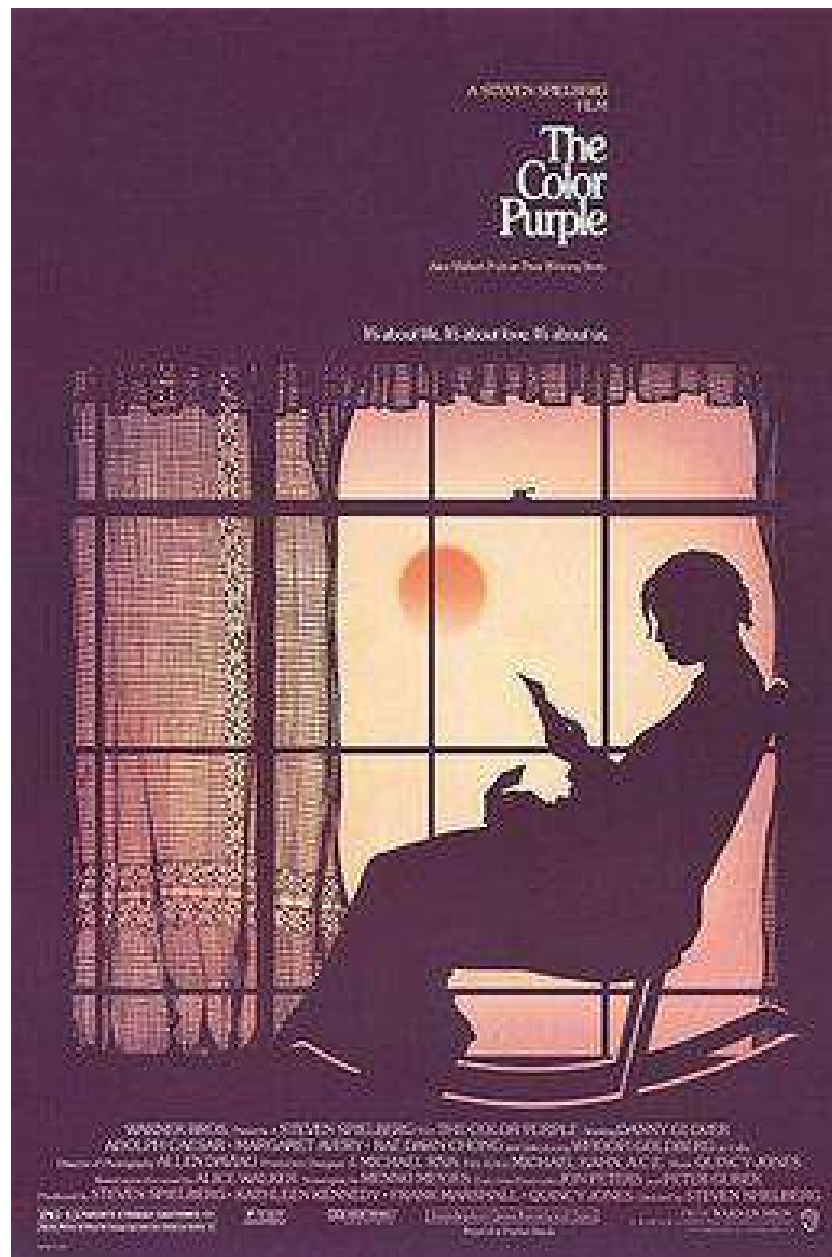


Figure 19.2: A poster for Steven Spielberg's *The Color Purple*.



Figure 19.3: A poster for Steven Spielberg's *Jurassic Park*.



Figure 19.4: Liam Neeson plays Oskar Schindler in Steven Spielberg's film *Schindler's List*.

19.1 The Color Purple (1985)

Steven Spielberg's film *The Color Purple* is based on a Pulitzer Prize-winning novel of the same name by Alice Walker. It describes the problems experienced by a young African-American woman in North Carolina in the first part of the 20th century. *The Color Purple* stars Whoopie Goldberg, Danny Glover and Oprah Winfrey. It received 11 Academy Award nominations, but won none (a record).

19.2 Jurassic Park (1993)

Steven Spielberg's film, *Jurassic Park*, is based on a novel by Michael Crichton, who also was a co-writer of the screenplay. It is a science-fiction film about a wealthy industrialist who creates a park with live dinosaurs to be viewed by visitors. The dinosaurs are cloned from DNA obtained from mosquitos preserved in amber. The film follows the fates of visitors whose lives are greatly endangers when the park's security system breaks down. Among the film's stars are Sam Neill, Laura Dern, Jeff Goldblum, and Richard Attenborough. *Jurassic Park* makes much use of computer technology to produce life-like images of the dangerous dinosaurs. At the time, it was the highest grossing film ever made. It was also praised by critics, winning three Academy Awards, and seventeen other awards.

