Film Appreciation
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Lecture - 03
Key Concept Part-2

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Good morning and we continue with the discussion of key concepts. So, we have been talking about number of concept and we also talked about counter culture, action cinema adventure films, buddy films etcetera. So, let me start with something that is generally not discussed, but it is ethnicity and race in films and visual culture. So, what is ethnic or ethnicity, so it is derived from the Greek word ethnic cause; and by ethnicity generally we mean people or nation and in the more modern sense it is a group of people sharing a cultural heritage so that is how we understand the term ethnicity sharing a cultural common cultural heritage. For example, migraine from one nation to another or people who have undergone heart shapes and therefore, we call them in a ethnic, we have a terms such as ethnic tribes, ethnic struggles, when people migrate from one place to another and face problems in adjusting to those new places.

Ethnic groups can be divisive perhaps, but they are generally united by some sense of injustice or wrong doing to the group. It is also rooted in class division and alienation from the majority of people. It is again as I have already explained to you it relates to shared experience and believes of group of people. Generally we understand it as group of people who have been wronged historically things have been not so good them, there have there is been sense of injustice, a sense of injustice against that group. Ethnicity also depends upon once religion, language, nationality, culture, tribal affiliation also and culture customs and tradition. Historically race and ethnic group are subjected to operation, humiliation, even genocide they are often understood as groups that historically speaking and they have been dispersed and disenfranchised. For example, the holo caused in Germany which is now associated with elimination of people who did not fit a particular profile.

Some of the iconography of ethnic group or races, for example, the black people. So, they wear drug log or leather jacket, for example, juice, they wear star of David, they wear pray shawl and a skull cap. For Native Americans, we have totem or poll or painted face, they use tomahawk, feather head dresses. The Arabs they have that kind of cloths then loose garments and a beard. So, scholar considered these kinds of iconography symbols iconographic symbols as damaging essentialization, and this become problematic in order to understand races. So in cinema, we are talking same appreciation and whenever you see a typical bearded guy and all the estuario types attached to it what are we doing here we are essentializing a particular race or linguistic group or cultural group. So, it has been in cinema before, it has being done in cinema before we need to be more sensitive to these things.

Some of the major films that are associated with ethnicity I can give you a very recent example this is movie directed by Angelina Jolie in The Land of Blood and Honey. So, 2012 film and its explore the genuine site in Yugoslavia; particularly in 1990s, it was shows horror of wars ways against by ((Refer Time: 04:49)) Muslims by Sorbs inform a Yugoslavia. And Julie shows us death camps ethnic clenching and meticulous civilian in graphic detail. Films that tackle the issue of and race and ethnicity I am giving you you know a very common list of films common list of names where race has been fore grounded. So, you have no men's land, the human stand, gentlemen agreement such as

dances with wolf and sinless less. I would suggest that you watch some of these films all of these films in order to understand how raze are portrait.

From here we move on another concept that is Meta, and Meta cinema to understand the concept of Meta cinema we have to first understand the concept of Meta theater, because it originates from that. So, you say in film appreciation, one of our commitments to towards you was that we are going to give you an overview of cinematic aesthetic and also how cinema is related to or associated with other visual arts also. So, let us look at how cinema draws on from certain theoretical concept. So, Meta theater is the convenient name for the quality or a froes in a play which challenges theaters claims to be simply realistic to be nothing, but the mirror in which we view the action in sufferings of characters like ourselves suspending our disbelieves in their reality so that is Meta theater, Meta cinema.

We have several instances of Meta cinema, for example, Felines Eight and Half, we have been discussing; Felines Eight and Half if you had not yet watched the movie and do recommended please watch it, it is about film maker who suffers from a director's block. You know you have writers block writers can write in directors block write, director cannot direct a movie, so Eight and Half is based on Felines own experiences. Feline is the master of Meta cinema; many of his films are Meta cinematic in there aesthetic for example, ((Refer Time: 07:22)). So, please watch these films in order to understand concept of Meta cinema self preferentiality and other things.

