

A PREFERENTIAL INTRODUCTION TO MOTION PICTURES (MOVIES/FILM) IN ENGLISH FOR EFL/ESL STUDENTS

VOCABULARY: PEOPLE WHO MAKE MOVIES - director, producer (incl. "executive producers"), actor/actress, writer, opening titles/title sequence Vs. credits, stunt double, cinematographer, extras, studio

ELEMENTS OF MOVIES - setting, plot (incl. "twists & turns", plot twists), special effects, soundtrack/score, screenplay/script/adaptation (of another source medium), protagonist/hero, antagonist/villain, previews/coming attractions, MPAA (Motion Picture Association of America) Ratings (G, PG, PG-13, R, NC-17/X),

HOW/WHERE WE WATCH MOVIES - movie theater, cinema, the silver screen, the "box office", dubbing, subtitles, VHS (videotape, videocassette), VCD, DVD, Blu-Ray (High-Definition), widescreen/letterbox VS. TV-formatted, streaming, drive-in theater, Straight-to-video (i.e. never shown in theaters), 16/35mm film projector, video rental, critic/reviewer, commentary (track), special features (i.e. "making of" documentaries), audience participation

BUDGETS AND STYLES OF MOVIES - blockbuster, independent film (i.e. made without studio support and only later acquiring a distributor to promote it), arthouse/experimental film, low-budget, campy, B-movie, chick flick, Hollywood, classic, TV-movie, , epic, family film, short film, animation, turkey, flop, skin flick, popcorn flick, period film, blacksploitation, short film

OTHER TERMS – movie review (written by a film critic), spoiler (tells too much of the plot or a big secret), in "show business"/in Hollywood , sequel, trilogy, quadrilogy (etc.)

TYPES/GENRES OF MOVIES: ACTION - Often a "vehicle" for a strong "leading male" (but also, increasingly leading female!) actor, action movies feature many explosions, car chases, and weapons (especially guns). Realism isn't at all necessary but may add for extra suspense, as when the lead actor/actress does his/her own stunts. Includes subgenres such as war movies, police dramas, grindhouse, and increasingly blockbuster superhero movies, etc. So-called "adventure" movies also have a lot of action! *Michael Bay, John Woo, J.J. Abrams. Borne Trilogy, Cliffhanger, The Hurt Locker, Lethal Weapon, Die Hard, Saving Private Ryan, Platoon, XXX, The Fast and the Furious, Indiana Jones, Fight Club, 300, Gladiator, Charlie's Angels, Snowpiercer, Training Day, Mad Max, SWAT.* ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, BRUCE WILLIS, STEVEN SEAGAL, SYLVESTER STALLONE, MEL GIBSON, THE ROCK, VIN DIESEL

COMEDY - The popular TV show "Saturday Night Live" is often the first step to American comedy movies. Includes "mockumentaries" (fake documentaries making fun of their subjects) and the very popular subgenre of "romantic comedy" in which two people fall in love in a funny or unusual way, custom-crafted for "movie dates" with a special someone. Many comedies also parody one or more blockbusters, as in the relationship between *Star Wars* and *Spaceballs*. *John Hughes, Wes Anderson, Gondry, Penelope Spheeris, Baz Luhrman, Mel Brooks, Spike Jonze, Kevin Smith, Judd Apatow, Edgar Wright, Mystery Science Theater 3000/Rifftrax* (A great way to practice English by adding extra dialog!) CHRISTOPHER GUEST. *Ghostbusters, Be Kind Rewind, The Pink Panther, Monty Python, Juno, Mystery Men, Drop Dead Gorgeous, Ed Wood, Forrest Gump, The Princess Bride, Rat Race, Adventures in Babysitting, The Gods Must Be Crazy, Toys, Dear White People, In a World, Honey I Shrunk the Kids, Welcome to the Dollhouse, Bob Roberts, The Stupids, This Is the End, Hot Fuzz, Shaun of the Dead, Zombieland.* ROBIN WILLIAMS, EDDIE MURPHY, LARRY THE CABLE GUY, MIKE MEYERS, CHEVY CHASE, MARTIN LAWRENCE, GEORGE CARLIN, OWEN WILSON, RICK MORANIS, MARTIN SHORT, STEVE MARTIN, BILL MURRAY, DAN AYKROYD, WILL FERRELL, TIM ALLEN, BILLY CRYSTAL, CHRIS ELLIOT, JACK BLACK, PETER SELLERS, DREW BARRYMORE, MEG RYAN, TINA FEY

