The Art of Making Movies

Syllabus – Winter Term, 2020  OLLI CENTRAL
WEDNESDAYS 9:30 – 12:00 pm  January 15, 2020  Facilitator: Bob Magnani
303-674-9857  bobmagnani@comcast.net

Movies are magic – entertaining, emotionally moving, sometimes with awesome effects, they are able to create and spread unifying visions of our world. But they don’t just “happen”. Join us as we step behind the camera and take a journey through the movie creators’ eyes from studio executives, producers, casting people, actors, writers, cinematographers, editors, composers, technicians and directors and understand what it takes to create the story, finance it, put together the team, and produce the movies we all enjoy so much in this most collaborative of all arts. This course is a combination of informative videos and group discussion and is appropriate for all levels of film fans.

Sessions may go 30 minutes late (to 12:00pm) due to the amount of material / time for adequate discussion.

Class #  Date  Session Content

Week 1  Introduction to the Course / Overview of Film Making Process;
The Movie Business; How It Starts / Getting the Money & the Stars
Videos: Studio Executives & Producers; DVD: Seduced & Abandoned

Week 2  Screen Writing
Hero’s Journey & Writing Concepts; Writing Advice, BAFTA Videos
of Scott Frank, Julian Fellows, Abi Morgan; Video on Dialogue Writing Tips

Week 3  Casting
Excerpts from the DVD “Casting By” Marion Dougherty’s career in casting; Casting
Roundtable; How to break in to the industry

Week 4  Acting
DVD: “Acting in Film” with Michael Caine; Videos: Director/Actor Interactions;
Film Actress Roundtable, Top Stars on Acting

Week 5  Cinematography, Production Planning, Crew & Special Effects
Videos: What Cinematographers Do; Cinematography Basics; Production Planning,
Special Effects Overview; “2012” Movie Effects; The ILM Story; Anatomy of a Set;
Breaking Down a Script; Story Boarding

Week 6  Design & Directing
Videos/VGs: Set Design for ROME & in Lyon, Hair & Makeup;
Les Mis: Sets, Costumes, Pulling it all together; What Directors Do,
Blocking & Shooting; Spielberg Techniques; Making of Jaws

Week 7  Directing & Editing  What Editors Do, Excerpts from “The Cutting Edge”;
Making of Carlito’s Way; Making of Dog Day Afternoon

Week 8  Music, Sound Design, Distribution, Reading the Credits
Videos: John Williams Compilation; Songs in Films; Memoirs of a Geisha; Composer
Round Table; Foley Sound Effects; StarWars Sound Design; Film Distribution;
Reading the “Credits”;

IMPORTANT  If you are unable to attend the first session of the class, or if you have decided to drop the class, please notify the facilitator either by e-mail or telephone.