American Cinema

Outline

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Introduction

- Until World War I, France was considered the leading film-producing country
- By the 1920s some three-quarters of films screened around the world came from the United States
- America is now the leading country for the exportation of movies
- The tradition of American cinema is largely, though not exclusively, the tradition of the Hollywood entertainment industry, the self-proclaimed "dream factory."
- In a classical Hollywood film, the story was primary; with the new technologies, the special effects seems to become often overwhelming
- The 1990s, decade of remakes, re-releases, and more sequels

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Part I. History of the "Industry"

- Legendary American inventor <u>Thomas Alva Edison</u> assigned to a British employee, William K. L. Dickson, the task of constructing a machine for recording actual movement on film and another machine for viewing the resulting images

- 1893 Edison constructed a motion-picture studio in his laboratory

- <u>Edwin S. Porter</u> took charge of motion-picture production at Edison's company in 1901 and began making longer films that told a story

- Porter's most notable film—and the most famous work of early cinema—was *The Great Train Robbery* (1903)

- By the 1920s some three-quarters of films screened around the world came from the US

Part I. History of the "Industry"

- In the 1920s Chaplin began making feature-length comedies, including *The Kid* (1921) and *The Gold Rush* (1925)

- Advent of recorded sound in the 1920s changed motion pictures

- First demonstrated in 1926, recorded sound was in almost universal use by 1930

- Two new genres that flourished with the coming of sound were gangster films and musicals (Fred AstaireTwo new genres that flourished with the coming of sound were gangster films and musicals (Fred Astaire, Ginger Rogers)

- Film animationFilm animation gained in popularity; Walt Disney first animated cartoon with synchronized sound, *Steamboat Willie* (1928), featured Mickey Mouse

- *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* (1937), feature-length animated films

Part I. History of the "Industry"

- In 1941 Orson Welles made *Citizen Kane*

- Color was used in only a minority of films until the 1950s; color movies had become the standard by the 1960s

- The advent of television caused a great disruption

- Increasing emphasis on the importance of the director in the 1960s (Stanley KubrickIncreasing emphasis on the importance of the director in the 1960s (Stanley Kubrick, Robert Altman)

- In the early 1970s a younger generation of filmmakers (Woody AllenIn the early 1970s a younger generation of filmmakers (Woody Allen, Francis Ford CoppolaIn the early 1970s a younger generation of filmmakers (Woody Allen, Francis Ford Coppola, George LucasIn the early 1970s a younger generation of filmmakers (Woody Allen, Francis Ford Coppola, George Lucas, Martin ScorseseIn the early 1970s a

Part I. History of the "Industry"

- George Lucas's *Star Wars* (1977), a science-fantasy film with spectacular special effects

- Blockbuster films tended to be fantasies based on comic-book characters or adventure heroes (*Raiders of the Lost Ark*)

- *Titanic* (1997), directed by James Cameron; 11 Academy Awards, Top Grossing Movie of All Time

- Mega-blockbusters continued to rule Hollywood at the start of the 21st century

- The digital video disc, or DVD, became one of the major techniques for viewing movies on computers and also began replacing videocassettes as the major format for home viewing

Part II. The actors and directors

Action stars

- Tom CruiseTom Cruise, Arnold SchwarzeneggerTom Cruise, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Mel GibsonTom Cruise, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Mel Gibson, Sylvester StalloneTom Cruise, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Mel Gibson, Sylvester Stallone, Harrison FordTom Cruise, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Mel Gibson, Sylvester Stallone, Harrison Ford, Bruce WillisTom Cruise, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Mel Gibson, Sylvester Stallone, Harrison Ford, Bruce Willis, Nicolas CageTom Cruise, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Mel Gibson, Sylvester Stallone, Harrison Ford, Bruce Willis, Nicolas Cage, Richard GereTom Cruise, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Mel Gibson, Sylvester Stallone, Harrison Ford, Bruce Willis, Nicolas Cage, Richard Gere, Keanu ReevesTom Cruise, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Mel Gibson, Sylvester Stallone, Harrison Ford, Bruce Willis, Nicolas Cage, Richard Gere, Keanu Reeves, Sean Connery.

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Actresses

Part II. The actors and directors

Great American Directors

- Woody AllenWoody Allen, George Lucas, Orson Welles, Steven Spielberg, Steven Spielberg, Francis Ford Coppola, Stanley KubrickStanley Kubrick, Robert Altman, Chris Columbus, Chris Columbus, Tim Burton.

Many foreign directors in Hollywood or from foreign origin:

- Michael CurtizMichael Curtiz (Hungary), Martin ScorseseMichael Curtiz (Hungary), Martin Scorsese (Italian origin), James CameronMichael Curtiz (Hungary), Martin Scorsese (Italian origin), James Cameron (Canadian), Peter Jackson (New Zeeland).

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Part III. Hollywood and the Oscars

- Hollywood, district in the northwestern part of Los Angeles

- 1911, Nestor Company opened Hollywood's first film studio

- Universal Pictures set up its own town in the San Fernando Valley, north of Hollywood, called Universal City. Paramount Pictures and the Fox Film Corporation also emerged as prominent independent companies in the World War I era

- The Academy Award (Oscar) is the main national film award in the USA (since 1929)

