

Conclusion

We have argued that much nineteenth- and early twentieth-century theatre was characterized by a situational and pictorial approach to narrative. That is, rather than considering plot in an Aristotelian way as a matter of a chain of cause and effect (his “beginning, middle, and end”), playwrights, stage managers, directors, actors, audiences, and even critics (despite the latter’s genuflections to classical dramaturgy) treated it as a way of producing and resolving situations, momentary states embodying in extreme form the causal tensions that drive the story. Such situations were the moments that painters and sculptors took as appropriate for the representation of significant action in an atemporal medium. In a temporal medium like drama, conversely, they arrested the forward motion the better to underline its significance. Far from being pictures that assert their sovereign autonomy from the spectator, like Fried’s absorptive paintings, they are insistent in their address to a spectator. However, the stage picture’s appeal to spectatorial complicity should not be seen simply as an ideological reinforcement, a Barthesian mythological connotation, but rather as a means to structure the performance, to give it a rhythm and to orchestrate its high and low points.

This pictorialism ran through all aspects of theatrical practice in this period. We have considered three of these aspects, two of them broad domains — acting and staging — the third a specific device — the tableau. In acting, the picture affected both the way the actor presented the immediate situation and feelings of his or her

character to an audience, and the way the ensemble of actors created a series of group pictures and moved from one to another, directing the audience’s attention to the key characters in the scene at each moment, and orchestrating their attitudes with appropriate accompanying attitudes from the subordinate figures. In staging, pictorialism dominated the settings — separate scenes were, in France, called “*tableaux*” — but also more transient effects like the relationship between the actors and the sets and scenic transformations. The tableau as a special device most directly transported to the stage certain characteristics of painting — the fixity, and the distribution of contrasting elements across the field of vision that demands the duration of that fixity for the whole to be read.

Although the early cinema took over many features of the live stage quite literally — notably the pictorial idea of the stage setting, actors’ attitudes, and occasional tableaux — the brevity of most early films made it neither necessary nor possible to resort to the devices of the developed pictorial stage. The stories remained too simple to involve the peripeteia that give rise to complex situations; actors did not have time to use attitudes in a way to punctuate and modulate the performance of a scene (when they had the expertise and the skill, which they often did not); tableaux could not be held for long enough for any but the most stereotyped situations to be conveyed in them. Moreover, the development of cinematic devices in the first fifteen years of moving pictures — the adoption of a close camera position, creating a playing area quite unlike the theatrical

stage, the deployment of deep staging within that area, and the development of devices such as intertitles and assemblage of scenes to tell relatively complex stories without dialogue — moved the cinema away from a simple reproduction of stage practices.

With the rise of the feature film in the 1910s, films became much more like plays in the kind of narratives they related — indeed, many, perhaps most of them were adaptations of stage plays, ancient and modern. In this new, longer form, the pictorial theatre again became a model, but the established practices of filmmaking were not simply abandoned for a photographic record of stage performances. Nevertheless, pictorialism flourished, in modified forms.

Despite claims for a new acting style specific to the new medium, film acting remained reliant on attitudes. While acting and the film star (the diva and her male counterparts) became increasingly important in the 1910s both for the film industry and as a structural component of film narrative, the greater length of the film gave the actor more room for virtuoso display — simply carrying out the necessary actions, as many of the “actors” of the earliest films had done, was no longer sufficient. The appropriate deployment of attitudes became central to film acting. In Europe, filmmakers held down cutting rates to allow this virtuoso display to unfold in continuity. In America, faster editing did not leave space for lengthy reiteration of poses, and framings that isolated individual characters diminished the need for attitudinal ensemble to direct the spectators’

attention to the narratively significant characters and their actions. To that extent, pictorial acting lost some of its structuring functions, but the expressive means at the actor's disposal remained the traditional attitudes.

Scene- and act-end tableaux, too, lost their structuring function in films, insofar as the principal divisions of films, reels, were increasingly shown continuously, without any break equivalent to a curtain. Even where breaks between reels persisted, and at the ends of movies, audiences were always reluctant to applaud actors who were not present to acknowledge the applause, and films adopted (from literary narratives rather than the theatre) epilogues to handle the ends of sections and whole films. Within scenes, tableaux in the strict sense of arbitrary freezes at significant moments were also rare; with sufficient motivation, most notably by surprise or the threat of violence, they were still seen, but were usually much briefer than they had been in the theatre. The tableau persisted, however, in various transformations: notably, in a tendency even in highly edited sequences to use an inclusive framing at the climax, and in the multiplication of cinematic devices, often devices of editing, to ensure that the high point that had been represented by the tableau in the theatre received an equivalent elaboration in the film, despite the absence of a long-held freezing of all actors in attitudes.

Finally, the idea that a scene was a "stage," and a stage defined pictorially, was not immediately abandoned for the notion of an analytic montage in which a chain of isolated fragments was synthesized by the audience into a diegetic world never seen as a whole. Rather, the inclusive long shot prevailed as the principal framing of a scene, and most closer shots were axial cut-ins to a detail locatable by reference to the broader framing. As noted above, climaxes tended to return to the broad framing to include all the counterposed elements within a single picture. The visual pyra-

mid carved out by the lens, all of whose parts were equally visible to all members of the audience, gave rise to a new kind of pictorial composition, one in many ways closer to that of flat perspective paintings than was possible for the live theatre, forced to push almost all significant elements to a front plane to ensure their visibility. On the other hand, the cinema screen remained small in comparison with the stage, and the spectacular pictorial elements of both popular and respectable nineteenth-century theatre were replaced, not by simply filming spectacular reality, which tended to produce derisively miniaturized versions of that reality, but by the deployment of the other significant kind of editing in use in this period, the alternation, to create a spectacular impression without ever showing a truly spectacular scene.

A brief comparison between these conclusions and other accounts both of the relations between cinema and theatre, and of the early history of cinema in general, is in order here.

First, it should be obvious that we reject the view that the history of the cinema is one of a steady emancipation from theatrical models. Early filmmakers had other models (still photography, lantern slides, cartoons, vaudeville acts, short stories, novels), and gave the theatrical ones short shrift if they proved inconvenient. Film lighting, for example, always owed more to still photography and painting than it did to theatrical lighting. On the other hand, when those models became appropriate, as they did with the development of longer films after 1910, theatrical models came back with a force that overwhelmed all of the others except perhaps the literary ones. Far from being a restriction on the development of the cinema, in the 1910s the theatre became a storehouse of devices for the cinema, and has remained so (though, of course, the traffic is not so one-way as it was in the 1910s).

Second, our differences from those like Vardac who see nineteenth-century popular theatre as

"protocinematic," as attempting to be cinematic without the appropriate technology, are more subtle. We share with them a conviction that there are major continuities between the theatre and the cinema, at any rate after 1910. However, rather than seeing the theatre as striving to be cinematic, to be what the cinema was, as it were, automatically, we believe that the cinema strove to be theatrical, or to assimilate a particular theatrical tradition, that of pictorialism, a tradition to which neither medium is obviously more appropriate, although each made specific demands that mean that pictorialism in theatre and in cinema are not the same.

Third, we are reluctant to concede the priority many accounts give to the development of film editing as the "spine" of film history. This is linked to the first conception listed above, as editing is usually also seen as a feature differentiating cinema from theatre. An editing-centered approach also tends to privilege the American cinema, as most editing innovations started in the U.S. and were only slowly adopted in Europe, if at all, in the 1910s. However, the ways the cinema of this decade assimilated features of theatrical pictorialism have complex relations to film editing. In Europe, pictorialism in acting probably delayed the increase in cutting rates, whereas in the U.S. it found an accommodation with rapid editing; spectacular settings, too, both demanded inclusive shots, and called for editing effects to supply the lack of theatrical scale.

A fourth issue is the persistent attempts (from 1910 to the present) to link the cinema *en bloc* with the modernist movement in the other arts. The high valuation put on the absorptive, anti-theatrical picture is a case in point. In proposing it, Michael Fried is not so much characterizing eighteenth-century French painting or even eighteenth-century French art criticism, as he is offering a prehistory of a certain conception of modernist painting, one where the painting is concerned solely with itself, and does not solicit the spectator. His account of

Diderot's views enables him ingeniously to distinguish this conception of modern painting from one based on the notion of non-representationalism as such — both by finding a perfectly representational art that can be located in the tradition, and by finding an argument to damn those kinds of abstract art (most notably certain of the New York minimalist painters and sculptors) that seem palpably to address a spectator, as “theatrical.” And when Svetlana Alpers champions the “Northern” tradition of Flemish and Dutch painting against the orthodox attribution of centrality to the Italians, and borrows a title of György Lukács's (“Narrate or Describe?”) for an essay which, unlike Lukács, puts the descriptive above the narrative or historical, she, like Fried, is polemically adopting a modernist stance while, again like Fried, freeing it from an exclusive bent towards non-representationalism. Much of the attraction of Fried's and Alpers's positions to film historians lies in the way they make possible an assimilation of film to modernism. A pictorial cinema in our sense, on the contrary, has roots in the kinds of painting and theatre that the modernist movement set itself against.

There is an alternative to Fried's “high” modernism in the writings of Walter Benjamin. When Benjamin appealed to the exclamation “Tableau!” he did so to compare the opportunities for that exclamation with the scenes in Brecht's epic theatre. This use of picture seems much closer to ours, and Benjamin goes on to indicate that what these pictures show is the *Zustand* in which the characters caught in them are suddenly frozen, and *Zustand* can be translated “situation” (indeed, Benjamin uses the word “*Situation*” in an early draft for the essay in this context). Moreover, Benjamin hints at a kind of popular, anti-classical tradition behind these aspects of Brecht's theatre. This “low” modernism seems more appropriate to characterize the range of theatrical devices we have described as pictorial. However, we would stress that pictorialism in this sense was not

simply a “low” or vulgar form. While a taste for spectacle and a situation-based dramaturgy could certainly be found in the melodramas that dominated the working-class theatre in London or New York, we have argued that they are also a feature of the respectable theatrical productions of a Belasco or an Irving. Given its broad appeal, and given the tradition of academic painting and of illustration on which spectacular theatre draws, it seems more appropriate to characterize it as “middlebrow” rather than assimilating it to either Benjamin's “low” or Fried's “high” modernism. There is nothing particularly “modern” about the pictorial tradition, unless the modern can be dated back to the eighteenth century, a definition that would dilute the notion of modernism to mean no more than “contemporaneous with capitalism.” By the same token, the cinema of the 1910s should not be seen as a “modern” phenomenon in any but the most banal sense that it was produced in the twentieth century.

Our last point we regard as an unresolved issue. It is generally accepted that, before about 1907, that is, before the rise of specialized venues for the showing of films almost exclusively, and appropriate structures of production and distribution of films for such venues, films were very different from what they became in the cinema with which we are familiar, which, despite important changes, has been held to remain remarkably similar from around 1917 to the present. Currently, the most common way of formulating this is to contrast a “cinema of attractions” in the early period with a “classical narrative cinema” in the later, with the intervening decade one of transition between the two. To some extent, our account cuts across this distinction. We regard the cinema of attractions as essentially an institutional matter of a type of exhibition, appropriate to both narrative and non-narrative films, and would emphasize the brevity of the films appropriate to these types of exhibition as the crucial feature. We link

the influence of pictorial theatre to the rise of the feature film, and the problems of handling narrative in a much longer format. We do not see the theatrical picture as in some sense inimical to narrative but rather as one of its modes.

