

Introduction to Film Studies

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Lecture No. # 15

The French Masters

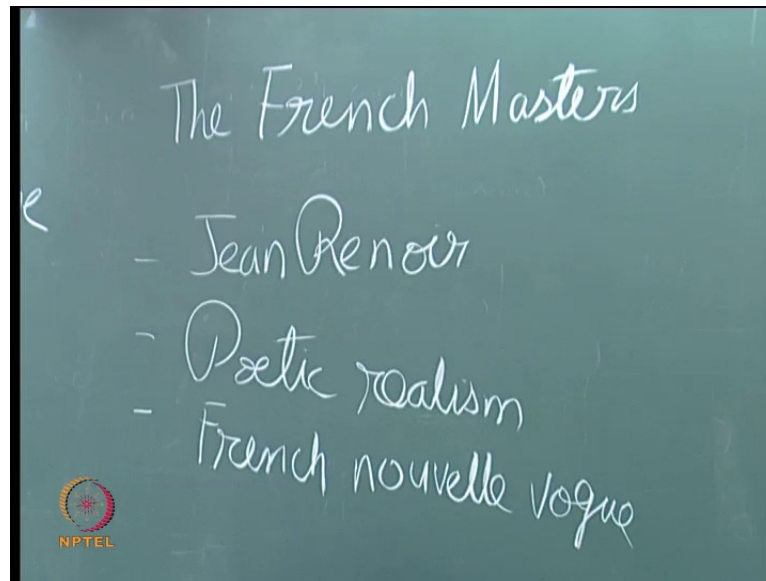
Good morning, we begin we continue with French masters and I am going to begin with Jean Renoir **jean renoir** and we have already refer to renoir in one of her earlier classes. He was the son of the famous painter Auguste Renoir. We also has an important part in **in** the rules of the game that the movie that we are going to discuss today along with his other celebrated films. So, Jean Renoir 1894 to 1979 and he is considered as one of the most formidable influence on the entire French nouvelle vogue.

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The movement called the French new way. So, he is considered the pioneer in many respects.

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So, while if someone ask you what is the place of renoir in cinema he influenced a very important, very influential movement called the French new way. When you should know along with Italian new realism are aware. Are you familiar with the concept Italian new realism? I keep on referring to these terms on and on along with new Italian realism. French nouvelle vogue is one of the most important influences on American counter culture cinema. So, called new hollywood so, all thus carcasses and cupolas and brind ippama etc. They work and they are indented to French nouvelle vogue and Italian new realism.

When you watch the earlier films you will understand that how important these people were on there on entire cinematic movement in new Hollywood. So, through far another important film maker of the French nouvelle vogue a France war through far who made films like 400 blows. Another important film by through far I am not going to discuss through far in detail, because I feel many people in our course then know through far called 12400 blows specially, but any other film by through far that you make recall.

Juel's Egypt.

Good juel's Egypt. What did you said Ranjith?

Ladle swisher weeta, ladle weeta is an Italian film by **by** Federny. Yes good. So, you talk through far we should talk about juels sagim day for night **day for night** burden breakfast

400 dose of course. So, through far called renoir's regulate a shoe a movie made in 1939 and we are better familiar with it as the rules of the game at the credo of film lovers the film of films. The most despised on its released and the most valued after words and we will see why it was most despised when released in 1939. It usually happens the certain kind of films which are very despised when they are first released, but later they became like classics people refer to them as text books. Director Robert Altmond, does it does the name ring a bell good mash not the alian aldo television series.

But the movie Donnell Sutherland. So, he is known for mash he is also known for merchamp and missesmiller with Warren Preethi and Julie Christi. You must know all these films merchamp and missesmiller Robert Altmond. So, whose gasford park in 2001 starring Magi Smith was inspired by renoirs classic. One said, I learn the rules of the game **from rules of the game**. So, he was that inspiring Robert Altmond is of course, one of the few people who are credited with assuring in of new hollywood in **hollywood in** American cinema (ReferSlideTime: 05:00). So, what are his signature style renoirs he is known for his humanism verdict realism is his **is his** style. The way he would shoots his scenes, but one nature one **one** aspect of his cinema is his humanism.

