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| Pull my Daisy (1959) |
| **[Enter any *variant forms* of your headword – OPTIONAL]** |
| *Pull My Daisy* (1959) is a short film directed by Alfred Leslie and Robert Frank, understood as an early example of New American Cinema and strongly associated with the Beat Generation. *Pull My Daisy* has an improvisational style, in which narration and action seem unscripted — although there is some critical debate over whether this is a deliberate production technique (Allan 1988).This style of filmmaking is considered modernist as it rejects cinematic convention in favour of creative freedom. The storyline, a comedy inspired by key Beat figures Neal and Carolyn Cassady, is adapted from Jack Kerouac’s play *The Beat Generation*, and features a dinner party interrupted by the arrival of the host’s wayward friends. Kerouac narrated the film, which also stars painter Larry Rivers and Beat poets Allen Ginsberg, Gregory Corso and Peter Orlovsky. The film title is taken from the poem of the same name written by Kerouac, Ginsberg and Cassady in the 1940s (Kerouac, 1971). It offers commentary on important social issues such as politics, gender, sexuality and religion. In 1996, the film was preserved in the United States National Film registry at the Library of Congress, having been deemed of cultural, historical and aesthetic significance. |
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| Further Reading:  (Allan)  (Kerouac)  (Kouvaros) |