However, most characterizations of the narrative cinema that emerged after 1917 seem remote from pictorialism. For example, David Bordwell, Janet Staiger, and Kristin Thompson's “classical Hollywood cinema” is founded on an Aristotelian plot with the causes centered on the principal characters — essentially a protagonist sets him- or herself a goal the struggle for which, against external obstacles or the efforts of antagonists, takes the story from its beginning to its end, whether that end is the achievement of the goal or some other resolution, happy or unhappy. As we have pointed out, situations can be established in other ways than by setting obstacles to characters' achievement of their goals, so, although both a situational and a causal account can be given of many narratives, causal consistency is less important in a situational dramaturgy, while effective situations are less important for one that is “Aristotelian” in this sense. Effective situations certainly remained crucial to “classical Hollywood cinema”; does the undoubtedly widespread demand for causal consistency and character-centeredness found in manuals and the cinematic trade press in the classical period represent a shift away from pictorialism, or is it a further instance of the discrepancy between intellectuals' commentary (obliged to bow to classical dramaturgy) and actual film-making practice? Similarly, Christian Metz argues that in classical narrative cinema the absence of the actors when the spectator views the film abolishes the exhibitionism that constitutes the live stage picture as theatrical rather than absorptive in Fried's sense. Is this argument incorrect, or is there a shift between the films of the 1910s we have been discussing and those of the classical cinema? Finally, Jean-Louis Baudry,

Raymond Bellour and Noël Burch have all made the highly edited style of classical films, and in particular the devices of shot-reverse-shot, and matching of eyelines and movement, central to their account of those films and the cinematic institution that produced them. If we are right, and editing does not play such a part in the films of the 1910s, are the films of the next decades essentially different? These questions are beyond the scope of this book, but insofar as we have made our case for the 1910s, they need an answer.

Appendix

PLOT SUMMARY OF *UNCLE TOM'S CABIN*

This summary follows the original novel, and the reader should be warned that the play and film versions discussed in Part Two often more or less deviate from it:

Uncle Tom lives with his wife Chloe and children in Kentucky where he is one of the most valued field slaves of the planter George Shelby. Shelby is unable to redeem a note that has fallen into the hands of the slave trader Haley, who forces him to sell Tom and little Harry, the son of Eliza Harris, Mrs. Shelby's maid. Eliza's husband George has already fled the nearby plantation of a harsher master, and, overhearing the plans for the sale of her son, Eliza decides to take the boy and try to join George in his flight to Canada. She warns Tom, but he decides not to resist his master's decision. Eliza and Harry are pursued by Haley to the Ohio River, which is too iced up for a boat to get over. Cornered by Haley, Eliza crosses the river, leaping from floe to floe with Harry in her arms. She is taken in by Senator Bird and his wife, who help her contact an abolitionist rescue organization, through which she

is able to join her husband and a Quaker guide on the trip North through Ohio to Lake Erie. Haley entrusts the search to a professional slave hunter, Loker, and his associate, the lawyer, Marks, and returns to the Shelby plantation. When Loker catches up with the runaways, George shoots and wounds him, and the Harrises reach Canada safely.

Tom says goodbye to his family and to Shelby's son, who swears to redeem him when he grows up. Haley takes Tom and sets off on a steamer down the Mississippi to New Orleans to sell him. Tom meets Eva, the little daughter of Augustine St. Clare, who is returning home to New Orleans with his daughter and her aunt Ophelia, a Yankee hostile to slavery. Tom rescues Eva when she falls overboard, and, at Eva's request, St. Clare buys him. He becomes the family's coachman. St. Clare also buys Ophelia a slave child, Topsy, to test her abolitionist sentiments. Topsy is a thief and liar, impervious to Ophelia's moral suasion, and only corrigible by Eva's love. Eva sickens and dies, extracting from her father the promise to free his slaves. Before he can

do so, St. Clare is killed trying to prevent a duel. Tom is put up for auction with the rest of the slaves, except Topsy, who returns to Vermont with Ophelia, where she is set free.

Tom and a young girl, Emmeline, are bought by a dissolute Red River planter, Simon Legree. On his plantation, Legree tries to install Emmeline as his mistress, but she is protected by her forerunner, Cassy, whom Legree fears as a witch. Legree tries to force Tom to whip a sick slave woman, Lucy, who brings short weight of cotton to the weighing house, and has Tom beaten senseless by his overseers, Sambo and Quimbo, when he refuses. Cassy and Emmeline outwit Legree and flee the plantation. In an attempt to get him to reveal their whereabouts, Legree tortures Tom to death.

Shelby's son arrives too late to save Tom's life, but hears his dying words, and buries him. Cassy and Emmeline reach Canada and encounter the Harrises. It is discovered that Eliza is Cassy's long lost daughter. As the novel ends, the Harrises are setting out for a new life in Liberia.

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- . "Reviews of Licensed Films [...] *Gold Is Not All*." *New York Dramatic Mirror* 63, no. 1633 (9 April 1910): 17.
- . "Reviews of Licensed Films [...] *The Merry Wives of Windsor* (Selig, 1910)." *New York Dramatic Mirror* 64, no. 5177 (30 November 1910): 30.
- . "Reviews of Licensed Films [...] *Uncle Tom's Cabin*." *New York Dramatic Mirror* 64, no. 1650 (6 August 1910): 26.
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Filmography

This filmography lists all the films mentioned in this book by their title in their country of origin, together with an indication of that country, the producing company that made them, the year of release (with a parenthetic date of shooting if there was an exceptionally long gap between shooting and release), the length as originally advertised or as recorded by censors, and the name of the director (d.). For those films for which it seemed important to specify the print or prints we have seen, there is an indication of the source(s) and length(s) of the print(s). It should perhaps be pointed out that the source in question, usually an archive, was not always responsible for the preservation of the film in question, but acquired it from another archive which was. For silent films, lengths are given in meters or feet for 35mm prints except where otherwise stated; lengths of sound films are given in minutes.

- After Many Years*. U.S. American Mutoscope and Biograph Co., 1908, d. D.W. Griffith, 1,033 feet. Print: Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., Paper Print Collection, 390 feet (16mm).
- Aladin ou la lampe merveilleuse*. France. Pathé Frères, 1906, 250 meters, d. Albert Capellani. Print: National Film and Television Archive, London, 788 feet.
- Alias Jimmy Valentine*. U.S. World Film Corp., 1915, 5 reels, d. Maurice Tourneur. Print: Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., 4,612 feet.
- All on Account of the Milk*. U.S. Biograph Co., 1910, d. Frank Powell, 999 feet.
- Die Arme Jenny*. Germany. Deutsche Bioscop, 1912, 858 meters, d. Urban Gad. Print: George Eastman House, Rochester, New York, 2,025 feet.
- L'Assassinat du duc de Guise*. France. Le Film d'Art, 1908, 340 meters, d. Charles Le Bargy and André Calmettes. Prints: National Film and Television Archive, London, 1,025 feet; Museum of Modern Art, New York, Circulating Library (16mm).
- Au bain*. France. Pathé Frères, 1905, 215 meters, d. Ferdinand Zecca. Print: Museum of Modern Art, New York, 678 feet.
- Au pays noir*. France. Pathé Frères, 1905, 250 meters, d. Ferdinand Zecca. Print: National Film and Television Archive, London, 789 feet.
- The Avenging Conscience; Thou Shalt Not Kill*. U.S. Majestic Motion Picture Co., 1914, d. D.W. Griffith, 7–8 reels.
- An Awful Moment*. U.S. American Mutoscope and Biograph Co., 1908, 737 feet, d. D.W. Griffith. Print: Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., Paper Print Collection, 302 feet (16mm).
- Barbe Bleue*. France. Star Film, 1901, 210 meters, d. Georges Méliès. Print: National Film and Television Archive, 651 feet.
- Ben Hur*. U.S. Kalem Co., 1907, 1,000 feet. Print: EmGee Film Library, 362 feet (16mm).
- Ben-Hur*. U.S. Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Pictures, 1925, 11,693 feet, d. Fred Niblo.
- Bold Bank Robbery*. U.S. Siegmund Lubin, 1904, 600 feet. Print: EmGee Film Library, 218 feet (16mm).
- The Boy, the Bust, and the Bath*. U.S. Vitagraph Company of America, 1907, 425 feet. Print: National Film and Television Archive, London, 407 feet.
- Broken Blossoms*. U.S. D.W. Griffith, 1919, 6 reels, d. D.W. Griffith.
- Cabiria*. Italy. Itala Film, 1914, 4,000 meters, d. Giovanni Pastrone. Prints: National Film and Television Archive, London, 8,345 feet; Museum of Modern Art, New York, Circulating Library, 3,132 feet (16mm).
- Cendrillon*. France. Star Film, 1899, 120 meters, d. Georges Méliès. Print: National Film and Television Archive, London, 356 feet.
- Le Chat botté*. France. Pathé Frères, 1903, 180 meters, d. Lucien Nonguet. Print: National Film and Television Archive, London, 529 feet.
- Circumstantial Evidence; or, The Innocent Victim*. U.S. Vitagraph Company of America, 1908, 460 feet. Print: Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., Paper Print Collection, fragments.
- The Coming of Angelo*. U.S. Biograph Co., 1913, 1,000 feet, d. D.W. Griffith. Print: National Film and Television Archive, London, 967 feet.
- A Corner in Wheat*. U.S. Biograph Co., 1909, 953 feet, d. D.W. Griffith. Print: Library of Congress Washington, D.C., Paper Print Collection, 396 feet (16mm).
- Coronets and Hearts*. U.S. Vitagraph Company of America, 1912, 1,000 feet. Print: National Film and Television Archive, London, 898 feet.
- The Country Doctor*. U.S. Biograph Co., 1909, 942 feet, d. D.W. Griffith. Print: Museum of Modern Art, New York, 943 feet.
- Cowboys and Indians Fording River in a Wagon*. U.S. Edison Manufacturing Co., 1904, d. A. C. Abadie. Print: National Film and Television Archive, London, Library of Congress Paper Print, 30 feet (16mm).
- The Curtain Pole*. U.S. American Mutoscope and Biograph Co., 1909, 765 feet, d. D.W. Griffith. Print: National Film and Television Archive, London, 713 feet.
- Daisies*. U.S. Vitagraph Company of America, 1910, 995 feet. Print: National Film and Television Archive, London, 722 feet.
- Les Débuts d'un patineur*. France. Pathé Frères, 1907, 125 meters, d. Louis Gasnier. Print: National Film and Television Archive, London, 393 feet.
- Deti Veka*. Russia. A. Khanzhonkov and Co., 1915, 1,337 meters, d. Evgenii Bauer. Print: Cinémathèque Royale, Brussels, 3,675 feet.