His liberalism which is something you would not find very strongly in gotharth **gotharth**. For example, gotharth is very technical, gotharth is objective, but through far is not. So, through far was directly influenced by people like renior and renoir is known for his humanity his humanism and in depth evacuations of milieu certain realism. As we have just watched in depth evacuation of millier, he would understand classes all classes of people extremely well and he had sympathy for all never judgmental. We have already discussed that renoir who was born in 1895, his birth co insides with the birth of cinema itself.

So, that is important so, renoirs films what are they how can they be classified or categorized the range between social realisms and fantasies of course, they are love stories of course, they are pieces of works of fiction, but they are also deeply grounded in social realism. He is called poetic realist and we were talking about how assisted him when he was visiting india while shooting the River, renoirs first film in color. Sathyagithrea gets his style poetic realism from renoir and deep concern for the human condition.

So, the term poetic realism denotes a period between 1933 and 1939 and implies a certain mode tone and style the term was coined by literary critic jobpolan and his use to describe the mix of symbolism and realism. Which jobpolan found in the novels of marcel imam, french novelist. So, what is renoir credited with so, today it may not appear so, startling so, innovating, but there was a time when shooting on locations on actual locations and often using non professional actors was something un heard of. So, that is what renoir is credited with experimenting with a long take rather than tight close ups.

Which was very common during those days because actors use to be so, beautiful and the only way you can get very close to your favorite star actor is by looking at his or her how close up right. So, that was very star driven close ups also have an ideology, you used close up of carry grant are you employ a tight close up or someone as an as beautiful as harder her ban and what are you doing you are bringing the star very close to the audience. So, close up has a politics had an ideology in a specially in our cinema in Indian cinema its very common.

We use close ups for no reason no particular reason, just you must have notice that there are close ups all over the place because audience want it is almost like you can reach out and you can touch your favorite star renoir on the other hand employed long takes and also started using deep focus compositions. Now what a deep focus compositions you look at something which is fore grounded very clearly you also look at something which is in the background, which was previously neglected. So, background was neglected, but people like renoir use deep focus. So, that attention is also given to those things which are present in the background.

Who perfected this deep focus, who do we associate deep focus with not with renoir. Renoir is known only to film occur damnation and film students like you guys, but this is someone who everyone knows about citizen kane, orssen welles he perfected the art of the technique of deep focus. One of these days we will discussed citizen kane also if you wish. So, deep focus compositions credited to renoir perfected by orssen welles and of course, use of multiple cameras for the first time and colored in films. The way he used colors in cinema multiple cameras, you know generally films were shot with one single huge camera people like renoir started shooting the films are same shot using multiple cameras.

What effect would do you think that would have let to multiple cameras, different angles theme, scene, shot through different perspectives and angles and what effect ultimately it would result in taking the best shot best composition. Lot of effort for the editors, but lot of fun as well. So, it films was not films were no longer shot with just single camera, but multiple camera. So, that multiple angles can be captured and then the editors would use whatever they thought would was best for them. I mean I had seen rushes of 3 idiots, you know what is rushes **what is rushes**?

All footage should be shot that molted desire action is good. Exactly all the footage that is actually shot, but does not necessarily go in the actual movie the way we see watch it actually Srikanth prashath was with us and he showed as footage of kaminon he edited. So, at f d i i we were shown a footage of 3 idiots and you remember the scene where amer sits in a class for the first time and he is very excited thus to be in an engineering college and then he is asked to find what is machine and that scene we were **we were** made to watch to multiple perspectives. So, there is a shot when the focus is only on chador there is at scene where the focus is only on madavan and then completely through the professors point of view and then and in the fine an analysis you were thought that they use the combination of all perspective.