19.3 Schindler's List (1993)

Schindler's List, directed by Steven Spielberg, is based on the historical documentary book, *Schindler's Ark* by the Australian writer Thomas Keneally. The film tells the true story of Oskar Schindler, a German industrialist, who saved more than a thousand mainly Polish Jews from the Holocaust by employing them in his factory. In the film, Schindler is played by Liam Neeson, while Ben Kingsley plays the role of Schindler's Jewish accountant Itzhak Stern. *Schindler's List* was universally praised by critics. It was nominated for twelve Academy Awards, and won seven. It is often listed as one of the greatest films of all time,

All of Steven Spielberg's films

1. Firelight (1964)
2. Duel (1971)
3. Ace Eli and Rodger of the Skies (1973)
4. The Sugarland Express (1974)
5. Jaws (1975)
6. Close Encounters of the Third Kind (1977)
7. 1941 (1979)

8. Raiders of the Lost Ark (1981)
9. E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial (1982)
10. Poltergeist (1982)
11. Twilight Zone: The Movie (1983)
12. Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom (1984)
13. The Color Purple (1985)
14. The Goonies (1985)
15. Empire of the Sun (1987)
16. Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade (1989)
17. Always (1989)
18. Hook (1991)
19. Jurassic Park (1993)
20. Schindler's List (1993)
21. The Lost World: Jurassic Park (1997)
22. Amistad (1997)
23. Saving Private Ryan (1998)
24. A.I. Artificial Intelligence (2001)
25. Minority Report (2002)
26. Catch Me If You Can (2002)
27. The Terminal (2004)
28. War of the Worlds (2005)
29. Munich (2005)
30. Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull (2008)
31. The Adventures of Tintin (2011)
32. War Horse (2011)
33. Lincoln (2012)
34. Bridge of Spies (2015)
35. The BFG (2016)
36. The Post (2017)
37. Ready Player One (2018)
38. West Side Story (2021)
39. The Fabelmans (2022)

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16. Haskell, Molly (2017). *Steven Spielberg: A Life in Films*. Yale University Press.

Chapter 20

OLIVER STONE 1946-

Stone's family and early life

Oliver Stone was born in New York City in 1946. His mother, Jacqueline, was a Catholic born in France, while his father, Lewis Silverstein, who later changed his name to Stone, was an American-born Jewish Stockbroker. His parents had met each other while his father was serving in France during World War II. Stone graduated from The Hill preparatory School in 1964, and was admitted to Yale University. He dropped out a year later to teach students in Saigon, was readmitted to Yale, and then dropped out again to write an autobiographical novel.

The Vietnam War

Stone volunteered for the army and requested active duty in Vietnam. while fighting there he won numerous medals and was wounded. He later made a series of three films based on his experiences in Vietnam, in which he took a critical view of the war.

Oliver Stone's most important films

Oliver Stone made many important, but often controversial, films. These include *Midnight Express* (1978), *Platoon* (1986), *Wall Street* (1987), *Born on the Fourth of July* (1989), *JFK* (1991), *Heaven & Earth* (1993), *Nixon* (1995), *W* (2008), and *Snowden* (2016).

Stone strongly criticized United States foreign policy, which he believed to be driven by nationalism and imperialism.

