

Cinema on the Edge
CLASSIC
AFTER
CLASSIC
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THE LIFE:

New York, April 12, 1945 a 16 year old boy wakes up to the news that President Roosevelt is dead, on his way to school he stops by a newspaper stand where the seller sadly sits, mourning for the terrible news, the boy moved by the moment picks up his camera and takes a photo of the picturesque scene. Impressed by the photo, he decides to skip school and knock on "Look" magazine's door where he sells the photo and becomes their youngest staff photographer. Little did he know that was the start of the career of one of the most renowned directors of all times, Stanley Kubrick.

Born in July 26 1928, New York, Stanley Kubrick was a very bright child, and excellent chess player and a talent photographer. He started working as a photo journalist at the age of 16 but it didn't take long until he directed his first feature film "Fear and Desire" (1953), the picture paved the way to direct his first classic "Paths of Glory". The film wasn't a box office hit however the critics liked it enough that when the epic production of "Spartacus" was looking for a new director, Stanley Kubrick was the one to do it. The film was released in 1960 and was a huge success critically and financially but it cost Kubrick a great amount of artistic compromise due to the fact that the producer also happened to be the main actor. Those frustrations he had as a young director lead him to only make films where he had complete control over what is on the screen giving birth to one of the Kubrick's most known characteristics, his complete control over what is in the screen.

From that moment on every single movie Stanley Kubrick directed became a classic, tapping into the most controversial topics at a huge range of genres

such as "Lolita", "Dr. Strangelove", "2001: A Space Odyssey", "A Clockwork Orange", "Barry Lyndon", "The Shining", "Full Metal Jacket" and his last film before his death in 1999, "Eyes Wide Shut". His legacy will forever inspire film makers to go beyond their imagination to bring a world of thoughts within a theatre screen.

THE STYLE:

Kubrick is known for being extremely careful with every little detail shown on his films, his most noticeable trait is the use of one point perspective, maintaining objects and characters in the center of the frame walking perfectly towards or away from the camera, this extreme symmetry can be seen on almost his entire filmography.

His films also tend to contain a soundtrack made out of very recognizable classical compositions, some of which became known after his films popularized it. This tool often gives his pictures an intellectual tone which invites the audience to consider every element of them.

His films are also known for having an extreme number of metaphors and secret messages hidden in it, one example is the "character" HALL 900 from "2001: A Space Odyssey" being the letters IBM shifted by one alphabetical character. Another one is the constant use of sexual references and with the use of phallic looking spaceships, doors and tunnels that appears throughout the entire film.

The combination of his constant use of symbolism mixed with his bizarre geniality made way for a number of conspiracy theories based around his films

adding a great deal to the re-watchability of his works. You can never over-analyse a Stanley Kubrick film.

STANLEY TO ME:

My first experience watching a Stanley Kubrick film was at the age of 14, I was already in love with films by then and would watch them periodically. One day I decided to watch "A Clockwork Orange" (1971), that day everything changed. I was so puzzled by the strange nature of the film I had just watched that I had to find out more about it. I bought a magazine that talked about the making of the film and a number of messages that Stanley had embedded in his film. After reading about this strange director I decided to watch every single one of his films, it was the first time I had watched films based on a director and by doing so I started learning about what the role of the director was helping me to decide that I'd like to become one myself.

Film-making is an art form that makes use of multiple artistic communication methods such as performance, music, photography, poetry, editing among many others of which Stanley Kubrick mastered, the ease that he travels through so many different movie genres making full use of all the communication methods cinema has to offer in order to transmit a deep thought is absolutely inspiring to me and for that reason when first watched one of his films I knew that is what I wanted to do.

"The screen is a magic medium. It has such power that it can retain interest as it conveys emotions and moods that no other art form can hope to tackle."

Stanley Kubrick

May he rest in peace.