So, it was not just focusing on amer or madavan or chathur, they must have done lot of editing there. So, that is what I was talking about we have already become we have already seen his major films saved from drowning a day in the country the trim of miss year launched laviasanu and very popular laxative man based on a novel by ameals sula. Ameals sola one of the pioneer of the naturalism theory. Javgabha was a frequent collaborator it was the kind of actor director partnership that later you will with nascent people like dinihuro and martin scarfasin or decathrio and martin scarfesin now. So, is that a kind of combination so, gargebarh was a favorite of renoir, they often work together and also through far and his actor the child actor and the child actor when started going up through for was through would in variably costume in all his film.

So, gergebah and semon semo in has any one seen a movie called I am talking about the first version not the remade version the post man always rings twice are you familiar with it heard of it. No, no I am talking about john tharthil and laratern. So, the post man always rings twice is based on whose novel? I will give you another clue defiantly literature is not a very strong point here I will give you another clue, this author is known

for his nova works I would not insult your intelligence and explain to you what is nova. You know what is nova right, but this particular novel was associated with the goner of nova, he wrote the post man rings the bell twice, he also wrote mill right peers.

First made with john **john** proferd and now of course, with k twinceller that is a meaning series, but there was an oscar winning movie mildrith peers who wrote it? familiar with mildrith peer watch the movie at least wins nets version. Please watch it very entertaining, very pulpy novels james m kean is the novelist, we are talking about. So, labertiev man although based on a novel by ameal sola and if you watch the movie the movie you will feel that it must how it must have influenced john garfield's version of the postman always rings twice. Again it is about an adult less relationship between **it is about a adulteress relationship between** a married women and her lover.

Who is an engineer a rail road engineer and her husband and she wants her lover to kill her husband in the postman always rings twice they do kill the husband right. Yes, in labeatiev man the lover refuses to do. So, the woman she is quite of farm faith island you know the qualities of farm faith island and she detaches she distances herself from her lover she said if you cannot kill my husband I do not want anything to do with you. He is heartbroken, he is truly a gilded mad in love kind of a lover and he seeks revenge. There is a screening somewhere in the middle of the movie their these lover dance to a particular romantic song at the rail roads.

It is a very famous song French song, now after being gilded by the women, the lover goes back to her house and estranges her to death and again we hear the same song playing in the background. Now this was something like now perhaps it not very un common today to have something you know someone the other day was mentioning how kamal hasan uses animations in aalavanthan while shooting very a serial killer, but then there is very comic effect brought right it breaks a kind of traditional narrative right. When you include animation to portrait serial killing and you are going away breaking away from the traditional narrative here too using a romantic song while a murder is in progress was highly innovative during those steps.

So, renoir credited with similar innovative techniques similar very experimental kind of narrative which may not seen very un usual today, but they were innovative those days. He does not sympathy feelings of sympathy or pity for the lead character, the song which

is a classic to which they had once dance and now he kills her to the background of the same song it works the feeling of it does not woke pity. So, renoirs sympathy for ordinary people however flowed is most evident in two of his master pieces apart from from the bathiev man.

One is a grand illusion a grand lesion and the rules of the game in the thirties renoir formed a company a film company called lenouvell atthesiaya franc. When he form the company he announced that his next film would be an exact description of the french middle class one of the characters you just watched in a clipping from the rules of the game played by renoir himself he plays the role of he plays the part of octave and that is renoir himself and he there is a famous line which him outs that terrible thing about this world is that everyone has its reasons has has his reasons so the terrible thing about this world is that everyone has his reasons it could be her reasons also.

There are no disputes about that his reasons, her reasons what does it mean everyone has their reasons is a terrible thing, what does it mean think of renoir's other characteristic features. We have been talking about his social realism his humanism does it say something about that, yes tell me, coming to everyone I mean everyone has some reason sub thing. So, there is a reason what kind of film maker does he merge as then liberal, yes. So, his liberalism comes across its very ironic, very telling that the person who mounts these lines happens to be renoir and himself. Everyone seems it is a murder it is, but it is a murder for love as in the birtheiv man, if someone is greedy you must rehashes their reason.

