



SILVERSCREEN
PRIMARY
EDUCATION

1970s Cinema: The Rebirth of Hollywood

By Adam Pepper

Session 5



Welcome to Session 4 of this '1970s Cinema: The Rebirth of Hollywood' course!

Over 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!

Session 4:

Following the emergence of Spielberg through the TV set last week, and the explosion of praise heaped on Scorsese's 'Mean Streets', it is time to leave our gang of friends/collaborators/fellow creatives/new talent behind to take a detour into more dark and controversial film-makers.

It is impossible to study the films of the 70s, and indeed, the iconic films of that decade, without studying the output of Roman Polanski and Woody Allen.

Any film fan will have heard of, and seen, works like 'Repulsion', 'Rosemary's Baby', 'Chinatown', 'Manhattan' and 'Annie Hall'.

But many film fans now view those films with discomfort, unease, or even a total embargo on watching them again in light of the crimes they have both been accused of and, in Polanski's case, charged with.

So what do we do with these movies? These movies which shaped so much of the zeitgeist of the time. These films which appear on many people's Top Ten lists of best films ever. These films which have been lauded as masterpieces.

Tonight we will explore the films and the film-makers as we see where they sit in our study of the decade, and how we might look back at them now.

Useful information for Session 5:

Roman Polanski

Raymond Roman Thierry Polański (né Liebling; born 18 August 1933) is a French and Polish film director, producer, screenwriter, and actor. He is the recipient of numerous accolades, including an Academy Award, two British Academy Film Awards, ten César Awards, two Golden Globe Awards, as well as the Golden Bear and a Palme d'Or.

In 1977, Polanski was arrested for drugging and raping a 13-year-old girl. He pleaded guilty to the lesser charge of unlawful sex with a minor in exchange for a probation-only sentence. The night before his sentencing hearing in 1978, he learned that the judge would likely reject the proffered plea bargain, so he fled the U.S. to Europe, where he continued his career. He remains a fugitive from the U.S. justice system. Further allegations of abuse have been made by other women.

Polanski's Polish Jewish parents moved the family from his birthplace in Paris back to Kraków in 1937. Two years later, the invasion of Poland by Nazi Germany started World War II, and the family found themselves trapped in the Kraków Ghetto. After his mother and father were taken in raids, Polanski spent his formative years in foster homes, surviving the Holocaust by adopting a false identity and concealing his Jewish heritage.

Polanski's first feature-length film, *Knife in the Water* (1962), made in Poland, was nominated for the United States Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film.

After living in France for a few years, he moved to the United Kingdom, where he directed his first three English-language feature-length films: *Repulsion* (1965), *Cul-de-sac* (1966), and *The Fearless Vampire Killers* (1967).

In 1968, he moved to the United States and cemented his status in the film industry by directing the horror film *Rosemary's Baby* (1968). He made *Macbeth* (1971) in England and *Chinatown* (1974) back in Hollywood.

His other critically acclaimed films include *The Tenant* (1976), *Tess* (1979), *The Pianist* (2002) which won him the Academy Award for Best Director, *The Ghost Writer* (2010), *Venus in Fur* (2013), and *An Officer and a Spy* (2019).

Polanski has made 23 feature films to date.

In 1969, Polanski's pregnant wife, actress Sharon Tate, was murdered, along with four friends by members of the Manson Family in a nationally famous case.

Woody Allen

Heywood Allen (born Allan Stewart Konigsberg; November 30, 1935) is an American filmmaker, actor, and comedian whose career spans more than six decades. Allen has received many accolades, including the most nominations (16) for the Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay. He has won four Academy Awards, ten BAFTA Awards, two Golden Globe Awards and a Grammy Award, as well as nominations for a Emmy Award and a Tony Award.

Allen was awarded an Honorary Golden Lion in 1995, the BAFTA Fellowship in 1997, an Honorary Palme d'Or in 2002, and the Golden Globe Cecil B. DeMille Award in 2014. Two of his films have been inducted into the National Film Registry by the Library of Congress.

Allen began his career writing material for television in the 1950s, alongside Mel Brooks, Carl Reiner, Larry Gelbart, and Neil Simon. He also published several books of short stories and wrote humor pieces for *The New Yorker*. In the early 1960s, he performed as a stand-up comedian in Greenwich Village, where he developed a monologue style (rather than traditional jokes) and the persona of an insecure, intellectual, fretful nebbish. During this time, he released three comedy albums, earning a Grammy Award for Best Comedy Album nomination for the self-titled *Woody Allen* (1964).

After writing, directing, and starring in a string of slapstick comedies, such as *Take the Money and Run* (1969), *Bananas* (1971), *Sleeper* (1973), and *Love and Death* (1975), he directed his most successful film, *Annie Hall* (1977), a romantic comedy-drama featuring Allen and his frequent collaborator Diane Keaton. The film won four Academy Awards, for Best Picture, Best Director, Best Original Screenplay, and Best Actress for Keaton. Allen has directed many films set in New York City, including *Manhattan* (1979), *Hannah and Her Sisters* (1986), and *Crimes and Misdemeanours* (1989).

Allen continued to garner acclaim, making a film almost every year, and is often identified as part of the New Hollywood wave of auteur filmmakers whose work has been influenced by European art cinema. His films include *Interiors* (1978), *Stardust Memories* (1980), *Zelig* (1983), *Broadway Danny Rose* (1984), *The Purple Rose of Cairo* (1985), *Radio Days* (1987), *Husbands and Wives* (1992), *Bullets Over Broadway* (1994), *Deconstructing Harry* (1997), *Match Point* (2005), *Vicky Cristina Barcelona* (2008), *Midnight in Paris* (2011), and *Blue Jasmine* (2013).

In 1979, Allen began a professional and personal relationship with actress Mia Farrow. Over a decade-long period, they collaborated on 13 films. The couple separated after Allen began a relationship in 1991 with Mia's and Andre Previn's adopted daughter Soon-Yi Previn. Allen married Previn in 1997. They have two adopted daughters.

In 1992, Farrow publicly accused Allen of sexually abusing their adopted daughter, Dylan Farrow. The allegation gained substantial media attention, but Allen was never charged or prosecuted, and vehemently denied the allegation.

Films to look out for:

Repulsion (1965) *Rosemary's Baby* (1968) *Macbeth* (1971) *Chinatown* (1974)

Bananas (1971) *Play It Again, Sam* (1972) *Annie Hall* (1977) *Manhattan* (1979)