

Carshalton High School for Girls –

Get Ready for Film Studies May Edition – New Hollywood



Welcome to the May edition of our Film Studies newsletter. This month we take a look at the 1960s and 1970s and an important period of film history known as New Hollywood, when the American film industry went through a revolution, making use of new technology and new ideas about filmmaking coming from Europe and giving directors the kind of creative freedom they could only have dreamed about previously. It was an era that made stars of directors like Martin Scorsese and actors like Robert De Niro.

New Hollywood – 1967-1982:

By the late 1960s, the major American film studios were facing some serious problems. Because of competition from television audiences were falling rapidly and



the studios were losing money. They had to find a way to reinvent themselves and make the films that would engage the all important youth audience, which was an increasingly significant target for the film industry.

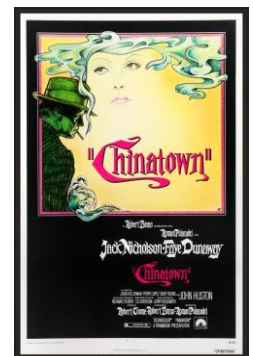


Young European filmmakers of the 1950s and 1960s had turned filmmaking upside down by taking advantage of cheaper, lighter cameras to make films that were shot on location, focused on



rebellious young, modern characters and experimented with editing, narrative and camera use.

The studios considered the approach taken by European “new wave” directors to be too unusual and experimental to be appealing to American audiences. However, the box



office success of a three American films: *The Graduate* (1967); *Bonnie and Clyde* (1967) and *Easy Rider* (1969), made them take notice. All

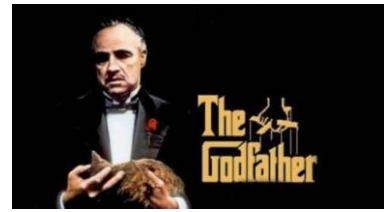


three films had been developed by producers or directors rather than the studios and were made on low budgets. All three films had been surprisingly successful at the box office – bringing in profits of about 1000%! They showed the studios that audiences (particularly the all important youth audience) were ready for a more experimental approach to filmmaking. They also showed that a new breed of young writers,



producers and directors, left to work without interference from

the studios, could produce films that would unlock the studios' access to the youth market. These three films brought in a period, lasting from about 1970 to 1980, of huge creative freedom for filmmakers and the creation of a string



of films that are considered classics today including Roman Polanski's *Chinatown* (1974), Martin Scorsese's *Mean Streets* (1973), *Taxi Driver* (1976) and *Raging Bull* (1980), and Francis Ford Coppola's *The Godfather* (1972 and 1974) and *Apocalypse Now* (1979). New Hollywood films tend to focus on dark subject matter and be about young people, often outsiders from ordinary backgrounds who challenge the viewpoints and lifestyles of an older generation. It made a new generation of young actors famous, including Robert De Niro and Jack Nicholson, and produced some of the greatest films of the last 100 years.

New Hollywood Films to Watch:

It would be useful to watch some of the following films from the New Hollywood era. Links are for Amazon but other platforms are available! Happy viewing:

Roman Polanski - ***Chinatown*** (1974)

https://www.amazon.co.uk/CHINATOWN-Beulah-Quo/dp/B00FYQN04I/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=Chinatown&qid=1621940326&sr=8-1

Martin Scorsese – ***Taxi Driver*** (1976)

https://www.amazon.co.uk/Taxi-Driver-Robert-Niro/dp/B01G7XAVOI/ref=sr_1_2?dchild=1&keywords=Taxi+driver&qid=1621940264&sr=8-2

Francis Ford Coppola - ***Apocalypse Now*** (1979)

https://www.amazon.co.uk/Apocalypse-Now-Final-Cut-UHD/dp/B07XY73QP9/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=apocalypse+now&qid=1621949539&s=instant-video&sr=1-1

Cinema of the Month:



We celebrate the fact that cinemas are open again by telling you about the Picturehouse cinema chain this month. Picturehouse cinemas tend to be located in more central areas of cities (close to Carshalton there are Picturehouse cinemas in Brixton, Clapham, West Norwood, Dulwich

and Central London (<https://www.picturehouses.com/blog>) and show more obscure films alongside blockbusters. They run two slots that are particularly useful to Film students, Vintage Sundays (where – as the name suggests, they show classic films



from the past) and Discover Tuesdays where they run seasons that explore the work of significant directors or film movements. Screenings during these slots are also considerably cheaper than usual – tickets also tend to be cheaper on a Monday. It's well worth checking what they're showing – visiting one of their cinemas would be a great way of getting back into watching films the way they should be watched!