

The January Film

- 1) Choose a story to film.
- 2) Choose a **director** OR **film movement** to inspire and guide your filmmaking (ie: include key elements of the director's style or film movement's key characteristics in your film).

→ *Choosing to emulate a DIRECTOR'S STYLE?*

- A. Be sure ALL have seen a movie by the director (or will over break)
- B. Decide on and describe at least FOUR defining features of the director's style

- *Choices:*

Wes Anderson
Kathryn Bigelow
David Fincher
Martin Scorsese
Quentin Tarantino

→ *Choosing to emulate a FILM MOVEMENT?*

- A. Be sure ALL do a couple of the following:
 1. read a provided article/video or two and/or
 2. do your own research – be sure it is beyond Wikipedia/trivia and find filmmakers/academics talking about film.

- *Choices:*

German Expressionism (1919 – mid 1930s)

Origin: Weimar government wanted to revitalize the film industry and give Germany new image. Gov't subsidized film and invested in technology

Characteristics:

- Dramatic and exaggerated set design (emphasis on shapes, patterns w/ distorted settings, use of oblique angles and nonparallel lines)
- Dream-like set designs & melodramatic on-screen performances
- Portrayed a subjective, emotional world rather than a real world
- Unnatural costumes, hairstyles, and make-up and highly stylized acting

Re-watch this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mpQrcxfNl-o&list=PL8dPuuaLjXtN-Bd-H_TGq72CN50Fpv_JX&index=15

Article: <https://www.bfi.org.uk/news-opinion/news-bfi/lists/10-great-german-expressionist-films>

Article: <https://news.artnet.com/market/art-house-an-introduction-to-german-expressionist-films-32845>

The Golden Age of Hollywood (1927-1947)

Origin: The Golden Age of Hollywood is so called because of the enormous amount of money the movies produced and the images of the glittering and glamorous movie stars that filled the movie screens.

Characteristics:

- Use of sound
- The studio system (top-down integration) and establishes the rating system
- Period of conformity, not innovation: giving people what they wanted
- Movies stressed the values of the time: heroism, family, citizenship, etc. w/comic relief
- Estb. new film genres: the musical, screwball comedies, gangster & war films

Re-watch this video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6KfBNrHU_SY&list=PL8dPuuaLjXtN-Bd-H_TGq72CN50Fpv_JX&index=12

Italian Neorealism (1943–1952)

Origin: the popular belief that the industry was no longer creating films relevant to the public prevailed. Post WWII, with a severe lack of resources but an abundance of real world issues to address, Italian filmmakers who had previously shot traditional productions at Cinecittà film studios (government run, estb. by Mussolini) were now taking to the streets with minimal equipment, non-professional actors with a new sociopolitical purpose to their films.

Characteristics:

- Shot on location, with mainly common/lower class represented
- Mix of professional/non-professional actors
- Post-production sound/dubbing
- Documentary style w/long takes
- Plots based on chance encounters, open endings, and like real life (vs. movies), good people may die pointlessly

Watch this video: <https://vimeo.com/68514760>

Nuevo Cine Mexicano (90s onward):

Origin: Pre-1990s, Mexican gov't sponsored filmmakers, but audiences watched less and less Mexican-produced films in favor of Hollywood blockbusters. And along with an economic crisis, there was a huge void in Mexican cinema. In the 1990s, purposeful filmmakers aimed to make films for Mexican audiences.

Characteristics:

- A flare of Mexican culture: realism and romanticism
- Social divisions within Mexico is a reoccurring theme
- Merges art-house style with box office success – a union of stark realism and surrealist elements

Article: <https://www.americasquarterly.org/content/and-el-oscar-goes>

South Korean New Wave (90s onward)

Origin: With an Asian financial crisis, investors scaled back their association in the film industry. Yet prior, young directors had been where money was invested and this continued allowing them to be successful due to content that appealed to the masses and screen quota laws that limited the public showing foreign films.

Characteristics:

- A colliding and mixing of genres
Example: the Korean melodrama (about 60% of the movies produced in South Korea are melodramas, or romantic movies): is immediately recognized when compared to melodramas from other countries → this genre searches for the audience's uneasiness, telling distressing stories with often a heart-breaking ending
- Experimental story lines & technique (sound, color, etc.) that may not conform to expectations.
- Socio-cultural criticism.

Article with trailers: <https://theculturetrip.com/europe/united-kingdom/articles/10-iconic-new-wave-south-korean-films/>

Article: <https://www.indiewire.com/2014/06/primer-10-essential-films-of-the-korean-new-wave-84413/>