



**SILVERSCREEN
PRIMARY
EDUCATION**

1970s Cinema: The Rebirth of Hollywood

By Adam Pepper

Session 7



Welcome to Session 7 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 7:

Last week we travelled to the grimy city streets to follow dirty cops, drug dealers, dodgy government agents and junkies in films like 'The French Connection' and 'The Conversation'.

We met directors like William Friedkin, separate to the pack of directors we have mostly been following, leaning on his documentary-making roots to strike out on his own; the director as personality?

But we also saw the beginnings of 'event' movies; 'Blockbusters' and timed releases.

'Jaws' was a monster success and Spielberg rightly became, following Coppola, the next big thing in directing.

So, as we head into this week, we see a slight split in storytelling; the continuation of the cop/crime story, with all its grit, anti-heroes and dirty streets, and the blockbuster movie; uplifting, popcorn-inducing, movie-star making films that still resound today.

The beginnings of action movies. The beginnings of the mega stars. And a new way to act your way through the scripts being written.

Useful information for Session 7:

Lee Strasberg

Lee Strasberg (born Israel Strassberg; November 17, 1901 – February 17, 1982) was an American theatre director, actor and acting teacher. He co-founded, with theatre directors Harold Clurman and Cheryl Crawford, the Group Theatre in 1931, which was hailed as "America's first true theatrical collective".

In 1951, he became director of the non-profit Actors Studio in New York City, considered "the nation's most prestigious acting school," and, in 1966, he was involved in the creation of Actors Studio West in Los Angeles.

Although other highly regarded teachers also developed versions of "The Method," Lee Strasberg is considered to be the "father of method acting in America," according to author Mel Gussow. From the 1920s until his death in 1982, "he revolutionized the art of acting by having a profound influence on performance in American theater and film." From his base in New York, Strasberg trained several generations of theatre and film notables, including Anne Bancroft, Dustin Hoffman, Montgomery Clift, James Dean, Marilyn Monroe, Jane Fonda, Julie Harris, Paul Newman, Ellen Burstyn, Al Pacino, Robert De Niro, Sally Field, Renee Taylor, Geraldine Page, Eli Wallach, and directors Andreas Voutsinas, Frank Perry, Elia Kazan and Michael Cimino.

By 1970, Strasberg had become less involved with the Actors Studio and, with his third wife, Anna Strasberg, opened the Lee Strasberg Theatre & Film Institute with branches in New York City and in Hollywood, to continue teaching the 'system' of Konstantin Stanislavski, which he had interpreted and developed, particularly in light of the ideas of Yevgeny Vakhtangov, for contemporary actors.

As an actor, Strasberg is best known for his portrayal of the primary antagonist, the gangster Hyman Roth, alongside his former student Al Pacino in *The Godfather Part II* (1974), a role he took at Pacino's suggestion after Kazan turned down the role, and which earned him a nomination for the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor. He also appeared in *Going in Style* (1979) and *...And Justice for All* (1979).

Sidney Lumet

Sidney Arthur Lumet (June 25, 1924 – April 9, 2011) was an American film director.

Lumet started his career in theatre before moving to film where he gained a reputation for making realistic and gritty New York dramas which focused on the working class, tackled social injustices, and often questioned authority.

He was nominated five times for Academy Awards: four for Best Director for *12 Angry Men* (1957), *Dog Day Afternoon* (1975), *Network* (1976), and *The Verdict* (1982) and one for Best Adapted Screenplay for *Prince of the City* (1981). Other films include *A View from the Bridge* (1962), *Long Day's Journey into Night* (1962), *The Pawnbroker* (1964), *Fail Safe* (1964), *The Hill* (1965), *Serpico* (1973), *Murder on the Orient Express* (1974), *Equus* (1977), *The Wiz* (1978), *The Morning After* (1986), *Running on Empty* (1988), and *Before the Devil Knows You're Dead* (2007). He received the Academy Honorary Award in 2004.

A member of the inaugural class at New York's Actors Studio, Lumet started acting off-Broadway and made his Broadway acting debut in the 1935 play *Dead End*. He later went on to direct the Broadway plays *Night of the Auk* (1956), *Caligula* (1960), and *Nowhere to Go But Up* (1962).

Lumet is also known for his work on television. He received a Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Directing for a Drama Series nomination for *NBC Sunday Showcase* (1961). He also directed for *Goodyear Television Playhouse*, *Kraft Television Theatre*, and *Playhouse 90*.



Films to look out for:

On The Waterfront (1954)

Serpico (1973)

The Godfather Part II (1974)

ItalianAmerican (1974)

Dog Day Afternoon (1975)

Taxi Driver (1976)

Rocky (1976)