Method acting is the next term that we are interested in. This term is interesting because this method is applauded and as well as ridiculed in our cinema. Many a times we feel oh this actor is over doing preparing or preparation for a role, he is a method actor. So, it is also used dismissively many people feel the actor should be more spontaneous, but method acting is actually something else and it raises an actor a serious actor if you are his performance or her performance to another level. I will quote Unsung Vales is the great Otsung valis who famously said that I am always making the fun of the method, but I use a lot of things that are taken from it. The exponent of method acting was Russian theater director Constantine Stanislavski and method acting has also come to be associated with so called Stanislavski system. He has written a number of books and books based on his method, some of popular once, I am sure some of you aware of that who are yet actually seriously interested in acting so an actor prepares.

And another work is a building a character and creating the role. In the US the Stanislavski assistant became popular as the method, first popularized by the group theater in New York city in 1930s in the US exponent was Lee Strasberg and later on Stella Adler. The some of the key principles of method acting by Constantine Stanislavski or the method as it has become known is that actor's main responsibility was to be believed. Stanislavski was first employed method such as emotional memory to prepare for a role that involve fear, the actor must remember something frightening and attempt to act the part in the emotional space of that fear the once felt. This was the clear break from previous modes of acting that held that the actor's job was to become the character and leave their own emotions behind.

The creation of physical entries into these emotionally stage believing that the reputation of certain acts and exercises could bridge the gap between life on and off the stage. From the Indian example from our own cinema I can give you example of how the method has been discussed not so overtly, please understand here I do not say that the method acting has been discussed, but in this film, but to an extend Balki's Shamitabh it gives a glimpse if you aware of these things, method acting and how actors prepare. Then you should watch this movie which is the very interesting take on how the actors prepare. Although, I am not giving you as a key example of method acting, some of the leading practice and I am talking about examples from international cinema.

You have a great Marlon Brando, Monty Clift and James dean, they all came from the least ((Refer Time: 11:11) school of method acting. The New Wave American, new wave which is started in the late sixties and earlier seventies, so actors associated with that moment de Niro Albertano, Jack Nicholson, Dustin Hoffman, and later on even Sean Penn, Mickey Rourke actress such as Meryl Strep and fade away we had example of ((Refer Time: 11:39)) and also Emma Thompson, European actors too. And from other parts of the world, we also have actors such as Daniel de Lewis who is an Irish actor known for his great performance in my left foot in the name of the father and more recently there will be Albert Lincoln, then we also have someone example s of like Adrien Brody Kristen Bell and the late heath ledger, and all these are great practitioners of the method.

You may often had come across a term like mise on Scene, and I have written it for you mise on scene. What does mise on scene refer to what does mise on scene mean it is

literally putting on stage it is a French term putting on stage. The term originates from the theater where it designates everything that appears on the stage for example, sets colors lighting, character, movement etcetera. Mise on scene assigned includes element of visualized it is designed to create the narrative space and help progress the narrative. Mise on scene song concerned with the look of the film it includes production design that set probes and costumes, color lighting etcetera.

Framing that inclusive position for example, depth of feel aspect, no aspect ratio, height and angle of a particular scene, it also includes actors performance such as his casting his makeup and movements and also sounds that emanates from the scene that is more dietetic, very often we come across term like you know this director is the master of mise on scene. For example, it was often said of a director like ((Refer Time: 13:43)) from Hollywood and he is known for his melodramatic films and the way he used to mise on scene to put today certain kinds of emotions.

From here will go on certain aspect of editing. And now let me talk about continuity editing. Traditionally cinema adopted a non-intrusive approach to film; editing as the intention was for the audience to remain entirely unaware of cuts. The industry introduces a series of cinematographic and editing devices in order to achieve this effect. Some of the terms associated with takes and editing is one such example is establishing shot or reestablishing shot. For example, opening shot to establish the location and distance between characters, and object within a scene, this helps orientate the audience. Typically it is short from a distance and it provides spectators with important visual information. Falling the initial establishment of this information the camera typically cuts into the action certain points in the scene the camera may need to return to the original opening position or establish the new point remove from the action in order to re determine a special relations which is called reestablishing shots we have eye level shot here the camera is placed at a height that is equivalent to that of the actors eyes and the action is filmed from this point.