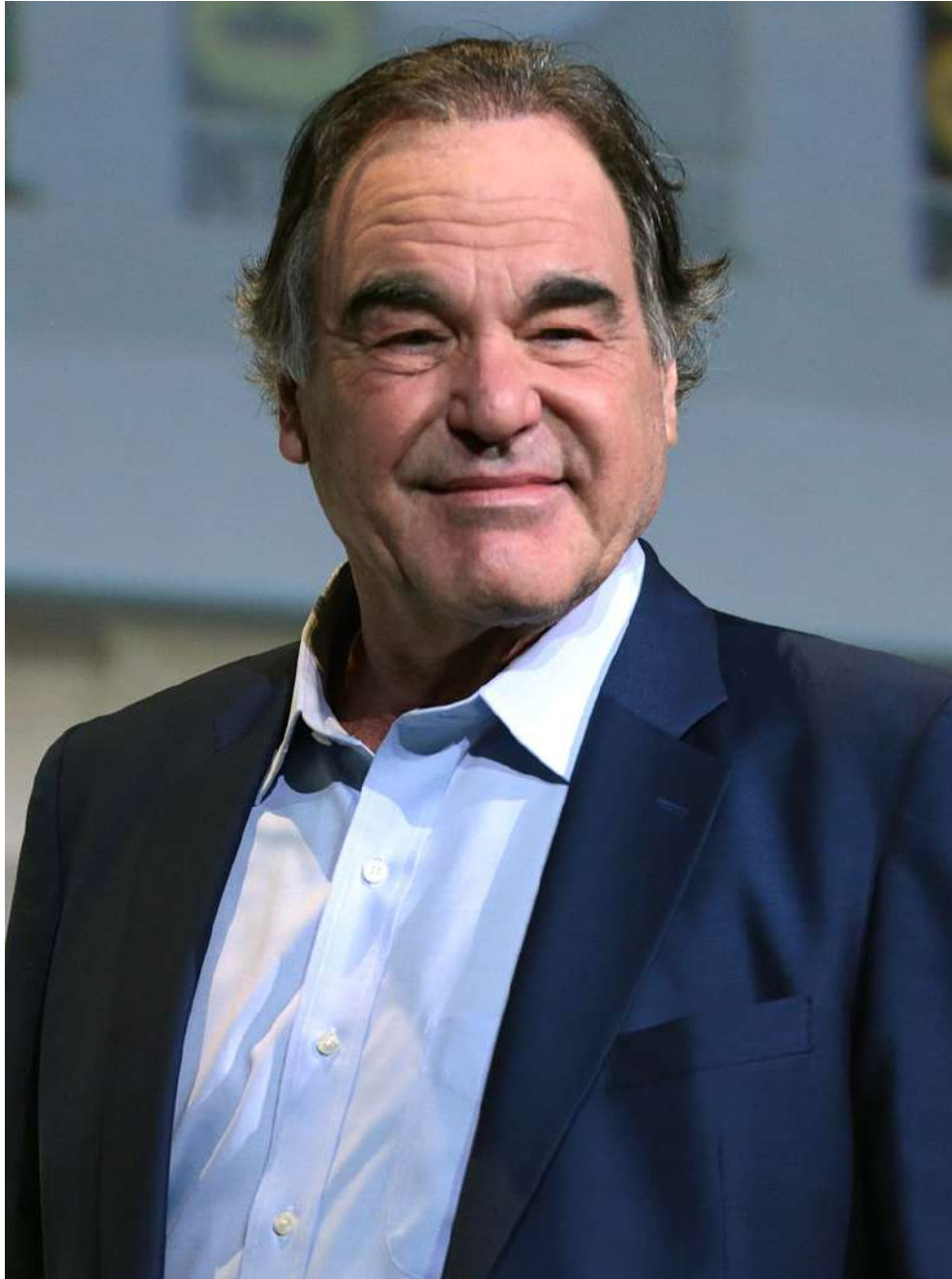


Figure 20.1: Oliver Stone speaking at the 2016 San Diego Comic-Con International in San Diego, California..

