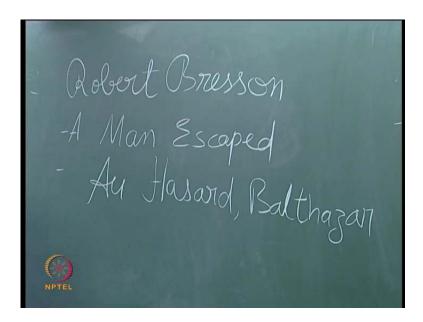
Introduction To Film Studies Prof. Aysha Department of Humanities & Social sciences Indian Institute of Technology, Madras

Lecture No. #17

We will continue discussion on the French master with exponentially with reference to Robert Bresson and yesterday we were discussing Pick packet, his most famous and well known work. So let us revise the key element in a Bresson.

(Refer Slide Time: 00:48)



So Bresson, Bresson who has had very for reaching influence on directors who followed him as well as directors of the new Hollywood.

And yesterday we did refer to (()) so, key future are when is the strong spiritual element in all his works the moral for in his works.

(Refer Slide Time: 01:06)

The Spareness, he reduces the setting, the music and off course the dramatic and physics on acting. So there is no melodrama at all. Those are the key future we have to remember. All these things the spiritual element the (()), they lead to certain kind of an emotional force to (()) works and off course, that is sense of metonymy. In a Pick packet, there are several close up shoot of hands where the people are involve the pick pocketing and all that we get to see a closer shots of their hands. And this is recurs the motive in most of the Bresson's works. So, extremely looks, close up of hands, eyes; this became much repeated future in Bresson's works.

Now talking about spiritual element, most of his works almost all half in works focus on the seeking redemption in hopelessly corrupt the word. As yesterday we were discussing Bresson's work raise moral questions will we be judged and by what law. And again Bresson is the highly existential list end his approach for him the word is essentially an absolve list meaningless place. So, these are the key futures, these are the philosophy that we have to remember while discussing the Bresson. And yesterday we already talk about in Pick packet in some detail, today will the discuss A Man Escaped and Au Hazard Balthazar. A man has age nineteen fifty six is again an extension of Bresson's minimalistic style.

There is the man fully is imprison for very particular and most of the time he is behind for (()) in very small self much of the action in much of the action take place in a film.

And then we again we find Bresson's theory of the cinematograph, non-professionals giving be dramatic performances and yet yielding very unique emotional course to the world. Do you remember, what meant yesterday by non-professionals giving the dramatic performances? What was it? It thus meant that actors were strict of emotions and he would cost only people who are not trained, remember that. In fronting of to you, you remember that he would cost people who are not trained actors, who are not profession of acting.

And still with those actors also he would make a how would you strip people are emotions? He would make them recurs repeatedly, exact them where them off. And that would dream them of all the energy and emotions and then, he would shoot. This was the techniques which were also made common by Carl Dreyer. Remember, you are yesterday discussing the Paul Schrader book focusing on (()) Dreyer and Bresson. Paul Schrader has written as classic examine book the director of, the screen writer for Taxi Driver. He has written a book on (()) Dreyer and Bresson, if you read that you will understand the technique and something which is very common in this directors.

You can again, if you look at some of the stills from (()), you will understand how minimalistic it. A Man Escaped is saying what is it about? A man trying to escape and he do escape. A condemn man escapes and he does escape. So, there for you in most of the publicity stills of the film, you see a very tight close up of the actor behind the bus or roof hanging from the prison wall.

A man escaping the trying to escape and he relent less; he does not talk too much. He has made couple of friends in the prison, but there is in much dialogue. Concrete images, remember when you are discussing Bresson, what did we talk about? His emphasis on images, concrete images so, concretive images a rope and hanging on from the prison wall, a very concrete image. Prison dramas are off course, quite common, we have a popular prison drama (()). But then, we all earlier we had the (()) the hole and Genet's A Song of Love which preceded A Man Escaped. All these films along with A Man Escaped, The Hole and A Song of Love act as [FT] human suffering, just like [FT] is just not about man in present like an (()) the most of us suffered the world is the prison.