- Dial M for Murder*. U.S. Warner Bros., 1954, 105 minutes, d. Alfred Hitchcock.
- Dimples*. U.S. Twentieth Century-Fox, 1936, 78 minutes, d. William A. Seiter.
- [Dreyfus at Rennes]. France. Mutoscope and Biograph Co., 1899. Print: Nederlands Filmmuseum.
- The Drive for a Life*. U.S. American Mutoscope and Biograph Co., 1909, 940 feet, d. D.W. Griffith. Print: National Film and Television Archive, London, 887 feet.
- A Drunkard's Reformation*. U.S. American Mutoscope and Biograph Co., 1909, 983 feet, d. D.W. Griffith. Print: National Film and Television Archive, London, 501 feet.
- En avant la musique!* France. Pathé Frères, 1907, 75 meters, d. Segundo de Chomón. Print: National Film and Television Archive, London, 191 feet.
- L'Enfant de Paris*. France. Gaumont Co., 1913, 2,346 meters, d. Léonce Perret. Print: Gaumont Archive, Paris, 7,545 feet.
- Engelien*. Germany. P.A.G.U., 1913, 1,617 meters, d. Urban Gad. Print: Cinémathèque Royale, Brussels, 3,427 feet.
- Enoch Arden*. U.S. Biograph Co., 1911, part 1: 1 reel, part 2: 1 reel, d. D.W. Griffith. Print: Museum of Modern Art Circulating Library, New York, 16mm, 777 feet.
- Fate*. U.S. Biograph Co., 1913, 1,038 feet, d. D.W. Griffith. Print: National Film and Television Archive, London, 1,012 feet.
- Father's Quiet Sunday*. U.S. Vitagraph Company of America, 1907, 625 feet. Print: Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., Paper Prints Collection, fragments.
- La Fin d'une Royauté*. France. Le Film d'Art, 1909. Print: Cinémathèque Royale, Brussels, 818 feet.
- A Fool There Was*. U.S. William Fox Vaudeville Co., 1915, 6 reels, d. Frank Powell. Print: Museum of Modern Art, New York, Circulating Library, 777 feet (16mm).
- Foul Play*. U.S. Vitagraph Company of America, 1907, 875 feet. Print: George Eastman House, Rochester, New York, 802 feet.
- A Girl's Stratagem*. U.S. Biograph Co., 1913, 998 feet, d. D.W. Griffith(?).
- Gold is Not All*. U.S. Biograph Co., 1910, 988 feet, d. D.W. Griffith. Print: National Film and Television Archive, London, 971 feet.
- Grandma's Reading Glass*. U.K. GAS Films, 1900, 100 feet. Print: National Film and Television Archive, London, 88 feet.
- The Great Train Robbery*. U.S. Edison Manufacturing Co., 1903, 740 feet, d. Edwin S. Porter. Print: National Film and Television Archive, London, 668 feet.
- Hamlet*. U.K. Hepworth Manufacturing Co., 1913, 5,800 feet, d. E. Hay Plumb. Print: National Film and Television Archive, London, 4,846 feet.
- The Hand of Peril*. U.S. Paragon Films, 1916, 5 reels, d. Maurice Tourneur.
- Havsgamar*, Sweden. Svenska Biografteatern, 1916, 982 meters, d. Victor Sjöström. Print: National Film and Television Archive, London, 2,787 feet.
- Hell Bent*. U.S. Universal Film Manufacturing Co., 1918, 5,540 feet, d. Jack Ford. Print: Narodny Filmowy Archiv, Prague.
- Det hemmelighedsfulde X*. Denmark. Dansk Biografkompagni, 1914, 1,977 meters, d. Benjamin Christensen. Prints: Cinémathèque Royale, Brussels, 5,028 feet; Museum of Modern Art, New York 1,925 feet (16mm).
- The Hero of Little Italy*. U.S. Biograph Co., 1913, 1 reel, d. D.W. Griffith(?).
- Himmelsskibet*. Denmark. Nordisk Films Kompagni, 1918, 1,993 meters, d. Holger-Madsen. Print: Cinémathèque Royale, Brussels, 5,306 feet.
- His Lost Love*. U.S. Biograph Co., 1909, 968 feet, d. D.W. Griffith. Print: Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., Paper Print Collection, 380 feet (16mm).
- Le Homard*. France. Gaumont Co., 1912, 310 meters, d. Léonce Perret. Print: Gaumont Archive, Paris, 1,083 feet.
- L'Homme à la tête en caoutchouc*. France. Star Film, 1902, 50 meters, d. Georges Méliès. Print: National Film and Television Archive, London, 125 feet.
- Ingeborg Holm*. Sweden. p.c. Svenska Biografteatern, 1913, 1,975 meters, d. Victor Sjöström. Print: Svenska Filminstitutet, 4,347 feet.
- Ingmarssönerna*. Sweden. Svenska Biografteatern, 1919, 4,203 meters, d. Victor Sjöström. Print: Cinémathèque Royale, Brussels, 8,555 feet.
- The Inherited Taint*. U.S. Vitagraph Company of America, 1911, 998 feet. Print: National Film and Television Archive, London, 905 feet.
- Intolerance*. U.S. Wark Producing Corp., 1916, 13–14 reels, d. D.W. Griffith. Print: Museum of Modern Art, New York.
- Jack and the Beanstalk*. U.S. Edison Manufacturing Co., 1902, 625 feet, d. Edwin S. Porter. Print: National Film and Television Archive, London, Library of Congress Paper Print, 245 feet (16mm).
- Judex*. France. Gaumont Co., 1917, serial in 12 episodes with a prologue and epilogue, 8,168 meters, d. Louis Feuillade. Print: Gaumont Archive, Paris, 24,226 feet.
- Kärleken segrar*. Sweden. Hasselbladfilm, 1,278 meters, d. Georg af Klercker. Print: Svenska Filminstitutet, 4,153 feet.
- The Kindling*. U.S. Jesse J. Lasky Feature Play Co., 1915, 4–5 reels, d. Cecil B. DeMille. Print: George Eastman House, Rochester, New York, 4,484 feet.
- The King and I*. U.S. Twentieth Century-Fox, 1956, 133 minutes, d. Walter Lang.
- The Kleptomaniac*. U.S. Thomas A. Edison, 1905, 670 feet, d. Edwin S. Porter. Print: National Film and Television Archive, London, Library of Congress Paper Print, 302 feet (16mm).
- Klovnene*. Denmark. Nordisk Films Kompagni, 1917, 1,375 meters, d. Anders Wilhelm Sandberg. Print: Cinémathèque Royale, Brussels, 4,583 feet.
- Korol' Parizha*. Russia. A. Khanzhonkov and Co., 1917, 5 reels, d. Evgenii Bauer. Prints: Cinémathèque Royale, Brussels; Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., 4,603 feet.
- The Lady and the Mouse*. U.S. Biograph Co., 1913, 999 feet, d. D.W. Griffith. Print: Museum of Modern Art Circulating Library, New York, 384 feet (16mm).
- Die Landstrasse*. Germany. Deutsche Mutoscop und Biograph, 1913, 1,008 meters, d. Paul von Woringen. Print: Bundesarchiv, Koblenz.
- La Légende de Polichinelle*. France. Pathé Frères, 410 meters, d. Albert Capellani. Print: National Film and Television Archive, London, 1,102 feet.
- Life of an American Fireman*. U.S. Thomas A. Edison, 1903, 425 feet, d. Edwin S. Porter. Print: National Film and Television Archive, London, Library of Congress Paper Print, 165 feet (16mm).
- The Little Doctor and the Sick Kitten*. U.K. GAS Films, 1901, 100 feet, d. George Albert Smith. Print: National Film and Television Archive, London, 54 feet.
- The Lonedale Operator*. U.S. Biograph Co., 1911, 998 feet, d. D.W. Griffith. Print: National Film and Television Archive, London, 962 feet.
- A Lonely Villa*. U.S. Biograph Co., 1909, 750 feet, d.

- D.W. Griffith. Print: Museum of Modern Art, New York.
- Love Potion No. 9*. U.S. Anarchy Productions, 1992, 104 minutes, d. Dale Launer.
- Ma l'amor mio non muore!* Italy. Film Artistica "Gloria," 1913, 2,600 meters, d. Mario Caserini. Prints: Cineteca Italiana, Milan, 5,375 feet; Museum of Modern Art, New York, Circulating Library, 1,856 feet (16mm).
- Das Mädchen ohne Vaterland*. Germany. Deutsche Bioscop, 1912, 1,010 meters, d. Urban Gad. Print: George Eastman House, Rochester, New York, 2,094 feet.
- Le Manoir de la peur*. France. Films Alfred Machin, 1924, 1,615 meters, d. Alfred Machin. Print: Cinémathèque Royale, Brussels.
- The Merry Wives of Windsor*. U.S. Selig Polyscope Co., 1910, 1,000 feet.
- Les Misérables*. France. S.C.A.G.L., 1913, 3,480 meters, d. Albert Capellani. Print: Cinémathèque française, Paris, 9,585 feet.
- The Mothering Heart*. U.S. Biograph Co., 1913, 1,525 feet, d. D.W. Griffith. Print: Museum of Modern Art, New York, Circulating Library (16mm).
- Mysteriet Natten till den 25:e*. Sweden. Hasselbladfilm, 1917, 971 meters, d. Georg af Klercker. Print: Svenska Filminstitutet, 3,093 feet.
- Nemye Svideteli*. Russia. A. Khanzhonkov and Co., 1,245 meters, 1914, d. Evgenii Bauer. Print: Cinémathèque Royale, Brussels, 3,806 feet.
- Notre Dame de Paris*. France. S.A.P.F., 1911, 810 meters, d. Albert Capellani. Print: National Film and Television Archive, London, 2,087 feet.
- An Official Appointment*. U.S. Vitagraph Company of America, 1912, 1,000 feet, d. Charles Kent. Print: Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., 766 feet (as *His Official Appointment*).
- The Painted Lady*. U.S. Biograph Co., 1912, 1 reel, d. D.W. Griffith. Print: Museum of Modern Art, New York, Circulating Library (16mm).
- Le Petit Poucet*. France. Pathé Frères, 1909, 310 meters, d. Segundo de Chomón. Print: National Film and Television Archive, London, 719 feet.
- Polikushka*. U.S.S.R. Rus', 1922 [shot in 1919], 1,366 meters, d. Aleksandr Sanin.
- The Politician*. U.S. Edison Manufacturing Co. (Edison Kinetophone), 1913. Print: Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., 377 feet.
- Quatre-vingt-treize*. S.C.A.G.L., 1920, d. Albert Capellani (in 1914, completed by André Antoine after the War). Print: Cinémathèque française, Paris, 11,475 feet.
- Quo Vadis?* Italy. Cinès, 1913, 2,250 meters, d. Enrico Guazzoni. Prints: National Film and Television Archive, London, 5,613 feet; Museum of Modern Art, New York, Circulating Library, 2,961 feet (16mm).
- Red and White Roses*. U.S. Vitagraph Company of America, 1913, 2,000 feet. Print: Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., 1,974 feet.
- Rescued by Rover*. U.K. Hepworth Film Manufacturing Co., 1905, 425 feet, d. Lewin Fitzhamon. Print: National Film and Television Archive, London, 413 feet.
- Rescued from an Eagle's Nest*. U.S. Edison Manufacturing Co., 1908, 515 feet, d. J. Searle Dawley. Print: National Film and Television Archive, London, 497 feet.
- Le Roman d'un mousse*. France. Gaumont Co., 1914, ca. 2,000 meters, d. Léonce Perret. Print: National Film and Television Archive, London, 6,246 feet.
- The Sealed Room*. U.S. Biograph Co., 1909, 779 feet, d. D.W. Griffith.
- Shylock*. France. Eclipse, 1913, d. Henri Desfontaines. Print: National Film and Television Archive, London, 1,979 feet.
- The Social Secretary*. U.S. Fine Arts Film Co., 1916, 5 reels, d. John Emerson. Print: Emgee Film Library, 1,540 feet (16mm).
- A Summer Idyl*. U.S. Biograph Co., 1910, 991 feet, d. D.W. Griffith.
- Die Sumpflblume*. Germany. Treumann-Larsen-Film GmbH, 1913, 4 reels, d. Viggo Larsen. Print: Stiftung Deutsche Kinemathek, Berlin, 3,601 feet.
- Swing Time*. U.S. RKO Radio Pictures, 1936, 103 minutes, d. George Stevens.
- La Terre*. France. S.C.A.G.L., 1921, 2,300 meters, d. André Antoine. Print: Cinémathèque française, 6,933 feet.
- Thou Shalt Not*. U.S. Biograph Co., 1910, 987 feet, d. D.W. Griffith..
- Three Sisters*. U.S. Biograph Co., 1911, 997 feet, d. D.W. Griffith. Print: National Film and Television Archive, London, 943 feet.
- Topsy and Eva*. U.S. Feature Productions, 1927, 7,456 feet, d. Del Lord.
- La Tosca*. France. Le Film d'Art, 1909, 380 meters, d. Charles Le Bargy. Print: National Film and Television Archive, London, 1,143 feet.
- Uncle Josh at the Moving Picture Show*. U.S. Thomas A. Edison, 1902, 125 feet, d. Edwin S. Porter. Print: National Film and Television Archive, London, Library of Congress Paper Print, 48 feet (16mm).
- Uncle Tom without the Cabin*. U.S. Paramount, 1919, 2 reels.
- Uncle Tom's Cabin*. U.S. Lubin Film Manufacturing Co., 1903, 1 reel. Print: Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., Paper Print Collection (16mm).
- Uncle Tom's Cabin*. U.S. Thanhouser, 1910, 1,000 feet.
- Uncle Tom's Cabin*. U.S. Vitagraph Company of America, 1910, 3 reels. Prints: National Film and Television Archive, London, 2,107 feet; Emgee Film Library, 1,143 feet (16mm).
- Uncle Tom's Cabin*. U.S. Imp, 1913, 3 reels, d. Otis Turner.
- Uncle Tom's Cabin*. U.S. Kalem, 1913, 2 reels, d. Sidney Olcott.
- Uncle Tom's Cabin*. U.S. World Producing Corp., 1914, 5 reels, d. William Robert Daly. Prints: Cinémathèque française, Paris, 1,516 feet (16mm); Library of Congress, Washington D.C. (i) 3,795 feet (ii) 3,385 feet; National Film and Television Archive, London, 2,820 feet.
- Uncle Tom's Cabin*. U.S. Famous Players-Lasky Corp., 1918, 5 reels, d. J. Searle Dawley. Print: National Film and Television Archive London (fragment), 406 feet.
- Uncle Tom's Cabin*. U.S. Universal Pictures, 1927, 13,000 feet, d. Harry Pollard.
- Uncle Tom's Cabin; or, Slavery Days*. U.S. Thomas A. Edison, 1903, 1,100 feet, d. Edwin S. Porter. Print: National Film and Television Archive, London, 1,055 feet.
- An "Uncle Tom's Cabin" Troupe*. U.S. Biograph Co., 1913, 679 feet, d. Dell Henderson.
- Uncle Tom's Caboose*. U.S. Century, 1920, 2 reels, d. Jim Davis.
- Ved fængslets Port*. Denmark. Nordisk Films Kompagni, 1911, 820 meters, d. August Blom.
- La Vie et la Passion de Jésus-Christ*. France. Pathé Frères, 1902, 580 meters. Print: National Film and Television Archive, London (as *Vita e passione di Cristo*), 661 feet.
- La Vie et Passion de N.S. Jésus-Christ*. France Pathé Frères, 1907, 950 meters, d. Ferdinand Zecca. Print:

National Film and Television Archive, London (as *The Life of Jesus Christ*), 2,354 feet.
The Voice of the Child. U.S. Biograph Co., 1912, 998 feet, d. D.W. Griffith. Print: National Film and Television Archive, London, 836 feet.
The Voice of the Violin. U.S.. American Mutoscope and Biograph Co., 1909, 978 feet, d. D.W. Griffith.

The Warrens of Virginia. U.S. Jesse J. Lasky Feature Play Co., 1915, 5 reels, d. Cecil B. DeMille. Print: George Eastman House, Rochester, New York.
Die weisse Rosen. Germany P.A.G.U., 1916, d. Urban Gad. Prints: George Eastman House, Rochester, New York; Cinémathèque Royale, Brussels, 3,085 feet.

The Whip. U.S. Paragon Films, 1917, 8 reels, d. Maurice Tourneur. Print: Library of Congress, Washington, 4,356 feet.
Wig Wag. U.S. Vitagraph Company of America, 1911, 1,000 feet, d. Larry Trimble. Print: National Film and Television Archive, London, 591 feet.

Index

- Abel, Richard 169
absorption 8–11, 13, 24, 78, 107, 171–73
Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences 132
Academy Theater, Milwaukee 166
“Accordée de village, L” (painting by Greuze) 12, 31
acoustics, theatrical 120
acting:
attitude 10–12, 21, 32, 34, 41, 60, 62, 63, 65–74, 78–80, 83, 85, 87, 88, 90, 94, 95, 97, 98, 100, 102, 105, 107, 148, 171, 172
business 43, 66, 74, 79, 88, 90, 94, 95, 99, 100, 105, 134, 150
comic 79, 90
ensemble 39, 66, 69, 70, 72, 74, 78, 84, 85, 92, 94, 95, 98, 105, 108, 171
film vii, 65, 66, 77–80, 82, 83, 85, 88, 90, 92, 95, 100, 103, 107, 109, 131, 167, 171, 172
gestural soliloquy 68, 73, 88, 90, 92, 95, 98, 103, 105
histrionic code of 65, 78, 80, 82, 90, 107, 109, 110
manuals 67–69, 72, 73
naturalist 67, 68, 72, 74, 75
pace of 77, 78, 80, 82, 83, 85, 90, 98, 99, 103, 105, 109, 110
pantomime (mime) 10, 15, 16, 31, 66, 74, 79, 100, 102, 107
pictorial 66–69, 72–75, 77, 78, 79, 82, 90, 97, 102, 105, 107
pose 12, 29, 31, 32, 36, 39, 41, 43, 45, 49, 50, 57, 63, 65–75, 77–80, 82–85, 87, 88, 90, 92, 94–100, 102, 103, 105–7, 109, 171 see also “acting, attitude”
realist 79, 82
romantic 70, 73
theatrical 65, 66, 69, 70, 77, 83
theatrical 65
verisimilar code of 65, 79
- action, Aristotelian 9, 10
actuality (genre) 4, 13, 130, 137
Adelphi Theatre, London 20
Adler, Dankmar 118, 163, 165
Adrienne Lecouvreur (play by Scribe and Legouvé) 73, 74
After Many Years (film) 57, 84
Agathon 19
Aiken, George 20, 32, 33, 61, 62
Ainsworth, William Harrison 13
Aladin ou la lampe merveilleuse (film) 137, 143, 144
Alberti, Leon Battista 9
Alceste (opera by Christoph Martin Wieland and Anton Schweitzer) 70–72
Aldrich, Thomas Bailey 6
Alexandre, René 92
Alfieri, Vittorio 71, 108
Algarotti, Francesco 113, 120, 123, 124, 163–65
Alhoy, Philadelphie Maurice 25
Alias Jimmy Valentine (film) 40, 41, 148–50, 162
Alias Jimmy Valentine (play by Paul Armstrong) 126, 127
Alice in Wonderland (play by Henry Savile Clarke) 118
All on Account of the Milk (film) 83, 110
Allen, Robert C. 61, 63
Allevy, Marie-Antoinette (Akakia Viala) 166
Alpers, Svetlana 8–10, 173
Altick, Richard D. 61
Altman, Rick 23
Ambigu-Comique, Théâtre de l’, Paris 20
American films compared with European vii, 11, 25, 65, 77, 85, 92, 95, 98, 100, 102, 103, 109, 131, 136, 138, 139
Annenkov, Pavel Vasil’evich 108
Antoine, André 118
apotheosis 32, 51, 52, 117
applause 15, 16, 33, 39, 61, 62, 70, 172
Archer, Frank 16, 25, 26
- Archer, William 14, 18–21, 26, 66, 70, 74, 103
Aristotle 8, 15, 17, 19, 24, 114
arme Jenny, Die (film) 90, 91
Armstrong, Paul 126, 148
Armstrong, William A. 164
Arrah-na-Pogue (play by Boucicault) 23, 126, 166
Assassinat du duc de Guise, L’ (film) 39, 80, 110, 136
Au bain (film) 137
Au pays noir (film) 41, 42, 137, 142
Aubert, Charles 66, 107
Auditorium Theatre, Chicago 118, 163, 165
auditorium, theatrical 108, 112, 115, 118, 119, 121, 122, 129, 132, 134, 164
Autumn drama, Drury Lane (genre) 155
Avenging Conscience, The (film) 79
average shot length 3, 11, 60, 98
Awful Moment, An (film) 146, 150
- Bablet, Denis 118, 123, 163, 165
Baldwin, James 61
Ball, Eustace Hale 134, 167, 168
ballet (genre) 90, 111, 119, 124, 150
Bancroft, Squire and Effie 113
Bara, Theda (Theodosia Goodman) 102
Barbe bleue (film) 61
Barber of Seville, The (*Il barbiere di Siviglia*, opera by Rossini) 36
Barish, Jonas 8, 24
Barnett, Dene 25, 66, 67, 73, 77, 107–9
baroque era 88, 112, 115, 119, 121, 122, 164, 167
Barrett, Wilson 20, 26
Barthes, Roland 14, 25
Bassnett, Susan 107
Baudry, Jean-Louis 173
Bauer, Emma 95–98, 102
Bauer, Evgenii 95, 98, 102, 105, 169
Baugh, Christopher 112, 163
- Bazin, André 138
Bedding, Thomas 110, 116
Belasco Theatre, New York 127
Belasco, David 5–7, 21, 24, 31, 127, 144, 165, 167, 173
Bellour, Raymond 174
Bells, The (play by Leopold Lewis) viii, 33, 52, 70, 126
Ben Hur (film, 1907) 6
Ben-Hur (film, 1926) 13, 21, 39
Benedict, Julius 20, 108
Benjamin, Walter 57, 62, 64, 173
Bennett, Colin N. 132, 133, 135, 136, 166–68
Bernhardt, Sarah 69, 73, 74, 77, 78, 94, 108
Bernini, Giovanni Lorenzo 73
Billy Rose Theatre Collection, New York Public Library 61, 62
Biograph Company, American vii, 10, 43, 57, 62, 65, 78–80, 83, 84, 98, 109, 131, 135, 137, 146, 166, 167
Birdoff, Harry 34, 43, 61, 62
Bitzer, Gottfried Wilhelm (Billy) 167
Black Maria (Edison studio) 133, 142
Blaney, Charles E. 61
Bloch, William Edvard 74
Blom, August 139
Blunt, Wilfrid 166
Boito, Arrigo 10
Bold Bank Robbery (film) 43
Bolshoi Theatre, Moscow 67, 107
Bonnard, Mario 85–87, 92
Booth, Michael vii, 8, 20, 21, 24, 26, 63, 109, 113, 126, 163, 164, 166
Bordwell, David 23, 107, 169, 173
Borelli, Lyda xiii, 78, 85–88, 90, 92, 97, 102, 103
Bosse, Harriet 103–5
Bosworth, Hobart 62
Boucicault, Dion 5, 20, 23, 26, 73, 74, 78, 108, 109, 126
Boulle, Boullé or Boulet, le citoyen 165