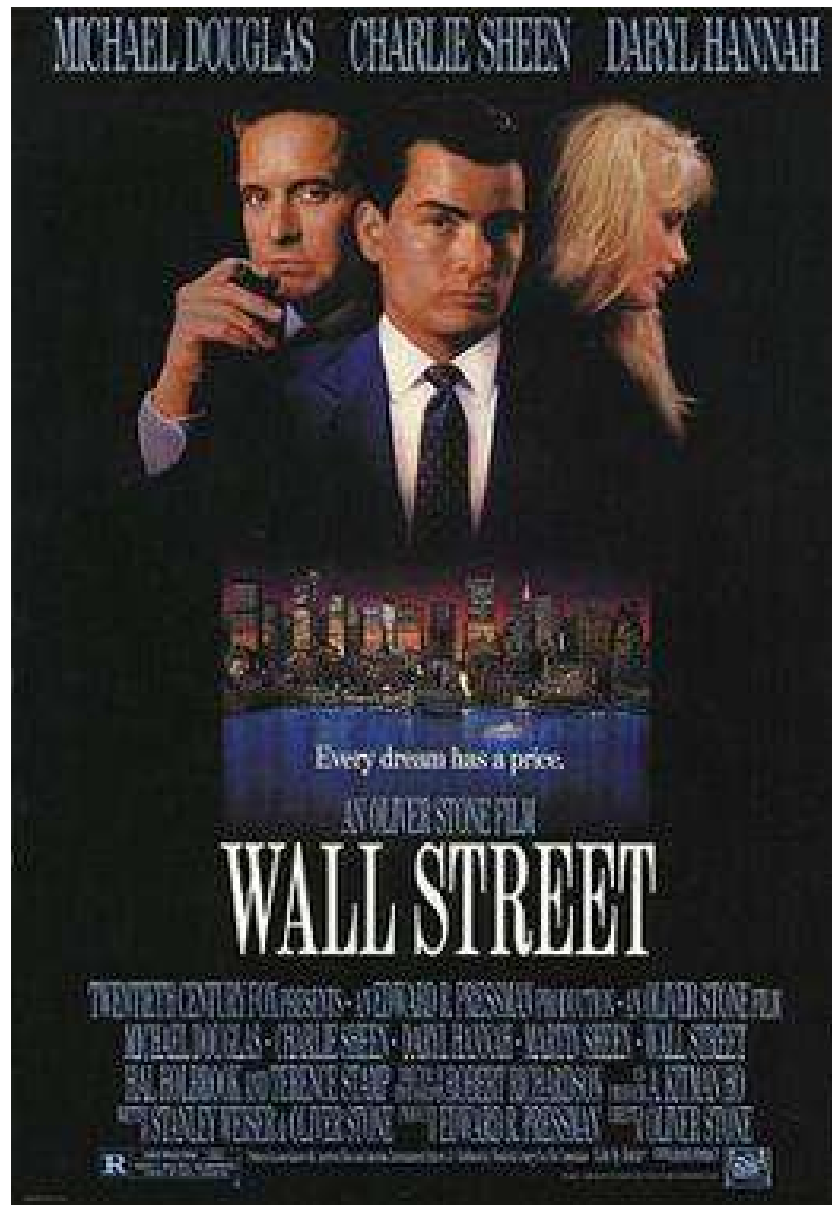


Figure 20.2: A poster for Oliver Stone's film, *Wall Street*. "Greed is good!"



Figure 20.3: Oliver Stone's film, *JFK*, questions the official narrative of the assassination of the president.

20.1 Platoon (1986)

The film *Platoon* was written and directed by Oliver Stone, and it is based on his own experiences as an infantryman during the Vietnam War. The stars of the film include Tom Berenger, Willem Dafoe, Charlie Sheen, Keith David, Kevin Dillon, John C. McGinley, Forest Whitaker, and Johnny Depp. *Platoon* was both a box office and critical success. It was nominated for eight Academy Awards, and won four.

20.2 Wall Street (1987)

Oliver Stone's film *Wall Street* tells the story of two unscrupulous Wall Street stockbrokers, the already established and extremely wealthy Gekko, played by Michael Douglas, and the newcomer, Bud, played by Charlie Sheen. Gekko originally helps Bud, but later they become enemies. At one point in the film, Gekko explains why "greed is good". Although this was certainly not Stone's intention, many viewers were influenced by it to conclude that greed actually is good. Michael Douglas won a Best Actor Academy Award for his role as Gekko.

20.3 JFK (1991)

Oliver Stone's film *JFK* questions the Warren Commission's version of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, and suggests that Kennedy was murdered because he wanted to pull the United States out of the Vietnam war, and to dismantle the CIA. *JFK* is narrated from the perspective of the Louisiana District Attorney, Jim Garrison. He meets with an unidentified high-level Washington official, who suggests "a coup d'état at the highest levels of government, implicating members of the CIA, the Mafia, the military-industrial complex, Secret Service, FBI, and Kennedy's vice-president and then president Lyndon Baines Johnson as either co-conspirators or as having motives to cover up the truth of the assassination." *JFK* was nominated for eight Academy Awards, and won four.

All of Oliver Stone's films

1. Seizure (1974)
2. Midnight Express (1978)
3. The Hand (1981)
4. Conan the Barbarian (1982)
5. Scarface (1983)
6. Year of the Dragon (1985)
7. Salvador (1986)

8. 8 Million Ways to Die (1986)
9. Platoon (1986)
10. Wall Street (1987)
11. Talk Radio (1988)
12. Born on the Fourth of July (1989)
13. The Doors (1991)
14. JFK (1991)
15. Heaven & Earth (1993)
16. Natural Born Killers (1994)
17. Nixon (1995)
18. Evita (1996)
19. U Turn (1997)
20. Any Given Sunday (1999)
21. Alexander (2004)
22. World Trade Center (2006)
23. W. (2008)
24. Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps (2010)
25. Savages (2012)
26. Snowden (2016)

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Chapter 21

LARS VON TRIER 1956-

Family and early life

Lars Trier was born in Kongens Lyngby, Denmark, in 1956. (He added the “von” to his name later, perhaps as a satirical tribute to the equally unreal noble titles of Erich von Stroheim and Josef von Sternberg). He studied film theory at the University of Copenhagen and film direction at the National Film School of Denmark. His early films, *Nocturne* and *Last Detail*, won two Best School Film awards at the Munich International Festival of Film Schools.

Career as a filmmaker; the Dogma 95 movement

Lars von Trier is interesting as a director because he initiated the Dogma 95 movement. This was a protest against the extremely high production costs of films, which made it impossible for small independent filmmakers to compete with large well-financed studios. Von Trier believed that the success or failure of films should depend on the strength and human impact of the story, rather than on impressive staging, large numbers of extras and technical devices. The first three Dogma 95 rules are:

1. Shooting must be done on location. Props and sets must not be brought in (if a particular prop is necessary for the story, a location must be chosen where this prop is to be found).
2. The sound must never be produced apart from the images or vice versa. (Music must not be used unless it occurs where the scene is being shot.)
3. The camera must be hand-held. Any movement or immobility attainable in the hand is permitted.