We have the refraining shot were action takes place in a scene the camera moves and reframe to keep key point to focus central to the frame and then we have famous eye line matching, and many directors famously director from Japan Ozu, he has tried to interrogate the sub word the eye line matching shot. So, eye line matching word is it is when the character look off scene the screen that follows reveals the objects of his or her

attention. We have something like shot and reverse shot to shoot dialogue between two characters, the camera alternates between two points, it is commonly used device. Many a time you must have noticed in cinema you see the back of the head of one character who is you know who is listening and you see the face of the character who is speaking. So, it is a shot reverse shot the first shot frames character A and its typically the shot from the character B s points of view or over Bs shoulder, this process is reverse with character b shot from character As perspective.

This module continues throughout a scene and it is repeated many times as it necessary; sometime in order to be experimental director also support this technique. We also have something called a term that is very important for us to understand one eighty degree role, this is access of action for the purpose of continuity, it is important when shooting a screen that the cameraman imagines an invisible line cutting through the action. So, this is called one eighty degree shot. It is necessary that all shooting takes place on one side of this line as to cross over one would get disorientated in view might and confusing the audience. The camera must always be placed on one specific side of this line. When editing is unobtrusive, the audience is kept unaware of technicalities involved in creating cinema, when editing does occur it is typically to lead the viewer to certain conclusions, this approach has become quite common and has been traditionally put into practice.

One of the most or rather more radical inventions in editing was montanis montanis is associated with the theory of social oh sorry soviet realism or even social realism you can call it. So, what is the montais, monstais is type of editing technique and it refers to a series of images and sounds that form the visual pattern, there may not be any clear logical or visual pattern here; montais editing came out of the soviet experimental cinema of the 1920s. It was first thought of by Liz Culshaw, but it is primarily associated with Isis Einstein, who articulated theory montais typish, he used non professional with clear physical trades in representative roles. Montais at the ideological such as conflict and collision, it is particularly used when an editor or filmmaker want to convey a great deal into a brief segment.

 Isis Einstein believed that collision and conflict must be inherent to all visuals science and films just upon the shots made them colloid or conflict and meaning is produced through this. Montais is the rapid alteration between set of shots for example, the training sequence in rocky, it include collision and conflict between people and situation, for

example, the ((Refer Time: 19:26)) in battleship bottom were Isis Einstein editing style privileges the appropriate over narrative and characterization; some of the great montais include battleship bottom cane, citizen came the dining table scene, the baptism scene in the god father, the training sequence in rocky, and kissing montais in cinema paradise which is the an Italian film which was released in 1988.

Another concept is or rather it is a genre rather, the musical and many of us big admirers of musical genre. So, the first all singing musical was the Broadway melody, it was released in it was made in 1929. The tradition continued throughout especially and today it is speak with Singing in the Rain 1952 sustainable don in film top had and carefree. Now MGM was one of the studios most commonly associated with genre and RKO another great studio in Hollywood it also fasted one of the most musical pairing Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers, they were dancing, pair singing dancing stars. Song and dance during film are not uncommon in India we know that and some of the most well known example of I am talking about out and out song and dance films one is Kalpana, and another is V Shantharam [FL] one of the function of the music was to resolve conflicts in a society, and encourage some sort of social harmony and stability.