Now [FT] in English the English title is [FT] nineteen sixty six, it follows the life of the donkey but, it is not singing donkey from struck. It is the various spiritual kinds of

donkey and Bresson traces it is life and death. It is life and is birth the entire life is from birth to death and one is baby donkey but, couple of children in the village the pour water on it is, what is the indication here? Baptism so, the donkey is baptized, remember Bresson is the very Christian director and he says that all of us have to go through I mean, is just far not only the humans. These certain kind of virtual, all living beings are equal in Bresson's eyes. Then, we have a... that we follow that donkey is life.

The movie said the story said in the French district, the donkey several people change hence his owned by several people during the course of the movie and the world is watched to the donkey eyes. The donkey is the very common silly animal for most of us but in Bresson, he is a philosopher; he is the narrator he is the narrator of the movie. And the many character in the film is the fourteen year old girl, she is in love with someone, her parents. The several people the ring master, the donkey also own for a couple of months by circus owner and he trains the donkey to be a specialist in mathematics. It starts solving the multiplication tables extra and becomes the star donkey.

All sounds of things happen to (()) but, and through the donkey's eyes, what you have to scene? A village full of weak, lord and pretty people so, that is Bresson takes on humanity; this is what people are all about. So, having a donkey just metaphor is the director looking very objectively at human kind. So, what Bresson's seems to suggest that we are all [FT], we all suffer and the world will stay the way it is. What the basic idea is? No one going to change for you, when [FT] is beaten to death; the village idiot the village drunk misfit treats and (()) back to help.

So, there is something, there is something regaining even in the most hopeless of the mankind, of people. The village drank the local drunk whom everyone has written off. When he died when the donkey dies, it goes back among the heard of sheets and die piece fully. There is no melodrama, they no loud music. Bresson's does not ask to weep, and (()) death. The donkey this dies very peacefully, there is a haled of sheet. Whatever they are doing, we continue, no one is affected. What is Bresson telling us?

(())

The donkey any one (())

Anyone's death

Anyone's death does not make a difference, the world goes on. Do you remember this famous painting Fall of Icarus, what is about?

Icarus

Icarus that is story but, the painting as well as begins me thinks that is a Dutch painter. What happens in the Fall of Icarus? Icarus has been given Wings of Wax and he escaping to his freedom. But, then become he has been given wings by his father, they not in natural wings remember where the Wings of Wax. He is over confidence, full of joy. His starts flying higher and higher and it is very close to the sun and then what happens, when you wearing beings of wax and also close to the well and makes is death so, falls from his heights and flashes in a water dies. There is the painting by Bruegel depicting the sequence, the same (()) to his death.

The world passes in ... what does it mean? Nobody is dead however high and mighty you mild way in does not matter. That is the Bresson philosophy; whatever may be our dreams hopes ambition and plans after all, after everything we are going to be treated by the world, the way it wants to treat us nothing is going to change, any comments. (()) would you like to add something to it; the girl that love story that runs. So, the movie...

(()) Pick Pocket

Wow.

I am taking the different way (()). In Pick Pocket it is all static camera modes (())

Loneliness, as seen (()) is after all is a donkey, a world is his home and in Bresson's Pick packet the man is confined by his own loneliness. Therefore places are all, even his little room surrounded with books is almost like a prison and if you compare his room, Mitchell's room in Pick Pocket with the man who is contempt in a manner skeet prison. They quite alike, they not much of a difference, what he is train to tell it is? More or less all of us are in present is in death that we find redemption. Freedom is a highly philosophy lovely and talking about the extensile list, the world the absent, the meaningless. What are we do in meaningless? That is the idea that is recurring in his films.

(Refer Slide Time: 15:07)



I am going to read you this is the book The Films in My Life and who is this? François Truffaut [FT] was one of the critics for [FT] cinemas remember that [FT] cinema. So, [FT] was a writer at critics heard of and also written as an essay yesterday, we were talking about the certain quality of certain tendency of French cinema. I am just read and which we because he was critic also and [FT] says of Bresson. In my opinion, A Man Escaped is not only Bresson's most beautiful film but, also important the French film of the [FT]. This essay was written a in nineteen fifty six. So, before I wrote the sentences are listed on a piece of paper and listen to this, all the films that I have been made by [FT] nineteen forty six.