International recognition

Lars von Trier has won over 100 awards and 200 nominations^[15] at film festivals worldwide.



Figure 21.1: Director Lars von Trier leaving the press conference of the film *Nymphomaniac* at the 2014 Berlin Film Festival.

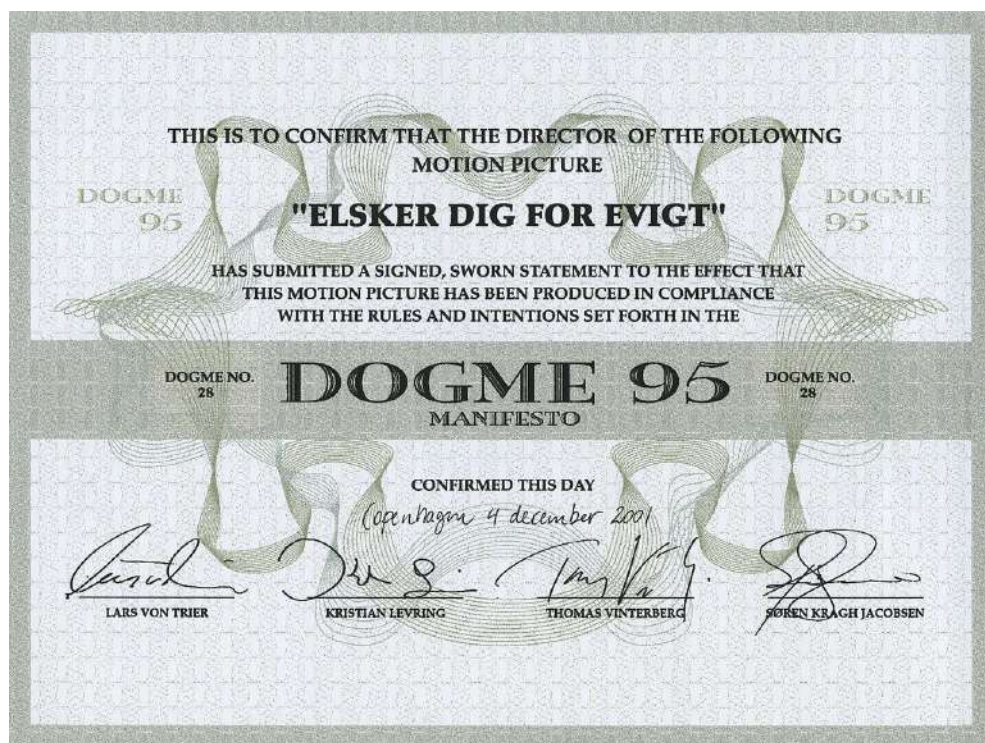


Figure 21.2: Dogme 95 Certificate for Susanne Bier's film *Open Hearts*.