- Bousquet, Henri 62
 Bovy, Berthe 94
 Bowser, Eileen 40, 62, 63, 168
Boy, the Bust, and the Bath, The (film) 146
 Brady, William 62
 Brahm, Otto 74, 109
 Brecht, Bertolt 57, 173
 Brewster, Ben 24, 63, 169
 Britannia Theatre, Hoxton viii, 20, 118, 119, 163
Broken Blossoms (film) 168
 Brooks, Peter vii, 19, 26, 62
 Brown, Karl 168
 Brownlow, Kevin 168, 169
 Bruce, Clifford 102
 Buckland, Wilfred 7
 Bulwer-Lytton, Edward 18
 Burch, Noël 6, 23, 43, 61, 63, 169, 174
 burlesque (genre) 41
 Bushey Theatre, London 118
 Butler, James H. 165
 Byrne, M. St. Clare 163
 Byron Collection, Museum of the City of New York 167
- Cabiria* (film) 29, 30, 40, 42, 61, 138
 café-concert 130
 Cahn, Julius 163
 Cahusac, Louis de 15, 25
 Calvert, Louis 69, 108
 camera movement xiii, 43, 98, 137, 138, 145, 174
 pan xiii, 59, 137–39, 148, 156
 reframing xiii, 137–39, 153, 155
 tilt xiii, 96–98, 137, 138
 reframing xiii
 track xiii, 42, 137, 138
 camera, moving-picture vii, xiii, 3–7, 11, 24, 55, 56, 60, 63, 84, 85, 5, 96, 98, 109, 118, 130–40, 142–46, 148, 156, 157, 162, 167, 168, 171
 Carmoëns, Luis Vaz de 9
 Capell, Edward 125
 Capellani, Albert 40, 98
 Caravaggio, Michelangelo Merisi da 9
 Carlson, Marvin 110, 163, 164
 carpenter's scene 126
 Carré, Ben 148
 Castle, Dennis 166
Cats (musical play by Andrew Lloyd Weber) 6
 Cavell, Stanley 24
- Caylus, Anne-Claude-Philippe de
 Turbières, comte de 9, 24
Cendrillon (film) 63
 center of vision 115, 120–22, 133, 136, 168
 Chalmers, J. P. 166
 Chamfort, Sébastien-Roch-Nicholas 15, 108
 Chaperon, Philippe 163
 Chardin, Jean-Baptiste-Siméon 8
 chase film (genre) 145
Chat botté, Le (film) 32
 Cherchi Usai, Paolo 63
 Chinoy, Helen Krich 108
 Chion, Michel 6, 23, 112, 163
 Christensen, Benjamin 141, 155
 Chronegk, Ludwig 125
 Cicéri, Pierre, Luc, and Charles 126
 cinema of attractions 13, 21, 173
 Cinémathèque Française, Paris 63
 Cinémathèque Royale, Brussels 169
 Cinématographe Lumière 129
 Cinéorama 6, 24
Circumstantial Evidence (film) 145, 146
 City of London Theatre 20
 Clairon, Mlle (Claire-Josèphe-Hippolyte Legris de Latude) 68
 clarity/expressivity 13
 Clarke, Charles G. 131, 167
 classical narrative cinema 4, 5, 22, 23, 42, 55, 57, 60, 92, 106, 132, 173, 174
Claudian (play by Henry Herman and W. G. Wills) 20, 26
 Claudy, Carl Harry 107, 133
 Clément, Julien 94
 Clinton, Edith (Mrs. B.F.) 99
 coincidence 18, 19
 Colburn, Otis 166
Colleen Bawn, The (play by Boucicault) 20
 Collins, Arthur 155
 Comédie Française, Paris vii, 39, 92, 94, 110, 125
 Comédie Italienne, Paris 31
 Comédie, Théâtre de la, Lyon 119, 163
 comedy (genre) 15, 24, 111, 112, 131, 73, 74, 77, 79, 80, 90
 Comedy Theatre, London 166
 comic man and comic woman 156
Coming of Angelo, The (film) 135, 147
 Compton, John 168
 connotation and denotation 7, 13, 14, 114, 171
Conquering Game, The (play by William Bayle Bernard) 165
- Contant, Clément 115, 121, 163, 164
 Coquelin, Constant 69, 73, 74, 80, 108, 109
Coronets and Hearts (film) 31
Corsican Brothers, The (play by Boucicault) 126
Country Doctor, The (film) 40
coup de théâtre 8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 16, 31
 Covent Garden Theatre, London 121
Cowboys and Indians Forging River in a Wagon (film) 137
 Craig, Edward Gordon 61
Crime de Faverne, Le (play by Théodore Barrière and Léon Beauvallet) 69
Critic, The (play by Sheridan) 15–17, 25, 36, 151
 crowd scenes 33, 41–43, 62, 124, 125
 Cruikshank, George 13, 35, 62
 Current, Ira 168
Curtain Pole, The (film) 43
 cut off feet 95, 131, 167
 Cuthbert, William 141
Cyrano de Bergerac (play by Rostand) 69
- Daguerre, Louis 111
Daisies (film) 142
 Daly, Augustin 20
 Daniel Blum Collection of the Wisconsin Center for Film and Theater Research 166
 Dansk Filmmuseum, Copenhagen 63, 169
Darling of the Gods, The (play by Belasco) 7
 Darwin, Charles 68
 Davis, Jim viii, 163
 Davis, Tracy C. 74, 109
 Dawley, James Searle 107
 De Mille, Henry C. 31, 165
Débuts d'un patineur, Les (film) 43
 décor:
 cinematic 32, 61, 118, 131, 142
 corner set 142
 location 54, 55, 63, 137, 158
 multiple-room set 145–47, 150
 three-wall set 142
 two-wall set 142
 theatrical 111, 113, 118, 119, 123–26, 134, 163, 165
 box set 7, 32, 111, 113, 120, 122, 123, 165
 changeable scenery 111, 119, 125
 closed 115, 123, 165
 corner set 127
 fourth wall 112, 113
 multiple-room set 113, 145, 146, 150
 set scene 118, 119, 123, 124, 126, 142, 166
 deep staging, see “staging in depth”
 Delsarte, François 66–68, 107
 DeMille, Cecil B. 102
 denotation, see “connotation and denotation”
 Deslandes, Jacques 24, 166
 Despléchin, Édouard, Désiré, and Joseph 163
Deti Veka (film) 98
 Detmers, Fred H. 167
 Deutsches Theater, Berlin 74
Deux Orphelines, Les (play by D’Ennery and Cormon) 19
Dial M for Murder (film) 167
 Diamant-Berger, Henri 134, 135
 Dickens, Charles 14, 19, 25
 Dickson, William Kennedy Laurie 132, 167
 Diderot, Denis 8–11, 15, 25, 66, 108, 112, 164, 173
 Digmelov, Aleksandr D. 135, 136, 168
Dimples (film) 62
Dina (play by Oehlenschläger) 78
 diorama 111, 122, 126
 discovery, scene of 20, 82, 116, 121, 139
 “Distraint for Rent” (painting by David Wilkie) 12, 31
diva 85, 88–90, 92, 94, 95, 97, 98, 102, 171
Doll's House, A (*Et dukkehjem*, play by Ibsen) 74, 103
 Donizetti, Gaetano 124, 108
 drama (genre) 5, 15, 16, 19, 21, 23, 31, 61, 66, 77, 80, 84, 107, 112, 124, 126, 131, 137, 144
 Dreyfus, Alfred 137
Drive for a Life, The (film) 131
Drunkard's Reformation, A (film) 43
 Drury Lane autumn drama (genre) 20
 Drury Lane Theatre, London 20, 21, 63, 111, 118, 126, 155, 159, 163, 165
 Du Maurier, Gerald 166
 Dumas, Alexandre, *fils* 17, 26
 Dumas, Alexandre, *père* 145
 Dumont, Gabriel Pierre Martin 164
 Dupont-Vernon, Henri 69, 108
 Dürer, Albrecht 86
 Duse, Eleonora 74, 103

- East Lynne* (play) 39
 Eckermann, Johann Peter 16, 26
 Eclipse (film production company) 141
 Edison Kinetophone 23
 Edison Kinetoscope 129, 132
 Edison Manufacturing Company 14, 32, 44, 51, 61, 63, 84, 132, 137, 166, 167, 169
 editing, film vii, 3–6, 11, 12, 22, 42, 52, 55, 57, 58, 60, 63, 84, 85, 92, 98, 100, 102–6, 113, 132, 144, 150, 155, 158, 162, 171, 172, 174
 180-degree cut 55, 59, 60, 132, 147
 alternating 3, 6, 29, 32, 46, 49, 54, 55, 57, 60, 63, 98, 132, 138, 144, 146–48, 150, 155, 157, 158, 162, 172
 and screen direction 13, 146
 and spatial fragmentation 53, 58, 85, 88, 92, 132, 146, 162
 classical continuity 53, 57, 60, 104
 cut-in 4, 13, 43, 50, 52, 54, 80, 85, 95, 97, 98, 131, 132, 155, 172
 cutaway 3, 41, 50, 56, 63, 150, 154–56, 159
 emblematic shot 14, 43, 52, 131
 eyeline match 104, 174
 glance/object 13, 84, 105, 159
 insert xiii, 3, 25, 58, 63, 85, 86, 88, 89, 94, 95, 104, 135, 151, 154
 match on action 57, 156
 pace of, see “average shot length”
 reaction shot 43, 52, 92, 102, 105, 156
 reverse-angle cutting 139, 162
 room-to-room cutting 145, 146
 scene dissection 32, 53, 57, 84, 102, 162
 shot-reverse-shot 85
 vignette 45, 50, 104
 Eisenstein, Sergei Mikhailovich 132, 167
 El Nouty, Hassan 23, 145, 169
 Emanaud, Maurice 122, 130, 164–66
 Emden, Henry 155
 Emerson, John 4, 23, 29, 159
En avant la musique! (film) 144
Enemy of the People, An (*En folkefiende*, play by Ibsen) 74
Enfant de Paris, L' (film) 142, 150–52, 162
 Engel, Johann Jakob 36, 62, 67
Engelien (film) 90, 91
Enoch Arden (film) 84
 epilogue 46, 50, 57, 167, 172
 Esenwein, J. Berg 168
 Étiévant, Henri 98
 European films, see “American films compared with European”
 Famous Players 107
Fanal de Messine, Le (play by Pixierécourt) 14
 farce (genre) 21, 32, 83
Fate (film) 147
Father's Quiet Sunday (film) 145
Faust (opera by Gounod) 118, 163
Faust (play by W. G. Wills) 7, 69
Favourite of Fortune, A (play by Westland Marston) 26
 feature film vii, viii, 11, 13, 14, 21, 22, 26, 39, 40, 47, 48, 60, 79, 84, 95, 102, 105, 109, 110, 142, 147, 155, 171, 173
féerie (genre) 5, 31, 32, 118, 124, 126, 137, 142, 143
 Fell, John 23
 Festspielhaus, Bayreuth 120
 Feuillade, Louis 40, 98
 fiction film 4, 5, 10, 13, 130, 136, 145
 Fielding, Raymond 169
 Filippi, Joseph de 163, 164
 Film d'Art (film company) vii, 77, 85, 92, 94, 110
Fils naturel, Le (play by Diderot) 8, 9, 10, 24, 25
Fin d'une Royauté, La (film) 94, 95
 Fiske, Minnie Maddern (Davey) 75
 Fitzgerald, Percy 20, 26, 112, 113, 120, 123, 124, 145, 163, 164
Fool There Was, A (film) 84, 102
 Forbes-Robertson, Johnston 137
Foul Play (film) 142, 145
Foundling of the Forest, The (play by William Dimond) 19
 Fox Film Company 62
 Framéry, Nicolas Étienne 108
 Francis of Assisi, St. 24
 Frazer, John 169
 Freeburg, Victor Oscar 26
 Fremyear, Mabel 102
 Freytag, Gustav 26
 Fried, Michael vii, 8–11, 24, 25, 107, 171–73
 fruitful moment 9, 16
 Fullerton, John 139, 169
 Gad, Urban 118, 132, 134–36, 163, 167, 168
 Garcia, Gustave 66, 107
 Gareau, Michel 107
 Garnier, Charles 119, 122, 123, 163, 165
 Garrick, David 36, 71, 73, 77, 112
 Gaudreault, André 169
 Gaumont (Léon Gaumont et Cie.) 79, 150
 Gaumont Chronophone 23
 Genette, Gérard 26
 German Social-Democratic Party (Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands) 31
Ghosts (*Gengangere*, play by Ibsen) 74
 Ginguené, Pierre Louis 108
 Giornate del Cinema Muto, Pordenone vii
Girl I Left behind Me, The (play by Belasco and Franklin Fyles) 7, 127
Girl of the Golden West, The (play by Belasco) 7, 127, 167
Girl's Stratagem, A (film) 84
 Gish, Lillian 103
 glass shot 3, 144
 Glass, Murray 46, 63
 Goethe, Johann Wolfgang 16, 26, 68, 73, 118
Gold Is Not All (film) 40
 Goldie, Albert 79, 109
 Gombrich, Ernst 9, 24
 Gordon, Julia Swayne 92, 93
 Gosfilmofond, Moscow 110, 168
 Gossett, Thomas F. 61
 Gounod, Charles François 118
 Gournerie, Jules de la 123, 164, 165
 Gozzi, Carlo 16, 26
 Grand Opera House, New York 27
 Grandais, Suzanne 79, 80
Grandma's Reading Glass (film) 166
 Grapevine Video 48, 63
 Grau, Robert M. 107
 Graybill, Joseph 100
Great Train Robbery, The (film) 43, 169
Grecian Daughter, The (play by Athur Murphy) 78
 Green, Roger Lancelyn 61
 Gregory, Carl Louis 133, 134, 167, 168
 Greuze, Jean-Baptiste 12, 31
 Griffith, David Wark vii, 4, 10, 57, 82–85, 98, 100, 102, 103, 105, 107, 109, 110, 146, 147, 168
 Grimoin-Sanson, Raoul 6
Guckkästchentheater 25, 112
Gulliver's Travels (play) 118
 Gunning, Tom 10, 11, 13, 21, 23, 25, 26, 57, 60, 62, 64, 82, 84, 110
 Gzovskaya, Olga 85
 Hamilton, Emma 65, 74, 107
 Hamilton, Henry 155
Hamlet (film) 137, 138, 141
Hamlet (play by Shakespeare) 36
 Hammond, Anthony 165
Hand of Peril, The (film) 147
 Harel, François Antoine 25
 Harmount troupe 35, 62
 Harris, Augustus 20, 63
 Harrison, Louis Reeves 109
 Hartog, Willie Gustave 25
 Harvard Theatre Collection, Cambridge, Mass. 5, 33, 62
 Hassel, Friedrich Wilhelm von 78, 109
 Hasselbladfilm 135, 139
Havsgamar (film) 138
 Haymarket Theatre, London 113, 163
Hedda Gabler (play by Ibsen) 74, 75
 Heiberg, Johanne Luise (Pätges) 78
Hell Bent (film) 12
hemmelighedsfulde X, Det (film) 141, 153–55, 162
 Hennequin, Alfred 17, 18, 20, 21, 26
 Henry, O. (William Sydney Porter) 126, 148
 Hepworth Manufacturing Company 137, 141
 Hepworth, Cecil 168
 Her Majesty's Theatre, London 121, 122
 Herkomer, Hubert 118, 163
 Herman, Henry 20, 26
 Hermann, Charles 32, 35, 36, 61, 62
Hermani (play by Hugo) 14, 70
Hero of Little Italy, The (film) 84, 110
 Herzberg, Charlotte 166
 Hill, Wycliffe Aber 16, 17, 25, 26
Himmelsskibet (film) 98
His Lost Love (film) 79
 Hodges, Runa 102
 Hoffman, H.F. 167
 Hoffmann, Ernst Theodor Amadeus 164
 Hoftheater, Weimar 118, 119, 163
 Holbach, Paul Heinrich Dietrich von 71
 Holland, Robert Stephen 20, 26, 61
 Hollander, Anne 8, 23, 24