DRAMA - Theater plays for the stage are adapted as movie dramas. Includes "melodramas" about romance and family life as well as "period pieces" set in a specific period in history. These are "serious" films for what's considered the best acting and actors *P.T. Anderson, Darren Aronovsky, Egoyan, Ang Lee, Spike Lee, John Sayles, CLINT EASTWOOD, Peter Weir, Martin Scorsese, Julie Taymor. The Godfather, Kids, All Is Lost, The Artist, Memoirs of a Geisha, Casablanca, Driving Miss Daisy, The Shawshank Redemption, The Pianist, Dr. Strangelove, Taxi Driver, Requiem for a Dream, Big Fish, American Splendor, The Believer, Blood Diamond, Cold Mountain, Death of a Salesman, Dirty Pretty Things, Doubt, Finding Forrester, Ghost World, Glengarry Glen Ross, Good Night and Good Luck, Gran Torino, The Great Debaters, Hotel Rwanda, The Killing Fields, The Last Supper, Mean Creek, Mud, The Perks of Being a Wallflower, Six Degrees of Separation, The Squid & the Whale, Thunderheart, Wag the Dog, The River Wild, Kraemer Versus Kraemer.* DENZEL WASHINGTON, CHARLTON HESTON, LEONARDO DICAPRIO, DANIEL DAY-LEWIS, KENNETH BRANAGH, ANTHONY HOPKINS, ADRIEN BRODY, GEOFFREY RUSH, JOHN HURT, HILLARY SWANK, JULIANNE MOORE

WESTERN - Becoming rarer, these are set in the American West during the 18th to early 20th centuries and usually combine action (gunfights) and drama with people riding horses (cowboys). A frequent theme is the establishment of the rule of law in frontier areas. "Spaghetti Westerns" (from Italy) were very popular in the 1970's. *High Noon, Unforgiven, The Wild Bunch, 3:10 to Yuma, Dances with Wolves, True Grit, Django, Posse, Tombstone, Dead Man, Little Big Man, Meek's Cutoff, My Name Is Nobody, Blazing Saddles, The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly.* JOHN WAYNE, CLINT EASTWOOD, GARY COOPER.

MUSICAL - Mostly comedies, but also some dramas are made with the intention of singing/dancing and the plot to advance one another. These were most popular in the 1940's and '50's, with many movies made of famous "Broadway" musical plays for the stage. *The Wizard of Oz, Little Shop of Horrors, Guys & Dolls, Hairspray, West Side Story, Sweeney Todd, The Fiddler on the Roof, Dancer in the Dark, South Park: Bigger, Longer and Uncut, Moulin Rouge, The Muppet Movie, Oliver!, Cabaret.* GENE KELLY, FRED ASTAIRE, DICK VAN DYKE, SHIRLEY TEMPLE, JUDY GARLAND, JULIE ANDREWS

HORROR - These are intended to scare the viewer and almost always include a lot of gory murders with many special effects. Includes "slashers" and "zombie" movies. *Wes Craven, John Carpenter, Sam Raimi, George A. Romero. Friday the 13th, Scream, Saw, Halloween, Psycho, The Exorcist, Jaws, The Shining, The Birds, The Haunting, Misery, Night of the Living Dead, The Others, 28 Days/Weeks Later, Ravenous, Bone Tomahawk, Saw, It Follows.*

VINCENT PRICE, BORIS KARLOFF, BELA LUGOSI, CHRISTOPHER LEE.