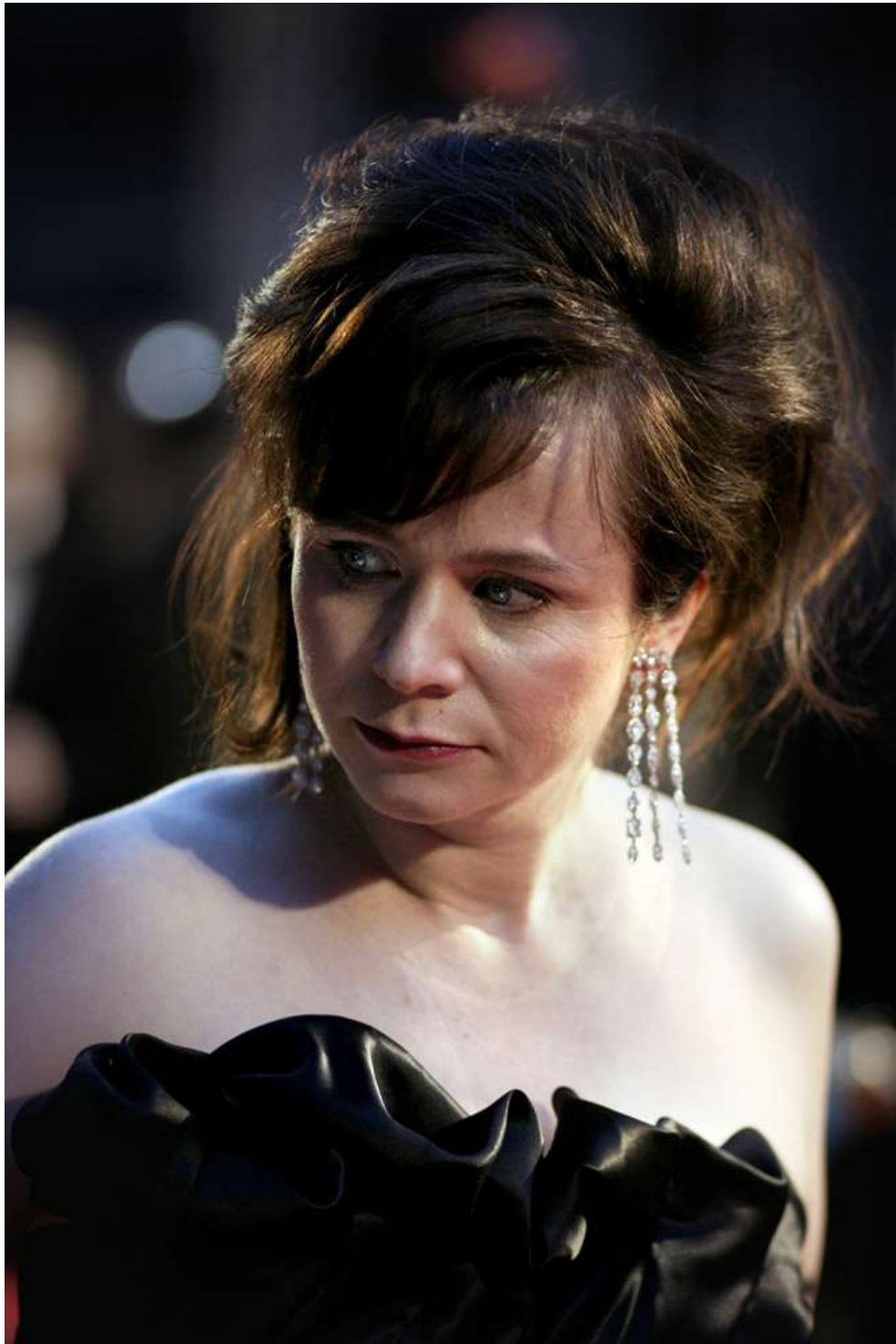


Figure 21.3: Actress Emily Watson won a Bodil Best Actress Award for her performance in Lars von Trier's film *Breaking the Waves*. The film won the Cannes Film Festival Grand Prix.



Figure 21.4: A theatrical poster for Lars von Trier's film, *Dogville*.

21.1 Breaking the Waves (1996)

Lars von Trier's film *Breaking the Waves* tells the story of a pretty young Scottish girl, Bess, married to a Danish oil rig worker, Jan. He is frequently away working on the rig, and Bess misses him. Bess prays to God for his quick return. Almost immediately, he returns, so badly injured that he can no longer have sex. He begs her to have sex with other men, and to tell him about it, so that it will seem as though they had been together. Believing that this is the only way she can help her husband, whom she loves deeply, Bess complies. Things go from bad to worse, and the film ends tragically. *Breaking the Waves* won the Grand Prix at the Cannes Film Festival.

21.2 Dogville (2003)

Lars von Trier's film, *Dogville*, tells the story of a girl, Grace (played by Nicole Kidman), who is fleeing from gangsters. She seeks refuge in the small Colorado mountain town of Dogville. The townspeople give Grace refuge, but in return, they make her work under slave-like conditions. She is mistreated and raped. Finally, the gangsters from whom she was fleeing arrive, and Grace's true identity is revealed: She is the daughter of a powerful gangster leader, and was fleeing only because she disapproved of his work. Now reconciled with her father, Grace asks him to massacre the people of the town, which he does. The town is totally destroyed.

In 2016, *Dogville* was ranked one of the 100 greatest motion pictures in a critics' poll conducted by BBC Culture.

All of Lars von Trier's films

1. The Orchid Gardener (1977)
2. Images of Liberation (1982)
3. The Element of Crime (1984)
4. Epidemic (1987)
5. Europa (1991)
6. Breaking the Waves (1996)
7. The Idiots (1998)
8. Dancer in the Dark (2000)
9. Dogville (2003)
10. Dear Wendy (2004)
11. Manderlay (2005)
12. The Boss of It All (2006)
13. Antichrist (2009)
14. Melancholia (2011)

15. Nymphomaniac (2013)
16. The House That Jack Built (2018)

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Chapter 22

JOEL AND ETHAN COEN, 1954-, 1957-

Family and early life

Joel Daniel Coen was born in 1954, and his brother, Ethan Jesse Coen, was born in (1957), both in St. Louis Park, Minnesota, a suburb of Minneapolis. Both their parents had an Eastern European Ashkenazi Jewish heritage, and both were university professors.