So, I made the list of all the films I think The Man Escaped is a most beautiful film. Now, I regret that wrote a few months ago, Bresson's theories are always fascinating. But, they are so personal that the fit only him, the future existence of a Bresson's school. The Bresson School inverted commas in which shake even is most optimistic observer. A conception of cinema that is so theoretical, mathematical, musical and above all acetic, that is one word an objective commonly applied to Bresson's cinema acetic could not give rise to general in site. Today I am us this award those sentences A Man Escaped, the seems to meet to reduce to nothings a certain number expected ideas that govern film making all the way from script writing to the direction. In many way film now this we find what is commonly called the touch of [FT]. What that means is that the film maker was thought to be courageous but, it tries to surpass in self in one or two scenes by this token. A Man Escaped which is stubborn in film about stubbornness made by the stubborn native of the over again. It is the first movie of is [FT]. Let us try to see how it differs from all the others we have seen over the years? So, what he say in other words is a many of vary often we describe the director is brave director. It is a... he has he over with his daring. Bresson's in Man Escaped emerge as the most daring of all directors. It is a very courageous movie, is bold movie why because of it is as a textile.

That is what you are take away should be about are on Bresson's as most acetic also innovative and courageous state not in state of the boldness of picking something very chandelles on screen but, the way he told his stories. Any questions, please given the thought for the film movements and then we will skip to other area.

Important director Arson Welles and from the French masters, now we all in Holly wood. Arson Welles and his which movie Citizen Kane, this is something that we have been talking about quiet frequently. We also watch them once sequence from Citizen Kane few days back. So, Citizen Kane, nineteen forty one and it was produced by Mercury and RKO picture; this is very important. You should know the names of all studios. So, start many people but, now we can easily recognize Orson Welles and Joseph Cotten director by an Orson wells. It is often consider as the canonical text. Now I want to take a few movements and think of Cannon. What is a Cannon?

(Refer Slide Time: 20:08)



Lot of cannon involve but, canonical text. So, the Citizen Kane as a canonical text and my question is to you, what is a Cannon? And if you have to make your Cannon, then what would be part of you is canonical text in cinema?

Do not give me a list of books. Please take two minutes to make you are cannon canonical list? First you have to telling what is Cannon? And then give me and list canonical film according to you. Please work, you can work in a small group appear (()) please get to gather, look at each other ((No audio from 20:55 to 21:25)) and join someone half over. What is a Cannon, I want working destination of the cannon and I want list of at least five canonical films according to you. You are given ones up on a time you are favorite film so, your favorite film need not to be a part of any cannon.

(Refer Slide Time: 22:227)



((No audio from 21:49 to 22:56) Time up at the back what is the cannon, you three, the little girl in white. she tell us what the cannon?

(())

So, such as theory certain set of rules that is forms certain set of rules. Anyone else, you have something to say something.

Prototype

Okay.

(())

Something Innovative, a bench marks.

(())

(()) fission would you call it, a canonical text we done, do you have a list, your group. Let us have the list, canonical text according to you people.

(())

The matrix, fine the (()) and your friend, what do you have say about cannon and your list?

<mark>(())</mark>

Fine, give me a list. I think that will clear.

<mark>(())</mark> Citizen Kane, Vertigo <mark>(())</mark>

For the French masters, new way film maker's conical text. It can half (()), here what is the cannon?

<mark>(())</mark> Iruvar

Iruvar, Sholay, something else, more international.((No audio from 25:23 to 25:33))

Let me just define cannon for you. All of you have some idea but, the dictionary defines the cannons as generally accepted rule, standard of principle by which something is judged. There are some one said rules and principles here. So, list of books or other works as are the generally expected as the genuine work of the particular writer all us being important, important text.

Off course, dictionary giving the word books, books or canonical, but we can even clear the definition a little bit or text or canonical. And set of films which are important. We got the idea to certain standard and certain principles as the directly pointed out cannon become in important term in Christian theological discourse in eighty nineteen with the establishment of Hebrew publican Cannon. And whatever falls outside cannon or (()) and non-authentic. These are word should remember cannon authenticate cannon validates. Now, the cannon as the theory or the term is much conducted like every theory and that has to some context, you cannot blindly expect and his concept must term theory. So, Cannon is much contented.

Much debated term who desires you make metric in Sholay, who desire is their touch of subjectivity. If you look at now carnival film critic so, I can only talk about the most well known ones. There is in key are where of pal in key, pal in key from Holly wood was a critic who would tallness was to watch and harry use us to important that she good make a macro carries and actors, director and screen writer extra. Most people who would read at least film magazine so, review they would go by her white. That is people like calling key had authority to create a list of cannon conical text more excisable. Raja, Robert he

always tells you, what a want hundred best movie, absolute hundred volume one and volume two grate movies raja Robert and in each volume for hundred movies.