So, sympathy for everyone understanding of every class no judgment, no looking down on people that is a hall mark feature of renoir. Can you think, can you draw parallels between renoir and some of our own cinema. I mean one my colleague the other day he was just making a point that our cinema is extremely judgmental, our film makers always going through the preaching part of it. Whereas a more international cinema just show, but they do not go into extensive explanation of things, do you agree? We do have a sense that our film makers take a moral stand and there is too much of preaching and judgments. Do we agree to that to a large extend they do that name them.

May be in how they presents the different characters, but when was gangs of wasocor made in 2012. We are talking about someone who was making films in 1930s. So, gives

in a lot of food of for thought. So, the rules of the game was based on a short story by Alfred Denza and it is a cautionary tale it is a humanistic tale of course, but it is also a warning about the frivolity of the ideal rich at a time when France was on the verge of war the first the second world war 1939. So, the movie is now analyzed as Renoir takes on the self-absorbed class, at the same time it indicates his liberalism and his humanism as well. Because everyone has their reasons, when the film was first released people protested outside the theatre because of the ideology, because of the way he came.

He made his social observations that people are essentially self-absorbed, selfish and people did not like the ordinary the audience they did not like this kind of philosophy. What do they want feel good cinema right evaluate, if you shows too much of stark reality people do not like it. So, they were protest outside the theatres and it was banned in France for long time for being very demoralize broke their hearts to see the reality on screen. After all you have Renoir showing that the mistress of the house is having an affair and the maid is no different and then how the mistress's lover is killed in an accident by the her mistress's husband. The man who is the aviator who proclaims his love for the lady and internationally it has influenced several films if you remember the great escape.

So, the tunnel dig in scene and the singing of a mar sail in Casablanca to infuriate the Germans. So, both are you know homage's to Renoir. Renoir wrote his auto biography my life and my films. Where discussing his techniques and his believe he say i got near and nearer to the ideal method of directing which consist in shooting a film as one writes a novel the elements by which the author is surrounded inspire him he absorbs them. So, a writer in other words or a film maker in other word derives from what he is surrounded with therefore, when we talk about Renoir's realism. We are talking about how he was inspired by locations, people, incidence around him. He also says in the cinema auto biography and artist only exist if you succeeds in inventing his own little world and that is true of most artist there find their exclusive niche and stick toward.

So, their own little world we were just referring to Renoir partnership actor Jean Gabin and Gabin appeared in three of Renoir's classics *La Bataille de France*, *Le Grand Illusion* and *Le Capitaine Corcoran* and then he also wrote his father's biography Renoir, my father based on his based on the life of his father Pierre-Auguste Renoir. Renoir as homework please try to watch the rules of the game if possible and if that is not possible then try to read as much as possible on the rules of the game as well as *Le Capitaine Corcoran* and the grand illusion. His three master pieces

they are all very entertaining you would not find it very difficult to sit through them, one of his later films before there is a river was French Ken, which is an act of homage to the show business.

So, is based on the life of people in show business the French Ken on. So, I will proceed if you do not have any questions on Renoir and then because Renoir is where we were just talking about he were the first to employ non professional actor. Now what is the meaning of non professional actors people who are un professional behave badly exactly who have never done any formal training in acting and also who are not much expose to acting. Who have not acted before so, employment of non professional actors this is another feature which the new hollywood borrowed extensively from the French new way. So, Renoir of course, was the pioneer and then people like through far and gotharth took it to another level of course, we also know famously the actor who played the lead role in by circle cave in the features by circle caves.

He was also a non professional actor and in William Fright Kins, does he mean anything to you good the aghast he employed a real priest who was the non professional actor not the main **main** role, but one of the supporting roles for here. One of a key role so, French newel work and when we talk about French new way we should also be familiar with the earthier theory. Earthier theory you will understand much better if you read andrabazon's theory what is cinema one these is when we start discussing the theory part of this course more then you have to make a presentations perhaps some what you can opt for discuss for a discussion of what is cinema and directors.