- Holmström, Kirsten Gram 25, 61, 68, 107, 108
Homard, Le (film) 79, 80
Homme à la tête en caoutchouc, L' (film) 131, 143
 Hopfen, Hans 165
 Houlberg, Gudrun 80, 81, 83
 Hugo, Victor 14, 25
 Hulfish, David S. 133, 167
 Humboldt, Wilhelm von 10, 68–70, 73, 78, 79, 108, 109
 Humphrey, William 92, 93
- Ibsen, Henrik 5, 66, 74, 75, 90
Ingeborg Holm (film) 13, 14
Ingmarssönerna (film) 103–5
Inherited Taint, The (film) 135
 intertitle, see “title”
Intolerance (film) 102
 Irving, Henry viii, 5–7, 21, 26, 33, 61, 69, 70, 74, 78, 109, 120, 144, 173
 Iveagh Bequest 107
- Jack and the Beanstalk* (film) 63
Jack Sheppard (novel by Ainsworth) 13
 Jackson, Russell 33, 61, 62
 Jacobs, Lea 24, 166
 Jal, Auguste 25
 James, Louis 68, 107
 Jasset, Victorin Hyppolite 136, 168
 Jelgerhuis, Johannes 67, 70, 72, 73, 82, 107–9, 122, 165
 Jenn, Pierre 62
 Jerrold, Douglas 31, 61
 Johnson, Arthur 5, 23, 82, 83
 Johnson, Stephen vii, 63
Jonathan Bradford (play by Edward Fitzball) 113, 145, 146, 163
 Jones-Evans, Eric 61
 Jones, Henry Arthur 26
 José, Edward 102
Judex (film) 40, 41, 98
Judith of Bethulia (play by Thomas Bailey Aldrich) 6
 Judson, Hanford C. 109
Juive, La (opera by Halevy) 123
Julius Caesar (play by Shakespeare) 165
- Kalem Company 6, 23
 Kaplan, Joel H. 26
Kärleken segrar (film) 135
Käthchen von Heilbronn, Das (play by Kleist) 4, 23
 Kean, Charles 5, 125, 141, 165
 Kean, Edmund 67
 Kelly, John Alexander 109
 Kemble, Charles, John Philip, and Stephen 77
 Kent, Charles 98–100
 Kenwood House, London 107
 Kenyon, Charles A. 7
 Kessler, Frank 62, 107
 Khoklova, Aleksandra 145
Kindling, The (play by Charles Kenyon, and film) 7
King and I, The (film) 62
King John (play by Shakespeare) 36
King Lear (play by Shakespeare) 78, 109
 Kinsila, Edward 165, 166
 Kirby, Madge 100, 101
 Klaber, John 129, 166
 Klaw and Erlanger 23
Kleptomaniac, The (film) 14, 32, 43, 61
 Klercker, Georg af 135
Klovnene (film) 80, 81, 83, 84, 139–41
 Knapp, Bettina 108
 Knilli, Friedrich 61
Korol' Parizha (film) 95–98, 105, 139
 Koster and Bial's Music Hall, New York 166
 Kranich, Friedrich 165
 Krauss, Henry 98
 Kuleshov effect 3, 145, 158
 Kuleshov, Lev 145, 158, 169
 Künstlertheater, Munich 119, 122, 163
- Lady and the Mouse, The* (film) 84
Lady of Lyons, The (play by Bulwer-Lytton) 18
 “Lady Hamilton at Prayer” (painting by Romney) 65, 107
Landstrasse, Die (film) 13
 Lang, Franciscus 67, 68, 107
 lantern slide 5, 45, 132, 166, 172
 “Laocoön” (sculpture by Agesander, Athenodorus, and Polydorus of Rhodes) 9, 73
 Larsen, Viggo 138
 Lasky (Jesse J. Lasky Feature Play Co.) 6, 7
- Last Days of Pompeii, The* (play by Bulwer Lytton) 126
 Lavastre, Jean-Baptiste 163
 Lavater, Johann Caspar 68
 Lawrence, Florence 79, 83, 85, 109, 110
 Le Bargy, Charles 39, 92–94
 Le Brun, Charles 36, 62, 68, 107
 Leacroft, Richard 165
 Leeds, Arthur 168
Légende de Polichinelle, La (film) 143
 Lemaitre, Frédérick 69, 70
 Lemon, Mark 32, 61
 Lenk, Sabine 62, 107
 lens 3, 129, 132–36, 138, 155, 167, 168, 172
 axis of 44, 130, 134, 142, 144, 153
 circle of confusion of 135, 168
 depth of field of 134–36, 144, 167, 168
 focal length of 112, 129, 132, 133, 135, 136, 138
 three-inch 133, 134
 two-inch 132–35, 155, 167, 168
 wide-angle 133, 136, 168
 standard 132, 133, 136, 167
 focus 133–35, 168
 Lessing, Gottfried Ephraim 9, 16, 25, 72, 73, 83, 108
 Lewes, George Henry 108
 Lewis, Leopold 33, 61, 63, 166
 Library of Congress, Washington 48, 63, 157
 Liesegang, F. Paul 167
Life of an American Fireman (film) 169
 life size, see “scale”
 lighting:
 film 3, 24, 135, 151, 172
 electric arc 92, 142, 148, 151, 168
 mercury-vapor 120, 168
 sunlight 120, 168
 theatrical 7, 21, 26, 112, 113, 119, 120, 126, 127, 164, 172
 candlelight 119
 directional 164
 electric arc 120, 126, 164
 footlights 92, 115, 119, 122, 131, 134, 164, 167
 gas 113, 119, 120, 164
 house lights 119, 120
 incandescent electric 119, 120, 127, 164
 limelight 120, 164
 on dimmers 127
 quintet or Argand oil lamp 119
- Lily of Killarney, The* (opera by Julius Benedict) 108
 Linder, Max 143
Little Doctor and the Sick Kitten, The (film) 131
Little Emily (play by Andrew Halliday) 23
 Littmann, Max 122
 Lloyds, Frederick 127, 165, 166
 location filming, see “décor, cinematic, location”
Lonedale Operator, The (film) 147
Lonely Villa, The (film) 147
 Loos, Anita 4, 23, 29, 159
 Loughney, Patrick 63
 Louthembourg, Phillip de III, 112, 119
Love Potion No. 9 (film) 15
 Low, Rachael 169
 Lubitsch, Ernst 23
Lucia di Lammermoor (opera by Donizetti) 108, 124
 Lukács, György 173
 Lumière, Auguste and Louis 13, 167
 Lund, Ralph Eugene 62
 Lutz, Edwin George 134, 168
 Lyceum Theatre, London 21, 120
- Ma l'amor mio non muore!* (film) 11, 12, 80, 85–88, 90, 92, 97, 110, 138, 139, 155
 McCleery, R. 155
 McDowell, John H. 61
 Macht, Stephen 107
 McKay, Steele 126
 MacPherson, Jeanie 26
Madame Butterfly (play by Belasco) 7, 21, 24, 127
Madame X. (La Femme X..., play by Alexandre Bisson) 18
Mädchen ohne Vaterland, Das (film) 138, 155
 Madison Square Garden Theatre, New York 126
 Mailes, Charles Hill 100–102
 Mâle, Émile 24
 Mander, Karel 70
 Manhattan Opera House, New York 155
Manoir de la peur, Le (film) 144
 Manvell, Roger 169
 Marker, Frederick 69, 74, 78, 108, 109
 Marker, Lise-Lone 26, 74, 78, 108, 109
 Marsh, Mae 102
 Marston, Westland 26
 Marylebone Theatre, London 20

- Masaniello* (English version by H.M. Milner of Auber's opera *La Muette de Portici*) 126, 166
 masque (genre) 111
 Massenet, Jules 67
 Max, Édouard de 77, 78, 83
 Mayer, David viii, 5, 6, 20, 23, 26, 61, 107, 109, 163
 Mayhew, Edward 10, 25
 Meininger troupe 125, 165
 Meisel, Martin vii, 8, 10, 13, 15, 23, 25, 26, 34, 37, 62, 109, 163
 "Melancholia I" (engraving by Dürer) 86
 Méliès, Georges 4, 13, 61, 63, 131, 133, 136, 142, 143, 169
 melodrama (genre) 5, 10, 14–16, 19–21, 23, 26, 31, 32, 43, 57, 74, 78, 103, 109, 113, 127, 144, 156, 173
Men and Women (play by Belasco and Henry C. De Mille) 31, 124, 127, 165
 Ménessier 118
Merchant of Venice, The (play by Shakespeare) 141
 Merritt, Russell 100, 110
Merry Wives of Windsor, The (film) 110
 Messter Tonbild 23
 Messter, Otto 4
 Metz, Christian 10, 11, 25, 173
 Meyerbeer, Giacomo 123
 Milan Cineteca 110
 Mills Music Library, University of Wisconsin-Madison 108, 124
 mirrors in film 80, 85, 139, 140
 "Misdeal, The" (painting by Remington) 12
Misérables, Les (film) 40, 98
Misérables, Les (musical play by Alain Boublil and Claude-Michel Schönberg) 6
Miss Julie (*Fröken Julie*, play by Strindberg) 74
 Mitchell, George J. 168
 Mitry, Jean 4, 23
 modernism 8, 107, 172, 173
 Montigny, Lemoine 110
 Moore, Duncan 166
 Morgan, Henry 165
 Morrison, James 168
 Morrocchesi, Antonio 71, 108,
 Morrow, John C. 33, 62
 Moscow Art Theatre (Moskovskii khudozhestvennyi Teatr) 74
Mothering Heart, The (film) 103
 Mottram, Ronald 169
 Moynet, Georges 123–25, 143, 163–66
 Moynet, J. 126, 165, 166
Muette de Portici, La (opera by Scribe and Auber) 26, 126, 166
 Müller, Corinna 23
 Müller, Franz Kanzler von 26
 Münchow, Ursula 61
 Murphy, Arthur 78
 Museum of Modern Art, New York 62, 63, 110, 169
 Museum of the City of New York 24, 27, 61, 62, 167, 169
 music 20, 31, 33, 34, 66, 71, 72, 107, 111, 112
 film 46, 111, 158
 theatrical 31, 33, 34, 36, 66, 69, 71, 78, 107, 108, 119, 156, 158
 music hall 130
 Musser, Charles 61, 63, 109, 129, 166, 167, 169
Mysteriet Natten till den 25:e (film) 139