So, the raja Robert telling us what to watch there is book called thousand one movie watches before you dies. That you do not die before watching this movie. So, everyone in once why you get a list of order, you know the collection of send books where you are told what to watch. Now here you can please focus on this.

(Refer Slide Time: 29:17)



What is this called the greatest movie ever the greatest movie a ever what is this book doing an creating effect of canonical text the greatest movie this is the cannon and the book is written by the people who are they consider authority on film writing The little black book of movies.

(Refer Slide Time: 29:49)



We were similar book, the floating around some were the little black book of the book alphabets. Here I am showing you the little black book of movies which movie is this (()) of the line canonical text what are you doing here. Now we are looking and tagging over a century of the greatest film comments, the scenes and future and events. That rock the movie world that telling these are the movie that you should be watch, you will camp here. You will have Carl here but, they all the parts of a certain cannon. So, cannons are those which as here to certain principles and which are consider authentic whatever standard in teacher. For example, for it is in considerable for ethnology to home, it is Shakespeare all homer are giving you list of hundred one books to read before you have that.

And have cannot have Shakespeare, the Shakespeare becomes the utterly can then what you say you have to read. Otherwise you are not educated in a (()) you have to read. If you what the taking seriously by certain group of people canonical literature tells toy, off course tails toy is a great entrains also great story written.

So, easy to read and a canonical ward and piece wonderful books part of the cannon, for example, in eighteen century you have someone like (() Johnson and director (() Johnson who introduce the fifty two writer the constitute the cannon of the English word. And it was spoil the life of the most Hamlet poet so, what was Johnson doing crating a cannon. It was one of the homo attempts creating cannon. So, remember of things past

by who by pro rewind comedy by Path Paradise Loss by Milton. But, nobody how many Bible and all kind of literature and ethnology and again film ethnology so, there are certain movie they write ally mention list of movie which the part of the cannon.

Then any ethnology of cinema without the mention of the birth, a nation, the trilogy two hundred course and breathless; it an half, what as did you mention that you see bottom gone with the Welles Citizen Kane perhaps the ban her. So, these are the movie temporary I mean the kind very looser words. So, even you go back to the seventies and temporarily something which happen during last forty to fifty years. So, cannon if can look at temporary cannon less not go back to in tolerance and birth of nation gone with, if you look at the movies made during thirty forty years. Last thirty forty years what will thing region (()) you will definitely think the (()) region word not necessary young's of New Year.

The region well has will became cannon for set of particular reason some principles that the director of film maker has to here to Matrix.

(())

A part of content, God Father off course, those without sings the God Father is very strong presents in any ethnology of cinema the brain deformer is Brain De Palma. It is the china town, (()) part of I can well die have the different kind of film. I can see lot of smile here when die her terminated thus went to young is a different kind of cannon. But, not necessarily I do not thing they will find in the way the Raja Robert. And that much movie watch before you done, I doubt it would ...

Definitely you are boy, it has to be the part of the any cannon book, the recent book comes out when I am sure it will be include city or product bound are they in a temporary class thing of anything more. What is that list the more dogs?

We are more interested in pie fission; the pie fission is the canonical text which will always be a part of any cinema ethnology. Review dog may not is done have I think, Jack the Jack was first of kind absolutely

(())

Absolutely, so cannon that fore I am saying are you interesting to analysis the detective, the word is detective. They are telling you what to watch? And what has to teach? If I said he teach within the Citizen Kane, then there will be a question mark on teacher. How dare you, call you are self and call you are course film theory and practice, when you did in touch of on Citizen Kane. And good are through for it is detective so I cannot however much I may love view a dog. Then you are looking a forty of course, you have scarify the recover dog but, you cannot scarify to god father citizen Kane, pie fission the both come and cannon china town.

I was ones teaching, it was sum module in film theory interest is i very often is change in the syllabus so there was a time when I was teaching city and cinema. How cities express in cinema and which movie do you thing I would have would follow good, very nice? It gives you Paris in it is manufacture station, the New York ethnology the movie. Yesterday I was talking about couple of (()) causes life pleasant many have thing again by the Allen the Man Heart. The beautiful fission of certain part of New York, there are certain cannon.