THRILLER/SUSPENSE/MYSTERY - These films try to make the viewer excited, anxious, scared, or just interested in the plot, usually without a lot of action or special effects. They include stories of political intrigue, noir murder mysteries (aka "whodonnits"), gamblers, and often sexually-explicit themes. *Orson Welles, Alfred Hitchcock, David Mamet, Christopher Nolan, Basic Instinct, No Country for Old Men, The Usual Suspects, Silence of the Lambs, Se7en, Mystic River, Alive, Gone Baby Gone, Nightcrawler, Rounders, The Talented Mr. Ripley, The French Connection, Mulholland Drive, Casino, Rounders, Absolute Power, The Game, The Believer, Safe, The Crying Game, Sneakers, Taken, Memento, Kiss the Girls.*

SCIENCE FICTION/FANTASY - These are films set in outer space, based on myths, legends, and comic books, or best described in a "What if..." question. *Peter Jackson, Terry Gilliam, Jim Henson, Tim Burton, Pixar, Ridley Scott. Avatar, Back to the Future, Cloud Atlas, Contact, Dune, Hugo, Star Trek, Star Wars, Krull, Lord of the Rings, Alien, Signs, Soylent Green, 2001, I Am Legend, Back to the Future, Primer, The Prestige, Legend, The Matrix, Lord of the Rings, Labyrinth, Pan's Labyrinth, Planet of the Apes, Truman Show, Beowulf, Dark City, The Illusionist, Invasion of the Body Snatchers, What Dreams May Come, Beasts of the Southern Wild, Scott Pilgrim Vs. The World*

ANIMATION - There are still some things that can't be done with "live action" actors, and innovative techniques from claymation and other "stop-motion" methods to traditional drawn "cartoons" are always transcending their restrictive reputation as children's or family entertainment. While many newer animation movies have voices dubbed in other languages, don't be lazy! Between English voices and subtitles, it's always better practice to watch in the original language with the voice actors the director chose for every part originally. *Disney* and *Pixar* are some big names to look out for! Beware the adult themes of *Ralph Bakshi, Bill Plympton*. For more experimentation (but also much less English dialog), see *Svankmajer, Quay Brothers. 9, Rango, Coraline, When the Wind Blows, Who Framed Roger Rabbit?, Yellow Submarine, The Simpsons Movie*

DOCUMENTARY - Different from a "dramatization" of a true story, documentaries either use actual footage of their subjects or reenact them with an emphasis on historical accuracy. *Errol Morris, Michael Moore, Werner Herzog, Steve James, Morgan Spurlock, Ken Burns. Bowling for Columbine, Best Worst Movie, Scratch, Crumb, Derrida, Heima, The Devil's Playground, Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room, Capturing the Friedmans, Is the Man Who Is Tall Happy?, Lake of Fire, No End in Sight, Maiden Trip, Koyannisqatsi, Being Elmo, American Movie, Collapse, Crossing the Line, Miscreants of Taliwood, Food Inc., Enemies of the People, Forks over Knives, Inside Job, No End in Sight, Slasher, Soundtrack to War, Water Wars, Winnebago Man, The Wolfpack, The Yes Men Save the World*

MARTIAL ARTS/KUNG FU/BOXING - Like an action movie, but usually without guns and set in Asia or a boxing ring. *Kung Fu Panda, Kung Pow: Enter the Fist, The Fighter, Kill Bill, The Karate Kid, Raging Bull, Rocky, Cinderella Man, Million Dollar Baby, Danny the Dog, Mortal Kombat, Street Fighter, The Ultimate Fighter, Undefeated.* BRUCE LEE, JACKIE CHAN, JET LI, SAMMO HUNG, ZIYI ZHANG, JEAN-CLAUDE VAN DAMME

FOREIGN - As this is intended for EFL/ESL students, no apologies will be made for leaving out every other country's cinematic masters and masterpieces. Anglo-centrism is in this case justified! The instructor's website,

The biggest blockbusters tend to combine elements of all the genres, attempting to excite viewers while also making them laugh and cry. The most common combination for these, as special effects have entered the "digital age" is the Sci-Fi/Fantasy Action Thriller. Examples of such include almost all superhero movies and movies based on video games.