 Nagard, Michel 62
 Napier, Frank 163
 Naremore, James 107
 National Film and Television Archive, London 39, 46, 48, 62, 63
 naturalism 5, 8, 25, 66–69, 72–75, 90, 103, 105, 112, 113, 163
Nemye Svideteli (film) 98, 169
 Neues Schauspielhaus, Berlin 118, 163
 Neville, Henry 67, 107
Nicholas Nickleby (novel by Dickens) 14, 19
 Nicholson, Peter 120–22, 134, 164
 nickelodeon 130, 133, 136
 Nicoll, Allardyce 112, 113, 163, 164, 166
 Nielsen, Asta 88–92, 103
 nine-foot line 92, 133, 168
Noces d'Arlequin, Les (anonymous play) 12, 31
 Nordisk Films Kompagni 139
Notre Dame de Paris (film) 40
 Noverre, Maurice 131, 166, 169

 O'Neill, Eugene 6
 O'Neill, Nance 6
 Obolensky, Leonid 145
 obstacle 17, 19, 25, 26, 173
 Oehenschläger, Adam Gottlob 78
Official Appointment, An (film) 98–100, 102

 Ohnet, Georges 110
Oliver Twist (play by George Almar) 23
 Olympic Theatre, London 111, 165
 Omnia Pathé moving-picture theatre, Paris 130, 166
 one-reel film vii, 82–84, 102, 110
 opera (genre) 10, 20, 23, 70, 77, 107, 108, 111, 118, 120, 124, 165
 Opéra, Théâtre de l', Paris 118–20, 122, 123, 125, 126, 143, 163–65
 operetta (genre) 23, 108
 Opernhaus, Munich 121, 164
 Orchardson, William Quiller 31
Oreste (play by Alfieri) 71, 108
Otello (opera by Verdi), 10
Othello (play by Shakespeare) 10, 25

Padlock, The (opera by Isaac Bickerstaffe and Charles Dibdin) 165
Painted Lady, The (film) 100–103
 painting vii, 7–10, 12, 13, 16, 31, 41, 51, 65–67, 69, 72, 74, 107, 113, 118, 130, 136, 144, 165, 171–73
 perspective 172
 Palmer, Frederick 16–18, 25, 26
 panoramic view (genre) 6, 34, 137
 pantomime (genre) 5, 41, 63, 66, 118, 126
 Paper Print, Library of Congress 63
 Paragon Films, Inc. 147, 156
 Paramount Pictures Corp. vii
 Parmeno 7, 24
 Passion films 39, 41, 42, 62
 Pastrone, Giovanni 29, 61, 138
 Pathé Frères 32, 39, 41–43, 61, 62, 85, 130, 137, 142, 143, 168
 Paul, Robert William 169
 Pearson, Roberta 65, 78–80, 82–84, 107, 109, 110
 peep-show 10, 25, 129, 132
 Perret, Léonce 79, 142, 151
 perspective 118, 120, 122, 123, 130, 165
 aerial 120, 122, 135, 136
 artificial 113, 120, 122–24, 136
 film 143, 168
 in painting 24, 72, 118, 130, 144, 165, 168
 natural 120, 122–24, 136
 stage 55, 112, 114–16, 118–20, 122–24, 127, 130, 136, 142, 164, 165, 168
 Petacci, Emilio 85, 86, 92

Peter Pan (play by James Barrie) 31
 Peters, House 92, 93
Petit Poucet, Le (film) 143
 Pettingell Collection of the Library of the University of Kent at Canterbury 26, 32, 61
 Pettitt, Henry 20
Phèdre (play by Racine) 77, 78, 83
 Phillips, Henry Albert 26
 Phipps, Charles James 113
 Pickford, Mary 83
 pictorial effect vii, 7, 11, 13, 15, 21, 22, 26, 31–33, 41, 60, 68, 73, 75, 84, 105, 113, 125, 127, 150
 pictorialism 7, 8, 10, 12, 92, 106, 135, 171–73
 cinematic 8, 11, 12, 79, 90, 105, 106, 115, 171–73
 in acting 171, 65, 66, 68, 72, 90, 105, 106
 in painting 12
 photographic 135
 theatrical 7, 8, 10, 12, 65, 66, 68, 72, 102, 112, 114, 115, 171–73
 picture 4, 7–13, 16, 31, 32, 35, 36, 56, 61, 78, 113, 117, 121, 124, 130, 133, 165, 166, 171, 173
 cinematic vii, 10, 12, 22, 29, 32, 41–43, 47, 56–58, 61, 114, 117, 118, 130–32, 134, 135, 143, 144, 150, 162, 166–68, 171, 172
 in painting 7–10, 31, 32, 51, 67, 107, 112, 113, 120, 121, 130, 135, 166
 stage vii, 9–13, 15, 16, 20–22, 25, 26, 30–35, 37, 41, 45, 47, 53, 59, 60, 66, 69, 70, 72–74, 78, 112–14, 117–20, 122–27, 134, 147, 159, 171, 173; see also "tableau (stage picture)"
 theatrical 31, 47, 112–14, 117, 118, 120, 124, 134, 162, 167
 Piles, Roger de 9, 24
 Pinero, Arthur Wing 66
 Pixérécourt, Guilbert de 14, 31
Pluck (play by Augustus Harris and Henry Pettit) 20
 Plutarch 24
Polikushka (film) 168
Politician, The (film) 23
 Polti, Georges 16, 17, 21, 26
Poor of New York, The (play by Boucicault) 20, 21, 126, 166
 Porte, Joseph de la 15, 108

- Porten, Henny 4, 23
 Porter, Edwin S. 14, 63
 pose, see "acting, attitude"
 Pougin, Arthur 10, 31, 32, 124
 Powell, A. van Buren 25
 Powell, Frank 40, 102
 Pozzo (Puteus), Andrea 121, 122, 164
 Pre-Raphaelite painting 135
Price of Peace, The (play by Cecil Raleigh) 126, 166
 primitive deep focus 134
 Princess's Theatre, London 141
 procession, stage 26, 41, 63, 124, 125, 165
 promptbook 5, 24, 31–33, 36, 43, 61, 62, 118, 164
 proto-cinema 5, 22, 113
 Pseudo-Bonaventura 24
 Psilander, Valdemar 80–83
 psychology, character 13, 21, 62, 67–69, 79, 104, 107
 Pudovkin, Vsevolod 3, 4, 8, 23
 Pujouix, Jean-Baptiste 119, 120, 164, 165
 pyrotechnical drama (genre) 5, 119, 144
- Quarnstrom, I. Blaine 34
Quatre-vingt-treize (film) 40
 Quesnay, François 9, 24
 Quinn, Michael vii
Quo Vadis? (film) 7, 118
- Rachel (Eliza Rachel Félix) 73, 108
 Raimund Theater, Vienna 121, 164, 165
 Raleigh, Cecil 155
 Ranger, Paul 78, 109
 Raphael (Raffaello Santi) 9
 realism 5–7, 19, 23, 24, 68, 72, 73, 79, 82, 90, 107, 108, 112–14, 123, 136, 158
 photographic 6, 7, 24, 72, 156
 recitative 77
 recognitions, see "reversals and recognitions"
Red and White Roses (film) 92–94
Red Rover, The (play by Edward Fitzball) 27
 Rede, Leman Thomas Tertius 69, 108
 Redi, Riccardo 62
 reel end 46–50, 63
 Rees, Terence 164, 166
 Rehberg, Friedrich 107
Reine Margot, La (play by Dumas père) 145, 146
 Reinhardt, Max 23
- Rembrandt van Rijn 9, 24
 Remington, Frederick 12
 Rémond de Sainte-Albine, Pierre 73, 108
 Renoir, Jean 138
Rent Day, The (play by Douglas Jerrold) 12, 31, 61
Rescued by Rover (film) 43
Rescued from an Eagle's Nest (film) 82
 Residenztheater, Munich 126
 reversals and recognitions 14, 15, 17, 19, 21, 33, 70
 rhetoric 9, 66, 67, 112
 Riccoboni, François 15, 16, 25, 72, 83, 84, 108, 109
Richard III (play by Shakespeare) 125
 Richard, Jacques 24, 166
 Richardson, Frank Herbert 129, 169
 Richter, Hans 4, 8, 23
 Riis, Jacob 7
 Rittner, Rudolph 74
 Roach, Joseph R. 62, 68, 107, 108
 Rodin, Auguste 86
Roi de Paris (novel by Georges Ohnet) 110
Roman d'un mousse, Le (film) 142
 Romney, George 65, 74
 Rosenfeld, Sybil 163, 165
 Rossini, Giacomo 36
 Royal Theatre (Kongelige Teater), Copenhagen 69, 90, 118, 163
 Royal Victoria Theatre, London 26
- Sachs, Edwin O. 121, 122, 163–65
 Sadoul, Georges 4, 166
 Saint-Victor, Pierre 163
 Salle des Machines, Paris 119
 Salt, Barry 11, 23, 25, 26, 133, 139, 167–69
 Salten, Felix 7, 118, 131, 132, 136, 163, 167, 168
 Sanin, Aleksandr 168
 Sardou, Victorien 94
 Sargent, Epes Winthrop 84, 110, 167
 Saxe-Meiningen, George II, Duke of 125
 scalar relativism 7, 131, 132
 scale of stage and film picture 6, 41, 65, 83, 92, 118, 124, 126, 129, 131, 144, 158, 167, 172
 life size 129–31, 144, 166, 167
 natural size 7, 118, 129–31
 scene change 35, 43, 47, 57, 120, 123, 125, 126, 145
 open-stage 47, 115, 120, 126, 127
- scene of relieve 119, 121
 scenic (genre) 132, 133
 scenic transformation 171
 Schiller, Friedrich 16
 Schinkel, Carl 118
 Schöne, Günter 164
 screen, moving-picture 3, 6, 7, 82, 114, 120, 129–32, 134, 136, 138, 141, 144, 166, 167, 172
 Scribe, Eugène 110
Sealed Room, The (film) 80
 Semper, Gottfried 163
 Senelick, Laurence 108
 Sennett, Mack 83
 sensation and the sensational 5, 6, 20, 21, 26, 43, 58, 123, 126, 127, 144, 155–58
 Servandoni, Jean-Nicholas 111
 Shaftesbury, Anthony Ashley Cooper, Earl of 8
 Shakespeare, William 5, 10, 36, 125, 165
 Shaw, George Bernard 66, 78, 109
 Shepherd, Jan 31
 Sheridan, Richard Brinsley 15, 16, 36, 151
 shot scale xiii, 3, 42, 53, 55, 83, 131, 155
 close-up xiii, 3, 4, 11, 29, 43, 49, 52, 57, 107, 131, 135, 168
 extreme long shot 55
 long shot xiii, 4, 32, 41, 43, 48, 50, 53, 55, 56, 58, 83, 85, 92, 100, 104, 105, 132, 139, 140, 146, 152, 154, 155, 160, 161, 172
 medium close-up xiii, 29, 133
 medium long shot xiii, 29, 50, 59, 89, 95, 96, 100, 104, 132, 133, 135, 139, 144, 147, 150, 152, 153, 156, 160, 161
 medium shot xiii, 29, 43, 50, 52, 54, 80, 83, 85, 88, 90, 95–97, 102, 104, 150, 153–55
 very long shot xiii, 7, 55, 56, 59, 96, 148, 156, 157, 159, 160, 162
- shot-based conception of film 4, 11, 102, 106, 144, 172
Shylock (film) 141
 Siddons, Henry 36, 62, 67, 70, 71, 108
 Siddons, Sarah 78
 Singer, Ben 26
 situation 5, 8, 10–12, 15–22, 25, 26, 29, 30, 36, 37, 39, 40, 46, 58–60, 62, 65, 66, 68–70, 72–75, 77–80, 82–85, 90, 92, 95, 98, 102, 105, 126, 127, 145, 147, 150–52, 154, 155, 158, 159, 162, 167, 171, 173
 Sjöström, Victor 13, 75, 103–5, 138
- Slevin, James 167, 168
 Slide, Anthony 109, 110
 Slout, William L. 62
 Smith, Bruce ("Sensation" Smith) 155
 Smith, George Albert 131, 142, 166, 169
 Smith, Harry James 26
 Smith, James 19, 26
Social Secretary, The (film) 29, 30, 52, 61, 92
 soft style of cinematography 135, 168
 Sonrel, Pierre 119, 163–65
 Sorel, Cécile 92, 93, 94
 Soret, Frédéric-Jacob 26
 Souriau, Étienne 17, 18, 26
 Southern, Richard 111, 122, 125, 163, 165–67
 spectacle 5–9, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18, 20–23, 26, 34, 35, 41, 42, 44, 53–56, 59, 61, 98, 111, 112, 114, 119, 124–26, 138, 139, 144, 150, 155–58, 162, 172, 173
 Sprague, Arthur Colby 165
 Sprengel, Christian Conrad 130
 stage effect 15, 16
 stage machinery
 act drop 125, 167
 backcloth or backdrop 5, 33–35, 41, 44, 47, 54, 55, 62, 111, 116–18, 120–23, 136, 137, 142–44, 155, 165, 167
 border 5, 111, 115, 117, 123, 124, 165
 bridge 115
 ceiling cloth 115, 123
 chariot 115, 123
 châssis 115
 cloth 52, 116–19, 125, 127
 costière 115, 123, 126, 142, 164
 curtain 11, 20, 21, 26, 31, 33–35, 39, 43, 46–48, 61, 112, 118, 120, 121, 124–27, 134, 156, 157, 159, 167
 cut 115
 cut cloth 111, 122, 124
 cyclorama 165
 drop 7, 35, 55, 116, 120, 124, 126, 127, 142, 165, 167
 entrance 115, 124
 extension 119, 164
fausse rue 115, 117, 165
ferme 111, 117, 120, 122, 126
 flat 7, 20, 33, 44, 113, 115–17, 119, 120, 122, 123, 126, 134, 135, 165
 flies 52, 115–17, 120
 forestage 44, 55, 111, 113, 115, 119, 131, 136, 156, 163, 164