Now, we have a example of Seven Brides for Seven Brothers, and also Oklahoma were conflicts are resolved through music. The musical of the sixty included several Elvis Presley film and also those staring the beetle for instance a hard day's night. We had another perfect example of musicals west side story which is rare example where musical ends in tragedy. The musical is a Deion genre in Hollywood especially in west, but till sixties and some parts of seventies, it is still this genre is still continued of course, we have a exception like Mamma Mia which was released very recently. So, later example of success musical include my fair lady which based on Shaws Pygmalion Nashville Robert Altman which is more like a political social commentary done through music; and then of course, John Travolta Starts Saturday Night Fever and also Grease. By the early seventies there was a decline in the musicals and film sound track was sourced from pre existing albums. Musicals; however, are very popular genre in India and many of our films can be termed as romantic musical or musical romance for instance you have [FL]

Let us move on to talk about another concept or genre with which is mythological. Now mythological the term my myth and myth is a traditional story about heroes or

supernatural beings often explaining the origins of a natural phenomenon or aspects of human behavior, this is called a myth. The most Hollywood mythological films are based on Greek, Roman mythology. The very first Indian film to be made is sorry Dadasaheb Falkes mythological film called Raja Harichandra in 1913 the plot was selected to capture the interest of a large popular. Generally episodes are taken in our situation at least from epic and scriptures such as Ramayana and Mahabharata, they depicts the action of god, demon and superhuman powers. Once upon a time the female role in these movie, they were played by male actors though in India we no longer main stream mythological. We do have very popular television serials on our Indian TV.

Coed cinema is another concept that should know a term and especially who are interested in genres studies. So, the term new coed cinema was coined by ((Refer Time: 24:36)) in several publication including the British film journal site and sound as well as New York weekly the village voice to describe the appearance of certain film at Sundance film festival in the early 1990s that events palletized dance towards queer culture. Queer cinema is often compressed of an independent films made on a small budget and often financed by foundation and arts council grand's. And the moment new queers cinema itself can be seen as a culmination of several developments in an American cinema and American culture. Most film makers making queers in a films they self identify as queers and their film show case opposed stone wall, open us to question their politics and identity. Some major film queer makers are Dirk Hermann who made Sebastian and Caravaggio, also the Garden and Edward. The second you have Gustavo song and Mala Noche by my own private idaho even kogals get the blues and milk. We had Todd Haynes who made poison, safe velvet Goldmine far from heaven I am not there. And India we have someone like Onir who has made I am and my brother Nikhil.

From here we move on to spoof film many of us really do enjoy spoof and spoof film is defined as initial imitative work created to mock comment on or trivialize an original work. It subject or author style or some other target by means of satiric or ionic in imitation, for example, if you watch the opening shot very celebrated opening shot of the Stanley Kubrick, 2001, Odisi and then you see what Ben Stiller and Owen Wilson have done to it in their Zoo land. So, I would suggest you to watch it and perhaps you will understand what exactly I mean. In the1930s, Hollywood made a series of classical

horror film like Dracula and Frankenstein for a while audience took these film seriously and they were very scared by them.

But now of course, we have spoof film, horror spoof film where the idea is to mock or ridicule all the trade of these films or these horror films. We also have spoof like John English starring ((Refer Time: 27:21)) which is spoof of all these films such James Bond films particularly. I will take you to key technical concept now which is called sucher, the sucher refers what is sucher after all sucher is like viewing in or stitching. So, what is being stitched here; sucher refer to the thematic visual and editing technique employed by the director or cinematographer to make us to forget that the camera is the one doing the looking. So, now, the camera we have made to feel a one with the screen. So, think of all those editing techniques that we have talking about continuity editing, eye line matching 180 shots etcetera. You know that film is digestic in nature that is the characters occupying their own world within which they interact and performs various activities; camera and editing techniques show us how what to look at and how to view the movie.

The last concept that I am going to discuss today's class is voice over, all us must have must be familiar with what is voice over, we often come across this particularly in advertisement. So, it is a production techniques where a voice is not as part of narrative is used; the voice over may be spoken by someone who appears elsewhere in the production or by specialist voice actor. Voice over technique is used to give voices and personalities to animated character, for example, in Herman Melville movie days which is 1956 movie directed by John Huston you have a character of Ishmael who narrate the story and sometime comments on the action in voice over. We have the example of William Holden's character in Sunset Boulevard and again in counterfeit theater where they narrate their story through the character, so that is all for today.

Thank you very much and we will meet for our next class.