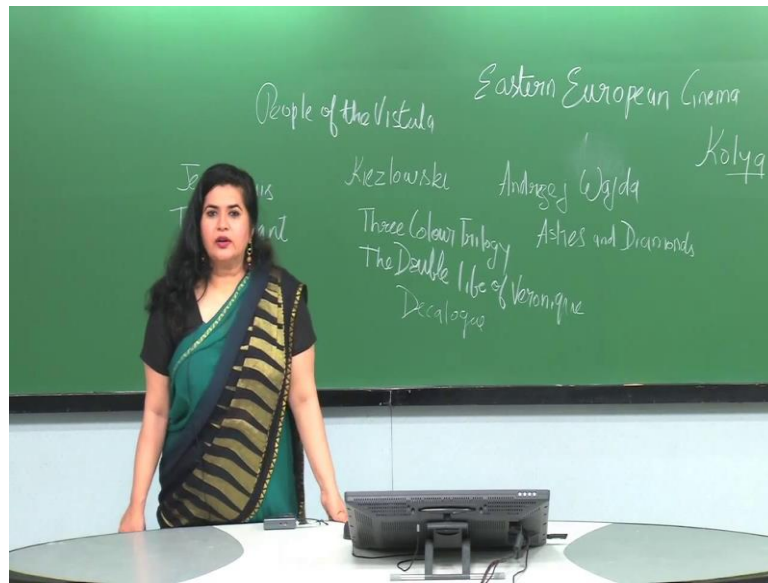


Film Appreciation
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Lecture - 38
Eastern European Cinema

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Good morning. So, today we are going to talk about Eastern European cinema, another very interesting part of the world where renowned cinema has been made for over several decades. Here are a some of the major place, here we will be talking about the early cinema I am Alexander fords, one of the earliest film by Alexander ford in Poland. So, today we will be referring to Eastern European cinema with particular reference to polish and Zakalowski cinema. So, people of the Vistula one of the earliest films that came out from Poland, and then we will also talk about another great polish film maker Andrzej Wajda and his film ashes and diamonds also Krzysztof Kieślowski, who I am sure you are very well aware of this film director, he has made some other greatest films in recent times, the three color trilogy the double life of Veronique and Decalogue.

We will also talk about I will also refer to some great film actors from the apart of the world, and then cinema from the Czechoslovakia, and with special reference to relatively recently film called Kolya directed by Jan Sevrak; other great cinema film directors from

Czechoslovakia are the names are written over the board Ivan passer Jiri Menzel and Milos Forman.

So, welcome friends to a brief introduction to Eastern European cinema, the first studio built in Poland was built in Warsaw in 1920. In 1929 a few experimental film makers started a society called start s t a r t, it has its an abbreviation for film society one of the most well known figures of this time was Alexander ford who made films such as people of the Vistula and the street legend, his films particularly made in the 30's had a strong social and political content. During the second world war film making was allowed in countries under German occupation except Poland, because poly cinema was getting increasingly political, and the occupants were not too happy about it.

So, there were several restrictions on poly cinema. The ravages of the war force the film industry to start from this scratch, and most films of the post war period dealt with the Naseeruddin, its operation the holocaust that the country had suffered. And the hero's of the resistance period the Alexander ford border street is a 1948 film, which is a recreation of the doomed Warsaw ghetto uprising in which a small, but courageous, and heroic band of Jews herded in to a ghetto by German occupation forces chose to resist the Nazis rather than to face deportation to Auschwitz the film was banned in Poland, it depicted Jews rather than communists heroes of Antig Erman struggle four colors film.

And it is one of the earliest polish film in color five boys from Baker street focused on Julianne Deliquicy, the greatest Andravida assisted him on this film soon Andravida was to become one of the greatest ever police film directors why thus great trilogy includes a generation Kanal and ashes. And diamonds a 1948 films, which is based on a novel by Jerzy Andrzejewski the film is said in the beginning of may 1945, and the second world war is nearly over, we know the dates of the second world war. So, 1939 to 45 and closing of the second world war.

Now Eastern Europe I am giving you the political backdrop of the film, Eastern Europe has been liberated by the red army, and Poland is in the process of setting up a new civil society. Now the action of ashes and diamond involves the unit of the home army, the largest of all polish underground movements this unit fermented or investigated Warsaw uprising of the 1944, and was fiercely anti Soviet the unit had been ordered to assassinate a top communist official, the task is given to a young student who had recently passed out of the university merge a he shoot the communist official. So, the entire story focuses

on his attempts to kill the official, and intern how he shut down by a... So, while the novel takes place over a period of four days, the films action takes place within 48 hours Maciek, and they rent rooms in hotel and reflect about the days of the Warsaw uprising, and reminisce how their lives have been full of poverty war struggle, and meaningless senseless suffering in the same hotel Maciek needs and fall in love with a waitress, all this time during the night a wild party goes on in the hotel, where celebrations are on are going on and they are awaiting peace and amerce so called the communists officials appointment as a minister, and this is what the story is all about...

So, complete story here action takes place in 48 hours very introverted, very stylish kind of a film the protagonist of the film, the actor became an overnight sensation, he was also called the James dean of Poland, the film is also renowned for its black and white cinematography here is a Seen from ashes, and diamonds poly cinema flourished during the 50's and 60's with directors, such as Andrzej Munk Wojciech has and roman Polanski roman Polanski. Of course all of us are familiar with Roman Polanski, we have already referred to and watched his film two men, and a wardrobe which was the movie which he made in Poland while he was still in Poland, and his Hollywood successes include Rosemary's baby Chinatown and more recently the pianist after 1968 political repression and sensation film industry had limited freedom.