- 2003, march, best movie: *Chicago*Chicago, *Best Director: Roman Polanski*Chicago, *Best Director: Roman Polanski for The Pianist*Chicago, *Best Director: Roman Polanski for The Pianist, Best Actor to* *Adrien Brody*Chicago, *Best Director: Roman Polanski for The Pianist, Best Actor to* *Adrien Brody, Best Actress went to* *Nicole Kidman*Chicago, *Best Director:*
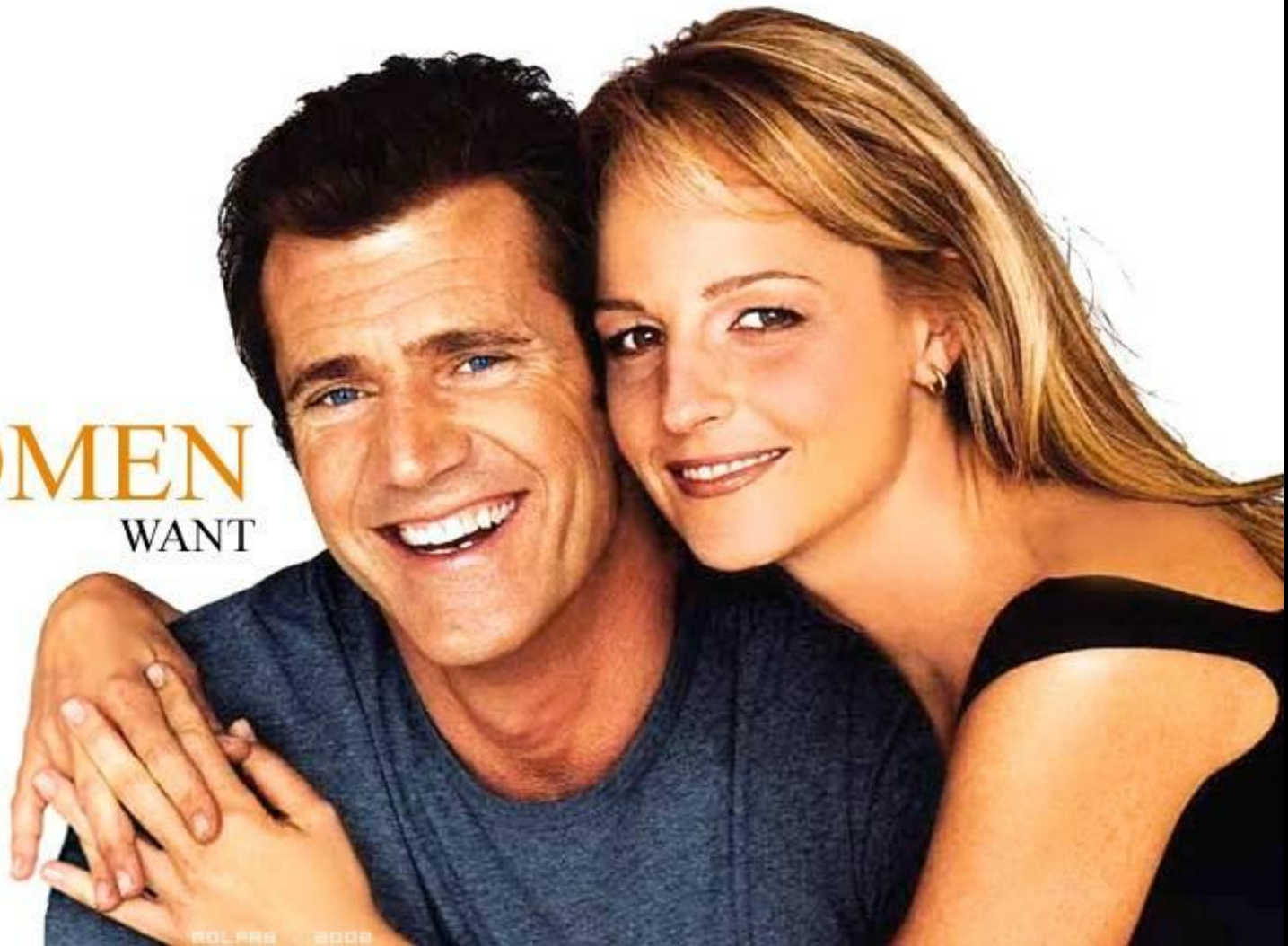
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Conclusion

- Popular blockbuster films, enhanced by computer graphic imagery, continued to attain unprecedented worldwide attention

- At the same time, films of artistic and cultural interest from throughout the world are available

- At the Top Grossing Movies of All Time, Worldwide Box Office, top 200, almost all the films are Americans

- The US produce about 300 movies per year (600 in India)

- The Industry is producing a huge number of remakes (true lies, Planet of the Apes) and sequels (Star Wars, Harry Poter, Lord of the Rings, Matrix)

- Most of the movies are adaptations of European novels (Harry Poter, Lord of the Ring, the Count of Monte Cristo)

References

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- **Top 20 International-best loved movies**
- 1 Godfather, The (1972) 9.0/10
- 2 Shawshank Redemption, The (1994) 8.9/10
- 3 Godfather: Part II, The (1974) 8.8/10
- 4 Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring, The (2001) 8.7/10
- 5 Schindler's List (1993) 8.7/10
- 6 Citizen Kane (1941) 8.7/10
- 7 Casablanca (1942) 8.7/10
- 8 Shichinin no samurai (1954) 8.7/10
- 9 Star Wars (1977)9 Star Wars (1977) 8.7/10 (91934 votes)10Memento (2000) 8.6/10
- 11 Dr. Strangelove (1964) 8.6/10
- 12 One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest (1975) 8.6/10
- 13 Rear Window (1954) 8.6/10
- 14 Star Wars: Episode V - The Empire Strikes Back (1980) 8.6/10
- 15 Raiders of the Lost Ark (1981) 8.6/10
- 16 Usual Suspects, The (1995) 8.6/10
- 17 Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers, The (2002) 8.6/10
- 18 Fabuleux destin d'Amélie Poulain, Le (2001) 8.5/10
- 19 North by Northwest (1959) 8.5/10
- 20 Pulp Fiction (1994) 8.5/10