The Coen brothers showed a great interest in cinema from a very early age. When he was 10 years old, Joel Coen used money that he had earned by mowing lawns to buy a Vivitar Super 8 camera. The brothers then remade their own versions of films that they had seen on the television, starring their friend Mark Zimering. Cornell Wilde's film, *The Naked Prey*, became *Zimmers in Zambezi*. They made many other films together, using their friends as actors. Meanwhile they avidly watched films such as those by Fellini, as well as comedy and adventure films.

Education

The Coen brothers both graduated from Bard College at Simon's Rock in Great Barrington, Massachusetts. After that, Joel spent four years studying film at New York University, while Ethan studied philosophy at Princeton University.

The Coen brothers' most famous films

Among the Coen brothers' best known films are *Raising Arizona* (1987), *Miller's Crossing* (1990), *Barton Fink* (1991), *Fargo* (1996), *The Big Lebowski* (1998), *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* (2000), *No Country for Old Men* (2007), *True Grit* (2010), *Inside Llewyn Davis* (2013), and *The Ballad of Buster Scruggs* (2018). One way of looking at their films is to say that they are half-affectionate and half-satirical sketches of various American subcultures.



Figure 22.1: Ethan and Joel at the 2001 Cannes Film Festival.



Figure 22.2: Stars Julianne Moore and Jeff Bridges at the 2011 Lebowski Fest.



Figure 22.3: Frances McDormand garnered critical acclaim for her performance in the Coen brothers' film *Fargo*, and she won the Academy Award for Best Actress.

22.1 Fargo (1996)

The film *Fargo* was written by Joel and Ethan Coen, and Directed by Joel Coen. It is set in a snowbound landscape of Wisconsin, in and near to the town of Fargo. It tells the story of a kidnapping and the resulting multiple murders. In one, almost laughably grim scene, one of the murderers feeds the dismembered parts of his victim's body into a wood-chopping machine. *Fargo* is, in fact, a black comedy. The film was a commercial and critical success. It received seven Academy Award nominations, and it won four.

22.2 O Brother, Where Art Thou? (2000)

The film *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* was written by Joel and Ethan Coen, and directed by Joel Coen. The plot is loosely based on Homer's *Odyssey*, and it includes modern-day versions of many of the events described in Homer's epic poem. The film is also an affectionate and extremely funny and entertaining tribute to the culture of the south, especially the folk music. The sound track, featuring very many traditional southern folk songs, won a Grammy Award. *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* stars George Clooney, John Turturro, and Tim Blake Nelson, with Chris Thomas King, John Goodman, Holly Hunter, and Charles Durning in supporting roles.

22.3 No Country for Old Men (2007)

No Country for Old Men, written and directed by Joel and Ethan Coen, is a neo-western crime thriller set in Texas. There are three main characters in the film, Llewelyn, who stumbles upon a large sum of money in the desert, Anton, a hitman whose job it is to recover the money, and Ed, a local sheriff investigating the crime. The film won 76 awards from 109 nominations.

All of the Coen brothers' films

1. Blood Simple (1984)
2. Raising Arizona (1987)
3. Miller's Crossing (1990)
4. Barton Fink (1991)
5. The Hudsucker (1994)
6. Proxy (1994)
7. Fargo (1996)
8. The Big Lebowski (1998)
9. O Brother, Where Art Thou? (2000)

10. *The Man Who Wasn't There* (2001)
11. *Intolerable Cruelty* (2003)
12. *The Ladykillers* (2004)
13. *No Country for Old Men* (2007)
14. *Burn After Reading* (2008)
15. *A Serious Man* (2009)
16. *True Grit* (2010)
17. *Inside Llewyn Davis* (2013)
18. *Hail, Caesar!* (2016)
19. *The Ballad of Buster Scruggs* (2018)
20. *The Tragedy of Macbeth* (2021)

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Chapter 23

SOFIA COPPOLA 1971-

Sofia Coppola's family and early life

Sofia Coppola was born in New York City in 1971. Her mother was documentary filmmaker, Eleanor Coppola, and her father was the renowned director Francis Ford Coppola, famous for his series of *Godfather* films. Growing up, she had many interests, including fashion, photography, music and design. After dropping out of college, she started a fashion house called Milkfed, which now sells women's clothes in Japan. Originally, she did not intend to become a filmmaker.

Acting career

Sofia Coppola started to appear in her father's films as an infant, when she made background appearances in seven of her father's films. Later, she acted in *The Outsiders* (1983), *Rumble Fish* (1983), *The Cotton Club* (1984); and *Peggy Sue Got Married* (1986), all of which were associated with her father. This brought accusations of nepotism from reviewers. *Frankenweenie* (1984) was the first film Coppola performed in that was not associated with her father.

Career as a director

When Sofia Coppola started directing films, she realized this was really what she wanted to do. She said, "It brings all of the things that I love together." Her second film, *Lost in Translation* (2003), won the Academy Award for her original screenplay, as well as three Golden Globe awards. At the 2017 Cannes Film Festival, Coppola became the second woman (and the first American woman) to win the Best Director award for her film, *The Beguiled*.



