



SILVERSCREEN  
PRIMARY  
EDUCATION

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

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### Session 4



Welcome to Session 4 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 4:**

This week, we are heading deep into the action!

As Ronald Reagan set about exerting American military power around the globe (most notably in Afghanistan, Nicaragua and Iraq), a new sense of patriotism and jingoism kicks in. This, after a 70s when disillusionment with those in power reached new heights.

For now, Reagan is it, he's making sense, walking the walk, and the masses are with him!

So, who better to represent true American strength than a plucky Italian-American and an Austrian bodybuilder!?

It's time for Arnie and Sly to truly land in the blockbuster category of movie star! Oh, and Chuck is here too to make up the numbers! Boxers, Vietnam vets, medieval heroes, robot killers and heavyweight boxers; they're all here ready to show their American mettle.

Watch as they destroy important cultural landmarks around the globe, take on evil rebel groups and, of course, kill those damn Russkies!

America! F\*\*k yeah!

#### **Useful information for Session 4:**

##### **Dino De Laurentiis**

**Agostino "Dino" De Laurentiis** (8 August 1919 – 10 November 2010) was an Italian film producer and businessman who held both Italian and American citizenship. Following a brief acting career in the late 1930s and early 1940s, he moved into film production; alongside Carlo Ponti, he brought Italian cinema to the international scene in the post-World War II period. He produced or co-produced over 500 films, with 38 of his Hollywood films receiving Academy Award nominations. He was also the creator and operator of DDL Foodshow, a chain of Italian specialty foods stores.

De Laurentiis produced his first film, *L'ultimo Combattimento*, in 1941. His company, the Dino de Laurentiis Cinematografica, moved into film production in 1946. In the early years, De Laurentiis produced Italian neorealist films such as *Bitter Rice* (1949) and the early Fellini works *La Strada* (1954) and *Nights of Cabiria* (1956), often in collaboration with producer Carlo Ponti.

In the 1960s, De Laurentiis built his own studio facilities. He produced such films as *Barabbas* (1961), a Christian religious epic; *The Bible: In the Beginning...* (1966); *Kiss the Girls and Make Them Die*, an imitation James Bond film; *Navajo Joe* (1966), a spaghetti Western; *Anzio* (1968), a World War II film; *Barbarella* (1968) and *Danger: Diabolik* (1968), both successful comic book adaptations; and *The Valachi Papers* (1972), released before its originally scheduled date in order to capitalize on the popularity of *The Godfather*.

In 1973, De Laurentiis relocated his headquarters to New York and he was reportedly considering to produce an American television series. His studio financially collapsed during the 1970s. In the 1980s, he had his own studio: De Laurentiis Entertainment Group (DEG) based in Wilmington, North Carolina. The studio made Wilmington an unexpected centre of film and television production. In 1990, he obtained backing from an Italian friend and formed another company: Dino De Laurentiis Communications in Beverly Hills.

De Laurentiis produced a number of successful films, including *The Scientific Cardplayer* (1972), *Serpico* (1973), *Death Wish* (1974), *Mandingo* (1975), *Three Days of the Condor* (1975), *The Shootist* (1976), *Drum* (1976), Ingmar Bergman's *The Serpent's Egg* (1977), *Ragtime* (1981), *Conan the Barbarian* (1982), *Blue Velvet* (1986) and *Breakdown* (1997).

De Laurentiis' name became well known through the 1976 *King Kong* remake, which was a commercial hit; *Lipstick* (1976), a rape and revenge drama; *Orca* (1977), a killer whale film; *The White Buffalo* (1977), a western; the disaster movie *Hurricane* (1979); the remake of *Flash Gordon* (1980); David Lynch's *Dune* (1984); *The Bounty* (1984); and *King Kong Lives* (1986).

De Laurentiis produced several adaptations of Stephen King works, including *The Dead Zone* (1983), *Cat's Eye* (1985), *Silver Bullet* (1985), and *Maximum Overdrive* (1986).

De Laurentiis' company was involved with the horror sequels *Halloween II* (1981), *Evil Dead II* (1987), and *Army of Darkness* (1992). De Laurentiis also produced the first Hannibal Lecter film, *Manhunter* (1986), an adaptation of the Thomas Harris novel *Red Dragon*. He passed on adapting the novels' sequel, *The Silence of the Lambs* (1991), but produced the two follow-ups, *Hannibal* (2001) and *Red Dragon* (2002), a re-adaptation of the novel. He also produced the prequel *Hannibal Rising* (2007), which tells the story of how Hannibal becomes a serial killer.

#### **Films to look out for:**

*Way Of The Dragon* (1972)

*Enter The Dragon* (1973)

*Pumping Iron* (1977)

*Conan The Barbarian* (1982)

*Rocky III* (1982)

*Rambo: First Blood* (1982)

*Conan The Barbarian* (1984)

*The Terminator* (1984)

*Missing In Action* (1984)

*True Romance* (1993)

*Team America: World Police* (2004)