If you are looking model city cinema and you are teaching set of movie like the perigee the team like New York stores, then why not the China term that suppose very when the Paris stature. The another very important movie view to what story look at sit how citizens faces are reflect the cinema wind of design. Again, German movie by Room Vendor watch those movies winds of design there was movie Holly wood movie called City of Angels not city of boys. City of Angles Nicolas Cage and Migraine which is remake version of wind of design. Cannon tells you what do teach and what you read and what you watch. So, you are you are absolutely creative and do you need to agree to it? Some reason if you call you are Self a student of literature.

They no way that, you can ignore Shakespeare and Tarsi, if you call you are self the student of cinema there is no way you can ignore double driftnets and you me a brother the part of you can now citizen came was market the classic story of plover and the press How use friend gives you Plover media lens Plover and have all often being that called held us the greatest film of all time cannon they no list of greasiest all time movie which is ever complete without the mention of citizen cane and like you telling you the citizen was not the black the star it was not mega hit it was not a many spinner whose life was base down a media magnetite a media magnitude William Randolph.

Hearst first William Randolph Hearst first it was based on life in he did in William Randolph Hearst in did he best to see that the movie that the last in cases and he had the plover he had the muscles he could do that and then off course the narratives it way to complicate for those times and if you watch how many of you watch seriously was citizen cane thus the very interesting you have you please do watch it and I want to pay attention to the first ten minutes reinvade taken across what Renate the chance faster cane the taken us he is dining he on is depth and we are taken trough as state and it is called kendo and why we are in admiring the luxuries of scenario so lot's of thing happening watch it watch the way in which hasting bells dibbles all the traditional narrative stature and how does he do it is not been realistic in fact very subjective camera movement the way he treated tress the spaces extremely subjective for.

Instantaneous there is particular light in a middle of the room and the light is state in one corner of the screen various you are treated to his goal process to his control us is zoo he was the animal right all part of then i do why the same light in a bell in hands in a middle of the screen so goal was i mean the bulb cannot be middle of gal codes right or middle of the swimming fool what is train to tell you very interesting they look at often term often declare the best movie of all parts so is very strong of all times so very strong part of any film cannon and site in what is site in sound which the film magazine vary scholarly magazine is not one of those yellows tracks which track about the you know the casuzip acuzip above to the actors and that business but, it is the very serious very academic kind of journal is not a journal some magazine but, has to the respective of the journal academic journal sight and sound has rated it who times as the best movie evaluate which is the huge prize by any command would like to way an cannon an citizen cane any questions in last year fall in which magazine sited sound site sound keeping and conducting this falls which already important that to tell us what you watch which is the movie you know why even because now the tendency to look at the body of word by a director and h cock and he they will score ever because how many of you remember any other movie was bias girl apart from citizen cane but, it is cock even in you sleep you can mention at least five films event in proof not a not twist rewind the nice movie the carry gander and risk ally in French to catch a thief to catch a thief not told else the sky movie the thriller staginess on a train cycho off those and then vertical but, are sing wells Richard evil ya they.

Make movie that not phenomena factors magnificent am prison again the magnificent movie but, not success at all highly innovative the way he told narratives times mid night which closer telling of which story times and mid night thus are singles takes on shake sphere member so he had made movie which are known's basically films call on and film enthuses but, with cock well known so naturally i am very should twenty years today pie fission will be most admire film of where not and related the god father is stand here in this list thus very strange but, remember at the titles whatever list so look how thing cannon how strange cannon strange now talk the story by ossur occupy the second place when it is when interesting and who was it assign well himself he was no admire the and say no admire of the people like the French master are it telling new realist and the japans great he said that the i absolutely do not understand what the make and then he said cooler to which these and most of the time we people come to me the he sited kayadhu cinema remember.

He had been talking about and generally come to me and start asking very high brow question and expect to high brow answers i cannot discuss that and then what to talk about cinema and what i have absolutely no clue about talking what it means but, i do give interview those people because lightly so much i cannot know this that is well to us he had absolutely no records for the japans master ossur and fellini's all those peoples of the world he call the boring we use this bio grapy is very interesting thank you so much will meet tomorrow and continue with Citizen Kane.