Figure 23.1: Sofia Coppola at the Cannes Film Festival.

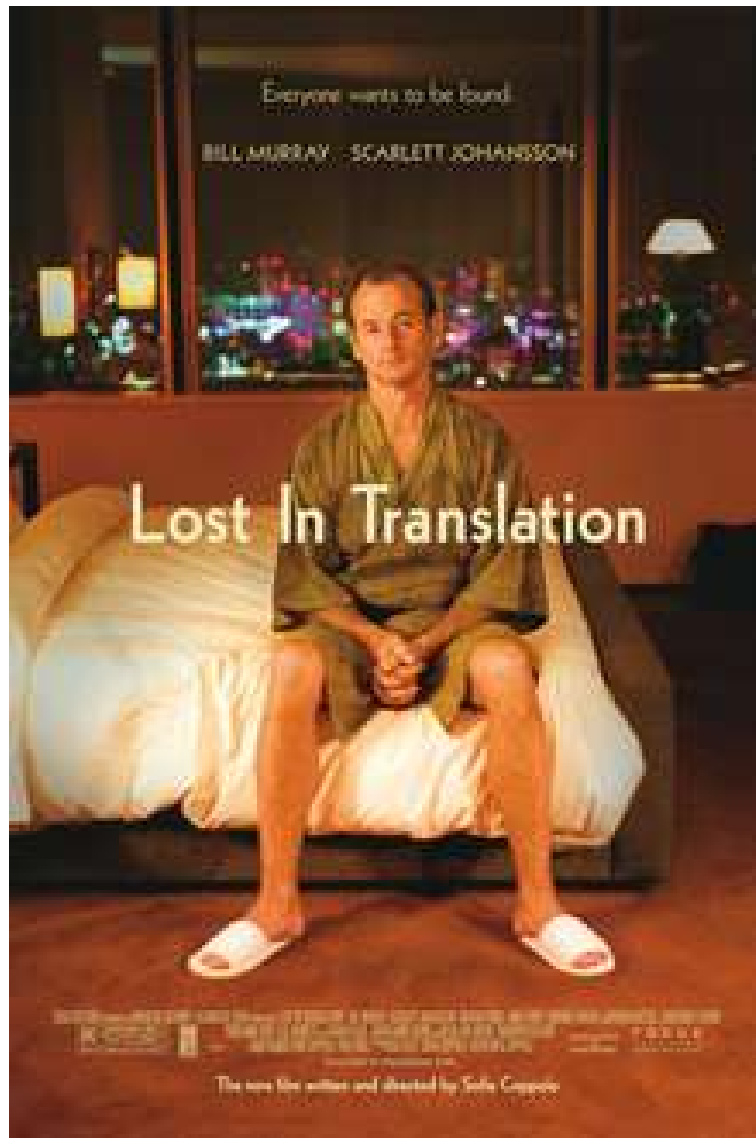


Figure 23.2: Bill Murray's character sits on a hotel bed with Tokyo visible in a window behind him.



Figure 23.3: A poster for the film *Marie Antoinette*.



Figure 23.4: A poster for the film *The Beguiled*.

23.1 Lost in Translation (2003)

The film *Lost in Translation* was written and directed by Sofia Coppola. It tells the story of a fading American movie star, Bob Harris, who travels to Tokyo to promote Suntory Whisky. In Tokyo, he meets a young American woman, named Charlotte, who becomes his friend. They are staying at the same hotel, and see much of each other, but romance between them is prevented by the fact that they are both married. Nevertheless, at the end of the film, they kiss each other goodbye in a very romantic way. *Lost in Translation* explores the phenomenon of cross-cultural shock, American and Japanese culture being so entirely different. The Film stars Bill Murray as Bob Harris, with Scarlett Johansson as Charlotte. It won an Academy Award and three Golden Globe Awards.

23.2 The Beguiled (2017)

The Beguiled was written and directed by Sofia Coppola. It is a southern Gothic thriller, based on a novel of the same name by Thomas P. Cullinan. The film is set in the south during the Civil War, and it tells the story of a handsome wounded Union soldier, who is taken in and cared for by the women of an almost-deserted girls school. Conflict arises because of completion between the women for the wounded soldier's affections. *The Beguiled* stars Colin Farrell, Nicole Kidman, Kirsten Dunst, and Elle Fanning. It won Sofia Coppola the Best Director award at the 2017 Cannes Film Festival.

All of Sofia Coppola's films

1. The Virgin Suicides (1999)
2. Lost in Translation (2003)
3. Marie Antoinette (2006)
4. Somewhere (2010)
5. The Bling Ring (2013)
6. The Beguiled (2017)
7. On the Rocks (2020)

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