As we were talking about when we started this course the directors were considered as author and authors. So, let me go back again to one of our earlier classes what is an author according to the new way cinema, who according to you could be an author. Please focus on them think perhaps it to become an author what are the things that people should do. She has done signature style or something which can be seen in all his work. Ok, that comes later a signature theme a signature style hich cok had a signature style right. So, when French new way people started developing this specicular so, called author theory much debated much debunk theory, you do not have to take any theory on its face value every theory is contested.

So, when people when French theories started discussing author theory who did they take in consideration not their own people, but hollywood directors and who were the hollywood director who most influence them? Please louder.

Orsan welles. Ok. Orsenwelles is a text book for everyone a citizen kane a 1940 movie john fon the man who made all those great western with john win who else richcock. Richcock was an author for the french new age theory theories and film makers. So, richcock was important and also haverdhocks **haverdhocks**, some of you may not be aware of haverdhocks but, one of the greatest ever can you mention some of his film? Yes star face 1932 called moony start and you know alperchino's version come much later, but the original star face by haverdhocks what else Susar friend said that can author should have a signature style.

So, what what are the movie did haverdhock 's main bringing a baby with carry grant is girl prided again with carry grant rio bravo with john fog none of these films have the same theme. One is an action movie the other is a western and there made several romantic comedies, still haverdhocks was considered an author because he had a certain style and because author one are considered authors only because they had a certain thematic thread running through there over they were also considered important because they had a certain degree of control over their materials. So, it was not it was it is a very simplistic way of saying.

That author would always use the same actors, author would always use the same technicians the music director the cinematographer that is there, but that is not the main thing authors the most important feature was that the authors work supposedly in complete control of the product and what is the product cinema their film and what could be better, what could be having better control over their product then writing their own steps. So, that was very important they wanted complete control over writing their script dialogues, screen plays although it was normally done in collaboration with someone because one man cannot do anything, but everything by himself, but they would like to have control over the way the film was written.

So, it was in if anyone can give them a bound script and then ask them to write to make a movie out of it it was not done that way they had complete control over the other aspects of film. So, that is solve theorems and some of the best known film 400 blows, but

through far breath less by gotharth band apart again by gotharth and several others. So, the author theory was developed by antrabazon a very important film critic and his disciples. Now disciples also happen to be film critics and then they decided that if you criticize movies and if you are so, unhappy with the way the films are made then why do not we make our own film our own kind of which was like a breath of rusher for French cinema which was almost done at that point.

So, me important names along with antrabazon through far gotharth reni. Reni made a classic called Hiroshima my love moamor and last tear at marry bug that is a never. We talk about repetition and narrative in narratives and we will be discussing last year at marry a bug did I ever discuss that film with you with your good perhaps. I did in one of my earlier classes so, renoir last tear at marry a bug is an important movie by way of its narrative telling the same incident over and again which was later done to perfection in in. Went age point.

Good, went age point. Yes, but there another classic Rushuvan. Rushuvan is yes. A multiple perspectives yes, good. So, rushuvan what I say re mention went age point. Went age point yes in between there was something bill marine ground those are film that you should we will be discussing when we talk about narrative and repetitions. So, renis last tear at marry a bug, tell me any comment here? of course, it is a very dark edge movie although nolies movies are thriller it has action, it has great special effects last year at **at** marry a bug is **is** an out and out love story based on a novel, again novell rohma the new kind of novel. It is an clotsberal romear and luei mal so, these are a people who assured in the era of French new way and as we were just talking about the manifesto was the director was the real author of a film and not the studio.