- frise* 117
 groove 115–18, 121, 123, 125, 126, 142, 167
 ground row 111, 115, 117, 122, 124, 143
manteau d'Arlequin 118, 130, 131, 163
 mast (*mât*) 115, 117, 123
 panoramic backdrop 155, 157
plan 115
 proscenium 6, 7, 11, 111, 113, 115, 118–21, 123, 132, 134, 136, 144, 163, 167
 rear shutters 116, 117, 119, 121, 125, 126, 164
 revolve 126, 165
rue 115, 117, 165
 scene drop 120
 set piece 117, 123
 sink and rise 52, 126
 sloat or slote 52, 115, 117
terrain 117
 trap 20, 37, 115, 142
trapillon 115
trappe 115
 wing 7, 36, 111, 113, 115–17, 119–26, 142, 164, 165
 stage manager 71, 108, 126, 164, 171
 stage
 cinematic 127, 132, 134, 136, 138, 141, 142, 144, 150, 152, 162, 168, 172
 theatrical xiii, 4, 66, 111–13, 115–27, 130–32, 134, 136, 141, 142, 144, 145, 155–59, 163–65, 167, 168, 171, 172
 Asphaleia system 164, 165
 depth of 55, 92, 116, 119–23, 135, 164
 elevator 126
 pictorial 111
 rake of 115, 120–23, 164, 165
 width of 118, 122, 134, 168
 staging in depth 53, 85, 92, 95–7, 136, 141, 153, 162, 168, 171
 Staiger, Janet 63, 107, 173
 Stal'skii, Mikhail 95–98
 Standard Theatre, London 21
 Stanislavsky, Konstantin 67, 68, 70, 74, 79, 107, 112
 Star Film 4, 61, 131
 Stark, E. 167
 Stearn, William T. 166
 Stebbins, Genevieve 107
 Stevens, Ashton 6
 Stirling, Edward 20
 stock companies of film actors 82, 109, 168
 Stockton, Elias Boudinot 84, 85
 Stowe, Harriet Beecher 30, 32, 63
 Strindberg, August 74
 Stroebel, Leslie 168
Struggle for Gold, A (play by Edward Stirling) 20
 Studebaker Theatre, Chicago 166
 studio, film 117, 130, 132, 133, 135–37, 142, 146, 167–69
 Sullivan, Louis 118
Summer Idyl, A (film) 82
Sumpfbhlume, Die (film) 138, 155
 Surrey Theatre, London 113
 suspense 13, 14, 17, 18, 20, 21, 26, 57, 58, 147, 150, 159
 Sweet, Blanche 83, 92, 93, 100–103
Swing Time (film) 169
 Symons, Arthur 74, 109

 tableau (division of a play or film) 31, 32, 61, 62, 111, 124, 157, 171
 tableau (in literature) 9, 56
 tableau (in painting) 8, 9, 31, 72
 tableau (stage picture) 9–11, 15, 20–22, 26, 27
 cinematic 20, 22, 29, 30, 32, 39–44, 46–48, 50–63, 78, 94, 95, 98, 106, 147, 150, 152, 159, 162, 171, 172
 truncated 45, 47, 49, 56
 weak 47
 theatrical 29–37, 39, 43–47, 52, 55–57, 59–63, 65, 66, 70, 72, 74, 78, 118, 124, 126, 147, 163, 171, 172
 tableau ("récit" or descriptive speech in play) 15
 tableau (table) 9, 63
 tableau construction of film 32
 tableau vivant 10, 12, 15, 21, 31, 32
 tableau! (idiom) 36, 62, 173
 Talbot, Frederick A. 167, 168
 Talma, François-Joseph 69, 79
 Tams-Witmark Collection, Mills Music Library, University of Wisconsin-Madison 71, 108, 124
 Tams, Alfred 108
 Taylor, Baron Isidore 125
 Taylor, Tom 32, 61
 Tempesta, Antonio 73
 tempo, see "acting, pace of"
 ten-foot line 133, 136, 142

Terre, La (play by R. de Saint Arroman and Charles Hugot, and film) 118
 Terry, Ellen 78, 109
Tess of the D'Urbervilles (novel by Hardy) 130
 Théâtre de la Gymnase, Paris 110
 Theatre Royal, Bristol 32
 Théâtre Sarah Bernhardt, Paris 94
 theatricality 4, 9, 79, 82, 107
 "Thinker, The" ("Le Penseur," statue by Rodin) 86
Thirst of Gold, The (play by Ben Webster) 20
 Thompson, Kristin 13, 23, 25, 66, 82, 109, 167, 168, 173
Thou Shalt Not (film) 79
Three Sisters (film) 146
 3-D film 131
 title (film title, intertitle, or subtitle) xiii, 3, 11, 25, 29, 30, 32, 43–47, 49, 50, 53–55, 58–61, 63, 80, 90, 95, 99, 100, 102–5, 110, 145, 151–54, 156–58, 160–62, 169, 171
 topical (genre) 132, 133
Topsy and Eva (film) 62
Tosca, La (film) 92–94
 Tourneur, Maurice 40, 92, 102, 109, 148, 156
 Towers, Frank 26
 trade press, cinematic 63, 77, 79, 84, 102, 129, 173
 tragedy (genre) 10, 15–17, 19, 25, 26, 66, 68–70, 72–74, 77–79, 90, 109, 111
 Tree, Herbert Beerbohm 121
 trick film (genre) 13, 63, 131
 Tsivian, Yuri 85, 110, 135, 139, 167–69

Uncle Josh at the Moving Picture Show (film) 166
Uncle Tom's Cabin
 canonic scene in
 apothecosis 34, 35, 44
 cottonfield 34, 45, 47, 50
 Eva's death 27, 33, 44, 46, 48, 50–52, 84
 finale 33
 Ohio River crossing 20, 27, 33, 47, 55, 123
 Red River 58, 60, 155
 regatta 34
 rocky pass 27, 33, 34, 44, 47, 55, 56, 58–60, 150, 155
 slave auction 150
 tavern 27, 36, 37
 Tom and Eva in the garden 35, 43, 44, 50, 52, 54
 Tom's death 27, 33, 35, 43, 44, 46, 49, 50
 Tom's farewell to his family 34, 47, 53
 film 39, 46, 56
 version by Edison 36, 39, 43, 44–47, 49–52, 54–56, 63
 version by Imp 62
 version by Kalem 62
 version by Lubin 62
 version by Paramount 62
 version by Thanouser 62
 version by Universal 62
 version by Vitagraph 39, 46–50, 53–55, 57, 63, 147, 148
 version by World xiii, 12, 39, 46, 48, 49–60, 63, 84, 155
 novel 30, 32, 39, 46, 56, 61
 play 20, 27, 30, 32–37, 39, 41, 44, 56, 61, 78, 123, 124
 production by Barbour and Harkins 35
 production by Jarrett and Palmer 34
 production by Peck and Fursman 34
 production by William Brady 36, 37, 61, 63
 version by Charles Hermann 32–36, 55, 61, 62, 123
 version by Charles Morton 33, 61
 version by Colin Hazlewood 37, 61
 version by Edward Fitzball 32–35, 61, 62
 version by George Aiken 20, 32–36, 43–46, 55, 61, 62
 version by Mark Lemon and Tom Taylor 32, 33, 61
 "Uncle Tom's Cabin" Troupe, An (film) 62
 Uncle Tom's Caboose (film) 62
 Under the Gaslight (play by Augustin Daly) 20
 United Artists Corporation 62
 Universal Film Manufacturing Co. 12, 62

 Vardac, A. Nicholas vii, 5–8, 22, 23, 26, 63, 111, 113, 118, 126, 156, 166, 172
 variety theatre 23, 130, 144

- vaudeville, American 4, 5, 82, 130, 166, 172
Ved fængslets Port (film) 139
Velasquez, Diego Rodriguez da Silva y 9
Venture, Marie 98
Verdi, Giuseppe 10
Verlaine, Paul 74
Vestris, Lucia Elizabeth 111, 165
Victor, Pierre 125
Vie et la Passion de Jésus-Christ, La (film) 39, 41, 42, 62
Vie et Passion de N.S. Jésus-Christ, La (film) 39, 41–43, 62
vision scene in play or film 3, 44–46, 49, 51, 52, 63, 103, 126
Vitagraph Company of America vii, 31, 92, 98, 109, 135, 142, 145, 147, 168, 169
Vitascope 129, 166
Voice of the Child, The (film) 147
Voice of the Violin (film) 82
Voltaire (François Marie Arouet) 9, 15, 16, 25, 66
Wagner Opera House, Garrett, Indiana 118, 163
Wagner, Richard 113, 120, 163
Walküre, Die (opera by Wagner) 123, 143
Wallace, Lew 23
Wallack's Theatre, New York 166
Waller, Gregory A. 61
Walls, Howard Lamarr 61
Walthall, Henry 79, 80, 82
Warner, H. B. 166
Warrens of Virginia, The (film) 92, 93
Webster, Ben 20
Weichberger, Alexander 163
weisse Rosen, Die (film) 88, 89
Welsh, Robert 107
Werther (opera by Massenet) 67, 70, 79
West, Edward 108
Whip, The (film) 92, 119, 156–62
Whip, The (play by Cecil Raleigh and Henry Hamilton) 118, 126, 155, 156, 158, 159, 163, 166, 169
Whitaker, Charles Everard 156
Wife, The (play by Belasco and Henry C. De Mille) 24, 127
Wig Wag (film) 142
Wilkes, Thomas 72, 108
Wilkie, David 12, 31
Williamson, James 169
Wills, William Gorman 26
Wilson, Harold 98, 99
Winn, Peter 163
Winter, O. 135, 136, 168
Wisconsin Center for Film and Theater Research, Madison, Wisconsin 166
Woodrow, Ernest A. 163–65
Woods, Frank ("Spectator") 62, 66, 79, 83, 84, 107, 109, 110
Woollcott, Alexander 75, 109
Woringen, Paul von 13
World Film Company 48, 147
Wyatt, Benjamin 163
Yeats, William Butler 77, 78, 83
Zakia, Richard 168
Zola, Émile 73, 74, 108