



SILVERSCREEN  
PRIMARY  
EDUCATION

## 1980s Cinema: Mullets, Ray-Bans & Teenage Angst

*By Adam Pepper*

### Session 3



Welcome to Session 3 of this '1980s Cinema: 'Mullets, Ray-Bans & Teenage Angst' course!

Over these ten weeks, we will journey through over 20 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 cheesiest and most action-packed of all decades!

We will study the directors, writers, actors, stories and history of the time to uncover how the 1980s created such a shift in film and storytelling, and gave us some of our most iconic film stars and characters.

We will look at their beginnings, their inspirations and the news they lived through to chart a path to some of the greatest and most rewatched films ever made.

#### **Session 3:**

Last week saw the emergence of a team of Saturday Night comedians who, over the next ten years, will dominate the box office. Axel Foley, Peter Venkman, Irwin M. Fletcher, Clark Griswold, Jake and Ellwood Blues; they are all about to be unleashed from these incredible performers from the TV sets to the big screen.

But it is stars of a different kind which dominate 1981 and 1982.

With the the help of John Carpenter, Nicholas Meyer and a certain Mr. Spielberg, outer space is where the box office is!

After the success of the two Superman movies, sci-fi fantasy is a hot ticket, so get ready to meet Snake Plissken, Elliot and Khan Noonien Singh.

Spielberg dominates though, with three legendary movies which are still favourites today, as he heads down into hidden tombs, children's closets and through the TV screen to introduce us to true Hollywood memories!

Don't 'phone home' until we get to the end...

#### **Useful information for Session 3:**

##### **Harrison Ford**

Harrison Ford (born July 13, 1942) is an American actor. Regarded as a cinematic cultural icon, he has starred in several notable films over seven decades. His films have grossed more than \$5.4 billion in North America and more than \$9.3 billion worldwide. Ford is the recipient of various accolades, including the AFI Life Achievement Award, the Cecil B. DeMille Award, an Honorary César, and an Honorary Palme d'Or. He has also received nominations for an Academy Award, a BAFTA, two Screen Actors Guild awards, and five Golden Globe awards.

Ford made his screen acting debut in an uncredited appearance in the film *Dead Heat on a Merry-Go-Round* (1966) and went on to play bit parts for several years. After breakthrough supporting roles in *American Graffiti* (1973) and *The Conversation* (1974), he gained worldwide fame for his role as Han Solo in the space opera film *Star Wars* (1977), a part he reprised in sequels over the next four decades.

Ford is also known for his portrayal of the titular character in the *Indiana Jones* franchise, beginning with *Raiders of the Lost Ark* (1981). He also starred as Rick Deckard in the science fiction film *Blade Runner* (1982) and its sequel *Blade Runner 2049* (2017), and portrayed Jack Ryan in the action thriller films *Patriot Games* (1992) and *Clear and Present Danger* (1994).

Ford received a nomination for the Academy Award for Best Actor for his role as a detective who envelops himself in the Amish community in the thriller *Witness* (1985). His other films include *The Mosquito Coast* (1986), *Working Girl* (1988), *Presumed Innocent* (1990), *The Fugitive* (1993), *Sabrina* (1995), *The Devil's Own* (1997), *Air Force One* (1997), *Six Days, Seven Nights* (1998), *What Lies Beneath* (2000), *K-19: The Widowmaker* (2002), *Cowboys & Aliens* (2011), *42* (2013), and *The Age of Adaline* (2015). Ford has since starred in the Paramount+ western series *1923* (2022–present) and the Apple TV+ comedy series *Shrinking* (2023–present).

Outside of acting, Ford is a licensed pilot; he has often assisted the emergency services in rescue missions near his home in Wyoming, and he chaired an aviation education program for youth from 2004 to 2009. Ford is also an environmental activist, having served as the inaugural vice chair of Conservation International since 1991.

### 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 five studio albums: *Lost Themes* (2015), *Lost Themes II* (2016), *Anthology: Movie Themes 1974–1998* (2017), *Lost Themes III: Alive After Death* (2021), and *Lost Themes IV: Noir* (2024). 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:

*Raiders Of The Lost Ark* (1981)

*Escape From New York* (1981)

*ET* (1982)

*Poltergeist* (1982)

*Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan* (1982)

*The Thing* (1982)

*Tron* (1982)

*An Officer & A Gentleman* (1982)

