



SILVERSCREEN
PRIMARY
EDUCATION

1970s Cinema: The Rebirth of Hollywood

By Adam Pepper

Session 10



Welcome to Session 10 of this '1970s Cinema: The Rebirth of Hollywood' course!

Over the last ten weeks, we have journeyed 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!

Session 10:

Oh my word! We made it! We have survived Poseidon Adventures, killer sharks, the mafia, Lex Luthor, French drug dealers, evil Lords of the Sith, a right hook from Apollo Creed, crooked cops and eaten the remains of dead people!

How do you feel?!

But we still have one more session! Today, we see out the 70s, and we are still in a hopeful frame of mind. After Superman saved the Earth from destruction last week, we get a little musical this week as Mr. Travolta appears with his crazy hips, taking us through smalltown high schools, and New York's dance scene...oh, but he has to drop pig's blood on somebody first!

Because we also hit some pulpy horror, as the works of Stephen King begin to appear on the big screen, and there are lots of pulpy directors eager to tell his stories! Killers in William Shatner masks, and at chasing teens at holiday camps are all the rage as the 70s draw to a close.

But we must also make one final trip into space as we meet the iconic xenomorph for the first time.

Week 10 is a big one! I just hope we get out of it alive!

Useful information for Session 10:

Stephen King

Stephen Edwin King (born September 21, 1947) is an American author. Called the "King of Horror". He has also explored other genres, among them suspense, crime, science-fiction, fantasy and mystery. He has also written approximately 200 short stories, most of which have been published in collections.

His debut, *Carrie* (1974), established him in horror. *Different Seasons* (1982), a collection of four novellas, was his first major departure from the genre. Among the films adapted from King's fiction are *Carrie*, *Christine*, *The Shining*, *The Dead Zone*, *Stand by Me*, *Misery*, *Dolores Claiborne*, *The Shawshank Redemption*, *The Green Mile* and *It*. He has published under the pseudonym Richard Bachman and has co-written works with other authors, notably his friend Peter Straub and sons Joe Hill and Owen King. He has also written nonfiction, notably *On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft*.

Several of King's works have won the Bram Stoker and August Derleth Awards. He has also won awards for his overall contributions to literature, including the 2003 Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters, the 2007 Grand Master Award from the Mystery Writers of America and the 2014 National Medal of Arts.

Joyce Carol Oates called King "a brilliantly rooted, psychologically 'realistic' writer for whom the American scene has been a continuous source of inspiration, and American popular culture a vast cornucopia of possibilities."

Brian De Palma

Brian Russell De Palma (born September 11, 1940) is an American film director and screenwriter. With a career spanning over 50 years, he is best known for work in the suspense, crime and psychological thriller genres. His films include mainstream box office hits such as *Carrie* (1976), *Dressed to Kill* (1980), *Scarface* (1983), *The Untouchables* (1987), and *Mission: Impossible* (1996), as well as cult favourites such as *Sisters* (1972), *Phantom of the Paradise* (1974), *Blow Out* (1981), *Body Double* (1984), *Casualties of War* (1989), and *Carlito's Way* (1993).

De Palma was a leading member of the New Hollywood generation of film directors. His direction often makes use of quotations from other films or cinematic styles, and bears the influence of filmmakers such as Alfred Hitchcock, Jean-Luc Godard, and Michelangelo Antonioni. His work has been criticized for its violence and sexual content but has also been championed by American critics such as Roger Ebert and Pauline Kael.

Enrolled at Columbia University as a physics student, De Palma became enraptured with the filmmaking process after viewing *Citizen Kane* and *Vertigo*. After receiving his undergraduate degree in 1962, De Palma enrolled at the newly co-ed Sarah Lawrence College as a graduate student in their theatre department, earning an M.A. in the discipline in 1964 and becoming one of the first male students among a female population. Once there, influences as various as drama teacher Wilford Leach, the Maysles brothers, Michelangelo Antonioni, Jean-Luc Godard, Andy Warhol, and Alfred Hitchcock impressed upon De Palma the many styles and themes that would shape his own cinema in the coming decades.

John Carpenter

John Howard Carpenter (born January 16, 1948) is an American filmmaker, composer, and actor. Most commonly associated with horror, action, and science fiction films of the 1970s and 1980s, he is generally recognized as a master of the horror genre. At the 2019 Cannes Film Festival, the French Directors' Guild gave him the Golden Coach Award and lauded him as "a creative genius of raw, fantastic, and spectacular emotions".

Carpenter's early films included critical and commercial successes such as *Halloween* (1978), *The Fog* (1980), *Escape from New York* (1981), and *Starman* (1984). Though he has been acknowledged as an influential filmmaker, his other productions from the 1970s and the 1980s only later came to be considered cult classics; these include *Dark Star* (1974), *Assault on Precinct 13* (1976), *The Thing* (1982), *Christine* (1983), *Big Trouble in Little China* (1986), *Prince of Darkness* (1987), *They Live* (1988), *In the Mouth of Madness* (1994), and *Escape from L.A.* (1996). He returned to the *Halloween* franchise as a composer and executive producer on *Halloween* (2018), *Halloween Kills* (2021), and *Halloween Ends* (2022).

Carpenter usually composes or co-composes the music in his films. He won a Saturn Award for Best Music for the soundtrack of *Vampires* (1998) and has released four studio albums: *Lost Themes* (2015), *Lost Themes II* (2016), *Anthology: Movie Themes 1974–1998* (2017), and *Lost Themes III: Alive After Death* (2021). Since 2012, he has co-owned the comic book company Storm King Comics alongside his wife, film producer Sandy King.

Films to look out for:

Carrie (1976)

Saturday Night Fever (1977)

New York, New York (1977)

Grease (1978)

Halloween (1978)

Alien (1979)

Mad Max (1979)

Raging Bull (1980)

