



SILVERSCREEN
PRIMARY
EDUCATION

1970s Cinema: The Rebirth of Hollywood

By Adam Pepper

Session 1



Welcome to Session 1 of this '1970s Cinema: The Rebirth of Hollywood' course!

Over the next ten weeks, we will journey through over 30 years of cinema to find the secrets behind some of the most iconic, ground-breaking, popular and culture-changing stories and movies from this, the grooviest of all decades!

We will study the directors, writers, actors, stories and history of the time to uncover how the 1970s created such a shift in film and storytelling, and gave us some of our most legendary film-makers.

We will look at their childhoods, their experiences, their first film experiences and the news they lived through to chart a path to some of the greatest films ever made.

Session 1:

In this first session, we will explore post-WW2 life in the USA.

The creative minds who gave us 'The Godfather', 'Taxi Driver', 'Jaws', 'Star Wars', 'The French Connection', 'Halloween', 'Carrie' and 'The Last Picture Show' (to name just a few!) all lived as children through this time.

What did they watch? What did they read? What did they see on their streets? What was happening in their homes? Why were they drawn to the stories they eventually told?

We will chart a path through the late 1940s to 1960 as we uncover the politics and histories shaping these young minds, as we make our way to their very first shouts of "ACTION!"!

Useful information for Session 1:

Joseph McCarthy

Joseph Raymond McCarthy (November 14, 1908 – May 2, 1957) was an American politician who served as a Republican U.S. Senator from the state of Wisconsin from 1947 until his death at age 48 in 1957.

Beginning in 1950, McCarthy became the most visible public face of a period in the United States in which Cold War tensions fuelled fears of widespread communist subversion. He alleged that numerous communists and Soviet spies and sympathizers had infiltrated the United States federal government, universities, film industry, and elsewhere. Ultimately, he was censured for refusing to cooperate with, and abusing members of, the committee established to investigate whether or not he should be censured.

The term "McCarthyism", coined in 1950 in reference to McCarthy's practices, was soon applied to similar anti-communist activities. Today, the term is used more broadly to mean demagogic, reckless, and unsubstantiated accusations, as well as public attacks on the character or patriotism of political opponents.

Born in Grand Chute, Wisconsin, McCarthy commissioned into the Marine Corps in 1942, where he served as an intelligence briefing officer for a dive bomber squadron. Following the end of World War II, he attained the rank of major. He volunteered to fly twelve combat missions as a gunner-observer. These missions were generally safe, and after one where he was allowed to shoot as much ammunition as he wanted to, mainly at coconut trees, he acquired the nickname "Tail-Gunner Joe". Some of his claims of heroism were later shown to be exaggerated or falsified, leading many of his critics to use "Tail-Gunner Joe" as a term of mockery which also alluded to his alleged homosexuality.

A Democrat until 1944, McCarthy successfully ran for the U.S. Senate in 1946 as a Republican.

McCarthy rose suddenly to national fame in February 1950, when he asserted in a speech that he had a list of "members of the Communist Party and members of a spy ring" who were employed in the State Department.

Federico Fellini

Federico Fellini (20 January 1920 – 31 October 1993) was an Italian film director and screenwriter. He is known for his distinctive style, which blends fantasy and baroque images with earthiness. He is recognized as one of the greatest and most influential filmmakers of all time. His films have ranked highly in critical polls such as that of *Cahiers du Cinéma* and *Sight & Sound*, which lists his 1963 film *8½* as the 10th-greatest film.

Fellini's best-known films include *I vitelloni* (1953), *La Strada* (1954), *Nights of Cabiria* (1957), *La Dolce Vita* (1960), *8½* (1963), *Juliet of the Spirits* (1965), *Fellini Satyricon* (1969), *Roma* (1972), *Amarcord* (1973), and *Fellini's Casanova* (1976).

Fellini was nominated for 17 Academy Awards over the course of his career, winning a total of four in the category of Best Foreign Language Film (the most for any director in the history of the award). He received an honorary award for Lifetime Achievement at the 65th Academy Awards in Los Angeles. Fellini also won the Palme d'Or for *La Dolce Vita* in 1960, two times the Moscow International Film Festival in 1963 and 1987, and the Career Golden Lion at the 42nd Venice International Film Festival in 1985. In *Sight & Sound's* 2002 list of the greatest directors of all time, Fellini was ranked 2nd in the directors' poll and 7th in the critics' poll.

Fellini was born on 20 January 1920, to middle-class parents in Rimini, then a small town on the Adriatic Sea.

On 25 January, at the San Nicolò church he was baptized Federico Domenico Marcello Fellini. His father, Urbano Fellini (1894–1956), born to a family of Romagnol peasants and small landholders from Gambettola, moved to Rome in 1915 as a baker apprenticed to the Pantanella pasta factory. His mother, Ida Barbiani (1896–1984), came from a bourgeois Catholic family of Roman merchants. Despite her family's vehement disapproval, she had eloped with Urbano in 1917 to live at his parents' home in Gambettola. A civil marriage followed in 1918 with the religious ceremony held at Santa Maria Maggiore in Rome a year later.

The couple settled in Rimini where Urbano became a traveling salesman and wholesale vendor. Fellini had two siblings, Riccardo (1921–1991), a documentary director for RAI Television, and Maria Maddalena.

Films to look out for:

Duel In The Sun (1946)

The Red Shoes (1948)

I Vitelloni (1953)

On The Waterfront (1954)

The Searchers (1956)

The Hidden Fortress (1958)

Spartacus (1960)

Woodstock (1970)

Guilty By Suspicion (1991)

The Fabelmans (2022)