And the cinema suffered during this period the breakup of communism was matched by the disintegration of the cultural industry film was one of the victims or cultural victims in Eastern European countries, such as Czech republic Poland and Russia, once reconstructed started poly cinema also saw a witness and rapid growth. And one of the foremost names here is Krzysztof Kieslowski, he represents the cinema of moral in poly cinema political commitment forms or exists at the core of his films, and as a result two of his films were banned by the polish government one film blind chance, which examines the effect of randomness of fate on the life of a Medical student, and the other film no end involve the ghost of a dead lawyer watching his family survive without him.

So, these two films were banned; however, these films are followed by Decalogue in which Kieslowski received for which Kieslowski received international acclaim, and the film follow the pattern of 10 commandments his 1988 film a short film about killing his an anti capital punishment film, which shows authorized killing is as disturbing as the murder of a taxi driver by a young hooligans. After the fall of communism Kieslowski chose to work in France, where he directed the double life of Veronique and the three

color trilogy, the three color trilogy is Kieslowski biggest international film of all times, and his also biggest success most well and most well received, and most renowned movie it featured and glamorous international stars, such as Juliet Binoche, Juliet Delpy, and Irene Jacob some of whom had already worked with Kieslowski in his earlier films.

The films are three colors blue, white, and red. Now the color scheme is very clear, it is in the manner of the French flag, and it is structured around the themes of the French republic, it is liberty quality and fraternity that is brotherhood the real themes. Of course, include ambiguities regarding love discreet the way we betray each other varism, and Mens fear and loathing of women, that is a strong theme that exist to the three films. Of course, Kieslowski been who he is a very strongly a very strong political motivated director, he is also included in national, and self identities and one strong theme that runs through these films is how we throw away everything that we have including our identities and then attempt to start our lives from a starch.

So, this is another recurrent motives, the three color trilogy is about entirely different people in different cities though; there are little overlapping and very discomforting touches in which we encounter the leading character of one film in cameos in another at one level we find the directors sub section with the themes of fate and chance. Now actors doing cameos character doing cameos in such kinds of films, you know films that apart or the films that complement one another, and then at characters coming from hopping from one film to another is nothing new even in our films. We have been seen of late when cinema is getting some film directors are illustrating influences of European film makers. So, we can see that this trend is also taking place in our cinema.

So, blue which is star Juliet Binoche was viewed as extremely exquisite piece of work white, which is set mostly in Poland, and it features Juliet Delpy was a comic episode, and red it features; two European stars Irene Jacob, and the French cinema hero Jean Louis Trintignant. So, this film was considered as red was considered as one of the as by many expert as the best of all three trilogy, this is Jean Louis Trintignant he is also the actor who famously start in the conformist. So, I am coming from Poland to Czechoslovakia; Czechoslovakia became an independent nation in 1918 and has faced competition from German, and us films since then like most film industries us has been a constant threat and challenge. We have also done recently Canadian cinema, and we know that how Canadian cinema has never been able to come out of the shadows of the American film industry.

So, similarly European cinema too suffers the threat strong and strongly an aggressively marketed, and produced big budgeted Hollywood films in 1933, the Barrandov studios opened in Prague during the war, the Germans took it over which interrupted any progress in the industry. After the war the national film school was set up in Prague, and witness the emergence of directors, such as Ivan Passer, Jiri Menzel and Milos Forman. Jan Kadar, the shop on main street was the first Czech film to win a foreign film Oscar, this was followed by Menzel's 1966 *Closely Observed Trains*, the Russian invasion of 1968 ended the exciting period of activity in film industry in Czechoslovakia many directors, such as Milos Forman left for the US.

And then we also know that Forman directed the well received *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* with Jack Nicholson in America, after the disintegration of Czechoslovakia into the Czech Republic and Slovakia in 1993, the film industries have developed their distinct voices. The hostility towards the Russian is dealt with in the 1996 film *Kolya* directed by Jan Sverak. Well, the film is set in 1988 Prague. The protagonist is the 55 years old person Frantisek Louka a journalist who used to play with orchestra, but because of some sub sub subversive action, he ends up losing his job and now he is reduced to playing mournful music at funerals. So, come down a big letdown for the great artists. Now he needs money and he enters a marriage of convenience with Russian women, who needs the Czechoslovakian citizenship.

So, this is the matrimonial arrangement of convenience in exchange for money. Since the bride wants Czechoslovakia citizenship soon, after the wedding the woman leaves for West Germany, but Louka is left with her five year old son Lolya. Now Kolya becomes Louka's responsibility and soon they develop affection for each other. Now this is interesting Louka who has never known responsibility, and Kolya who never known a father they find something in each other. The jealous, now turns in to a responsible father in all this while the world around them is changing.

So, again strong politically political content at the core of the film, but its done in extremely sensitive and gentle manner. So, while the world is changing the communist dictatorship is on the verge of collapse; these two people these two learn some people form forge of born the film also, because of its sentimentality reminded the audience of *Charlie Chaplin the Kid*, and it won huge amount of international acclaim and won the Oscar for best foreign language film the film's success. Of course, it is attributed to its

aesthetic content warm heartedness, and also its great attention to details here is the seen from Kolya.

So, thank you very much. We will meet and we will continue with exploration of international cinema.