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DAVID LYNCH AND THE AMERICAN FILM AVANT-GARDE

11: 050: 300:H6 - SUMMER 2007

Dates: 2007 Summer Session # 3 July 9-August 9

Day/Time: Tuesday & Thursday – 6:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Location: Ruth Adams 001, and on 2 Thursdays (7/12+19) in Loree Hall #024, Douglass Campus, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey

Description: A course focusing on the surreal films of David Lynch and the American Film Avant-Garde. The course will include depth analyses of the structure and content of many of Lynch's bizarre and unique films. Some of these will include: Eraserhead, Mulholland Drive, Blue Velvet. In addition, this course will explore the influential experimental films of Maya Deren, Kenneth Anger, and other avant-garde filmmakers. The course will also examine the "mise-en-scene," narrative form, set design, sound, and special effects in the films of these celebrated filmmakers. *Warning: some films may contain nudity, sexual situations, violence, profanity, substance abuse and disturbing images.*

Required Reading:

- 1- David Lynch by Michel Chion-- available only at New Jersey Books, 108 Somerset St, New Brunswick, NJ (732) 828-7401.
- 2-Xerox Packet of Articles is available from the instructor the first two weeks of class only. Cost: \$40 (cash or check made payable to the Rutgers Film Co-op/NJMAC) includes reading materials and lab fee for certain in-class film rentals and licenses. This fee must be paid by the 3rd class section.

Required Viewings:

- 1-**Scorpio Rising/Lucifer Rising** at Rutgers Film Co-op/NJMAC NJIFF screening Thursday, July 12, 2007 at 7:30PM in Loree Bldg. #024. Cost \$5. You must sign in at the door.
- 2-**Lost Highway** (In Widescreen and on film) at Rutgers Film Co-op/NJMAC NJIFF screening Thursday, July 19, 2007 at 7:30PM in Loree Bldg. #024. Cost \$5. You must sign in at the door.

Course Requirements and Grading:

Attendance is mandatory. Two exams [Short Answer/Essay Questions].

Class Participation: 20%

Attendance: 10%

Exam #1: 35%

Exam #2: 35%

Attendance and Absences:

I will overlook one absence from class; thus, take your absences seriously. If you accumulate more than one absence, you should speak to me right away and let me know how you will make up the

work you've missed. In addition, more than one absence will affect your attendance grade and I will be less flexible in considering your overall grade. The opposite also holds true: if your attendance and class participation are consistently strong, you may enhance your final grade.

Exams:

You should take careful notes during class; both exams will be based directly on the material we cover and our class discussions. The first exam will cover the first half of the syllabus; likewise, the final exam will cover the second half of the syllabus.

Cheating:

Cheating is a serious offense in this course and according to Rutgers University regulations. So don't do it! The penalties for cheating in this course may result in failure of the course and a report to the dean.

Suggested Reading:

- Anger, Kenneth. **Hollywood Babylon**. New York: Dell Pub., 1974.
- Aranda, Francisco. **Luis Bunuel: A Critical Biography**. Translated and edited by David Robinson. New York: DaCapo Press, 1976.
- Bordwell, David and Kristin Thompson. *Film Art: An Introduction*. NY: A. Knopf, 1995.
- Chion, Michel. **David Lynch**. London: British Film Institute, 1995.
- Baxter, John. **Bunuel**. New York: Carroll & Graf Pub., 1998.
- Canyon Cinema Catalogs**. San Francisco: Canyon Cinema, 1970-2002.
- Clark, Veve and Millicent Hodson and Catrina Neiman. **The Legend of Maya Deren.. Volume One - Parts 1 & 2**. New York: Anthology Film Archives, 1984.
- Curtis, David. **Experimental Cinema**. New York: Delta Pub., 1971.
- Durgnat, Raymond. **Luis Bunuel**. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1977.
- Film Culture**. New York: Anthology Film Archives, 1960-present.
- Gidal, Peter. **Andy Warhol: Films and Paintings: The Factory Years**. New York: DaCapo Press, 1991.
- James, David. **Allegories of Cinema**. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1994.
- Freud, Sigmund. **On Creativity and the Unconscious**. NY: Harper & Row Pub., 1958. See essay "The Uncanny."
- Freud, Sigmund. **Interpretation of Dreams**. NY: Harper & Row Pub., 1958
- Hughes, David. **The Complete Lynch**. NY: Virgin, 2002
- Johnson, Jeff. **Pervert In The Pulpit: Morality In The Works of David Lynch**. London: MacFarland & Co., 2004.
- ed. Hunter, Jack. **Moonchild: The Films of Kenneth Anger**. NY: Creation Books, 2001.
- Kovacs, Stephen. **From Enchantment To Rage**. Cranbury, NJ: Assoc. University Presses, 1978.
- ed. Kuenzli, Rudolph E. **Dada and Surrealist Film**. New York: Willis Locker & Owens, 1987.
- Landis, Bill. **Anger: The Unauthorized Biography of Kenneth Anger**. New York: Harper Collins, 1995.
- Lynch, David. **David Lynch**. Paris; Foundation Cartier, 2007
- MacDonald, Scott. **Cinema 16**. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2002.
- MacDonald, Scott. **Critical Cinema I**. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1982.
- MacDonald, Scott. **Critical Cinema II**. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1988.
- MacDonald, Scott. **Critical Cinema III**. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1998.
- Man Ray. **Self-Portrait**. New York: McGraw Hill Pub., 1963.
- McGowan, Todd. **The Impossible David Lynch**. NY: Columbia University Press, 2007.
- Millennium Film Journal**. New York: Millennium Film Workshop, 1970-present.
- ed. Nichols, Bill. **Maya Deren and the American Avant-Garde**. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2001.
- Nochimson, Martha. **The Passion of David Lynch**. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1997.
- ed. O'Pray, Michael. **Andy Warhol Film Factory**. London: British Film Institute, 1989.
- Peterson, Sidney. **The Dark of the Screen**. New York: New York University Press, 1980.
- Richter, Hans. **Dada: Art and Anti-Art**. Translated by David Britt. New York: Oxford University Press, 1964.
- ed. Sheen, Erica and Annette Davison. **The Cinema of David Lynch**. London; Wallflower Press, 2004--- 20 copies available at New Jersey Books, 108 Somerset St, New Brunswick, NJ 732-828-7401

ed. Sitney, P. Adams. **The Essential Cinema**. New York: New York University Press, 1975.
Sitney, P. Adams. **The Avant Garde: A Reader of Theory and Criticism**.
New York: New York University Press, 1975.
Sitney, P. Adams. **Visionary Cinema**. New York: New York University Press, 1979.
Wood, Paul. A. **Weirdsville USA: The Obsessive Universe of David Lynch**. London:
Plexus, 1997.

DAVID LYNCH AND THE AMERICAN FILM AVANT-GARDE Schedule:

July 10 – Introduction; **Un Chien Andalou**; Surrealism Documentary; **Lynch Shorts**;

July 12 – **Lynch Shorts**; **Scorpio Rising/Lucifer Rising***

July 17 – **Eraserhead** Maya Deren's **Meshes of the Afternoon, At Land, and Ritual In Transfigured Time**; **Maya Deren Documentary**

July 19 – **Eraserhead** analysis; **Lost Highway***

July 24 – **Lost Highway** analysis; **Blue Velvet**

July 26 – Exam #1; **Francis Bacon Documentary**

July 31 – **Blue Velvet** analysis; **Twin Peaks Fire Walk With Me**

August 2 **Twin Peaks Fire Walk With Me** analysis; **Mulholland Drive**;

August 7 **Mulholland Drive** analysis; **David Lynch: Pretty As A Picture**

August 9 Exam #2