So, it was in other words a revolt. Against the entire studio system which is something, you will find which something happen in the 60s in hollywood with bornie and claid. Borny and claid and the subsequence next 10 they were so, called new hollywood and where new had films like william fright kins excesses, but excesses is more conventional before the excesses there was a French connection which got him the oscar wonderful movie. So, the author or the actor, the director is the star of the film that was the idea not the actors therefore, insisted on having non professional actors in hollywood there was a director make three great movies.

I will ask you his name and he was very insistent, he is also a great film critic, but that is another thing he made three movies which were all classics and after that there was a constant downhill, down fall and he insisted that film that the director is the real star, the hero of the film and he would very consciously take only those peoples insist on having only those stars who were by enlarge very un charismatic. Because he did not want anyone to over shadow his powers. I will give you the titles of this his films if I can remember all most of them and then you have to give me the name he made the last picture show yes ansibil shafferd and he made paper moon with riannonil and his daughter tatem and then in between he made words of dark by wrest raisen, three super successful and critically acclaim movies and then it all went to his head and then there was a constant downfall peter bogdanovich.

So, director being that insisting that the director should be the star peter bogdanovich. Similar thing happen to polsh ridder also, polsh ridder the screen writer for good taxi driver and also the director for, well, do your homework polsh ridder. What did he do what is his contribution because because again like bogdanovich, he could not sustain his success again like William fright kin who made the French connection what an Oscar then followed it up with a very successful the ageists, but could not follow and after that they were nothing. So, pit falls of the author, when directors start assaulting too much control over the product it is all very good on paper, but there were pit falls as well which was very evident especially in a new hollywood cinema they all started with a ban.

This was the journal of films kaiyerthu cinema, I keep talking about this, but just to repeat, just to refresh launch in a 1950s and it was a journal of French films very respectable journal the policy was put in to practice by the film makers of the French new wave of the 60s. The idea was to go against the studio system and big budget films, the idea was not to rely on big stars and the idea was not to follow the johns conventions. We know what are what are johns, do you know what are johns category. So, that is a very simple definition of john. So, scarface is a gangster john, but johns are also much debated, contested, categories.

Because now we talk about john blending and john blending so, you want to read a very scholarly book on johns, you must read a word called film john its by rikaltmen. Rikaltmens film john and one characteristic feature of the author theory was that the

style become independent of the story, the style was extremely important. Remember borny claid, you must watch borny and claid and then understand how important that style was after all it is just a gangster film and it combines features of love story as well. When then it was a style of the movie in which it was short that became important.

So, when ranjith tells you author theory is based on a signature style. Actually is the way you shoot the movie the **the** way, you present the movie some directors were known for shooting the film in natural lights for example, if you watch a movie like mechab and misses miller war and beetails film which was shot out and out and went who were and directed by robert alfen. Robert alfen insisted those days in the early seventies that he is not going to do any duping for the film everything has to be inside. Now what happens when you are, when everything is in sink and when you are shooting in cold extremely cold claims of when who where in Canada wind blowing through out what happens to the sound?

Muffled sound. Muffled sound and even today even with the restored version mechab and misses miller have a very hot sound to it. They all liked it when the first made because they thought that they are authors you see complete control of the way this is the way he want the movie, but the audience was so put off no one never bother to watch the movie although it is now considered a classic. It is a cult movie it had recovered its cause because it was so, appreciated for its style, but then it did not make any money for the producers. So, author theory and it pit falls. So, coming back to what kayer the cinema told as for an author film there is no pre existing story the writer back the director has complete control over the material and they believed in improvisation.

So, the directors not happy with the way the sun is setting on the moon is raising they would not shoot the scene and they would just keep on improvising, it till they get so called perfect shot and a bottom line was that **that** the director is more important than anyone else on thus including the stars, including the producers. So, just to encapsulate authors theory rejected the cinematic practices of the 1950s. They believed in making low budget films they shot on locations with new or non professional actors challenge the studio system and of course, preferred natural light to studio lighting **lighting** and preferred natural sound to extensive studio duping. So, that is the take away from today's class we will continue tomorrow thank you very much .