

# **Sourcelessness**

How was softlight affected naturalism in early european  
cinema?

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November 7, 2022

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“An endless struggle with great benefits of satisfaction when you get to the end” (Broomfield, 2017)

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# Introduction

## **What is soft light?**

“The closer the source is to your subject, the softer the light will be. As light becomes softer, the shadow transition becomes longer and more gradual. Soft light is, by its nature, very low in contrast. It can be non-directional and even feel “sourceless,” meaning that it’s hard to determine what direction the light is coming from. It can hide the texture of an object, even at extreme angles. Extremely soft light can create a nearly shadowless environment.” Holben (2020)

**Before the Store**

**In the wreckage**

**The Aftermath**

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Figure 1. Broomfield, N. (1988) *Driving Me Crazy*. [Still from documentary] At: [https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0146652/?ref\\_=nm\\_flmg\\_dr\\_26](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0146652/?ref_=nm_flmg_dr_26)

Figure 2. Herzog, W. (1974) *The Great Ecstasy of Woodcarver Steiner*. [Still From Documentary] At: [https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0146652/?ref\\_=nv\\_sr\\_srgs\\_4](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0146652/?ref_=nv_sr_srgs_4)

Figure 3. Penn, Z. (2004) *Incident at Loch Ness (2004)*. [Movie Poster] At: \ <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt03746>

Figure 4. Broomfield, N. (1988) *Driving Me Crazy*. [Still from documentary] At: [https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0146652/?ref\\_=nm\\_flmg\\_dr\\_26](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0146652/?ref_=nm_flmg_dr_26)

## Bibliography

Holben, J. (2020) 'Light Quality 101' In: *American Cinematographer* 101 (10/11) 11/2020 pp.16–20, 22, 24. At: <https://www.proquest.com/docview/2455894566/abstract/B4BB106683044E6FPQ/1> (Accessed 02/09/2022).