MOVIES RELEVANT TO INTERNATIONAL POLITICS - For NENU Spring 2016 Junior Class Essay 2, If you're not pleased with the apolitical prompt, try seeing and writing about one of these films (pardon repetition)...No one needs to be told to watch James Bond or Mission: Impossible movies, do they? Try these (though not all are well-liked or in English!): *The Act of Killing/The Look of Silence, The Age of Stupid, Blood Diamond, Blue Gold, Collapse, Come and See, Contagion, Crossing the Line, Dr. Strangelove, The Eleventh Hour, Europa! Europa!, Fahrenheit 9/11, Hector and the Search for Happiness, Hotel Rwanda (or Shake Hands with the Devil), Enemies of the People, The Fog of War/The Unknown Known, The International, Inside Job, Miscreants of Taliwood, No End in Sight, Soundtrack to War, Red Dawn, Religulous, Sicario, Sin Nombre, Sleep Dealer, Syria, Team America: World Police, Those Who Feel the Fire Burning, Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy, Traffic, WalMart: The High Cost of Low Prices, Water Wars, World War Z, Zero Dark Thirty* Many also say that *Star Trek* movies (and the original TV series) are allegorical for the Cold War!

Directors famous for working in many styles and genres include: *Kubrick, Spielberg, Coen Bros., Zemeckis, Spike Lee, Levinson, Linklater, Lynch, Nolan, Sodorburgh, Sonnenfeld, Oliver Stone, Zwigoff, Tarantino, Boyle*. Similarly, famous ACTORS not listed elsewhere because they have played almost every role imaginable in all genres include: TOM HANKS, TOM CRUISE, HARRISON FORD, DUSTIN HOFFMAN, JOHNNY DEPP, WILL SMITH, JOHN TRAVOLTA, JACK NICHOLSON, NICOLAS CAGE, ROBERT DOWNEY JR., KEANU REEVES, TOMMY LEE JONES, SAMUEL L. JACKSON, VAL KILMER, ROBERT DENIRO, EDWARD NORTON, MICHAEL DOUGLAS, MATT DAMON, LAURENCE FISHBURNE, DANNY GLOVER, JAKE GYLLENHAAL, RYAN GOSLING, KURT RUSSELL, BRAD PITT, GENE HACKMAN, ETHAN HAWKE, LAWRENCE OLIVIER, MERYL STREEP, SIGOURNEY WEAVER, CHARLIZE THERON, ANGELINA JOLIE, JESSICA TANDY, ANJELICA HOUSTON, UMA THURMAN, CHRISTINA RICCI, RENE ZELLWEGER, JUDI DENCH, NICOLE KIDMAN, KATHY BATES, HELEN MIRREN, MAGGIE GYLLENHAAL, WINONA RYDER, JODIE FOSTER, SANDRA BULLOCK, MARILYN MONROE, HALLE BERRY, JESSICA LANGE, KATHERINE HEPBURN, GRETA GARBO, GWYNETH PALTROW, SUSAN SARANDON, WHOOP! GOLDBERG, REECE WITHERSPOON, KIRSTEN DUNST, HEATHER GRAHAM, NATALIE PORTMAN, ROBIN WRIGHT, LAURA LINNEY, ELLEN BURSTYN, SCARLETT JOHANSSON, JULIA ROBERTS, JENNIFER ANISTON. See also the Hollywood "Walk of Fame"

Examples of *directors* and *writers* known for certain types of movies are in *italics*. Titles of movies of a certain type are underlined. ACTORS known for certain types of movies are CAPITALIZED. Fans of the classics will have noticed that listings skew heavily toward newer movies; this is due to knowledge/experience/familiarity/interest of both the compiler and the students! This was compiled for teaching purposes (i.e. that movies are not just for mindless entertainment) with the help of movie web sites such as the Internet Movie Database (www.imdb.com) and Rotten Tomatoes (www.rottentomatoes.com). Students are encouraged to include the ratings on such sites, as well as www.metacritic.com, to show the % of critics who enjoyed a particular film. The author's favorite movie sites are www.avclub.com and the now-defunct www.thedissolve.com. See also the author's website: www.omnifoo.info/pages/Favorite%20Films.html For considerations of space and taste, very sexually-explicit films have mostly been excluded, though there's still plenty of drugs and violence! And finally, as it clearly takes a lot of people to make movies, don't pirate their work. If you didn't pay to watch, you might well be stealing!