



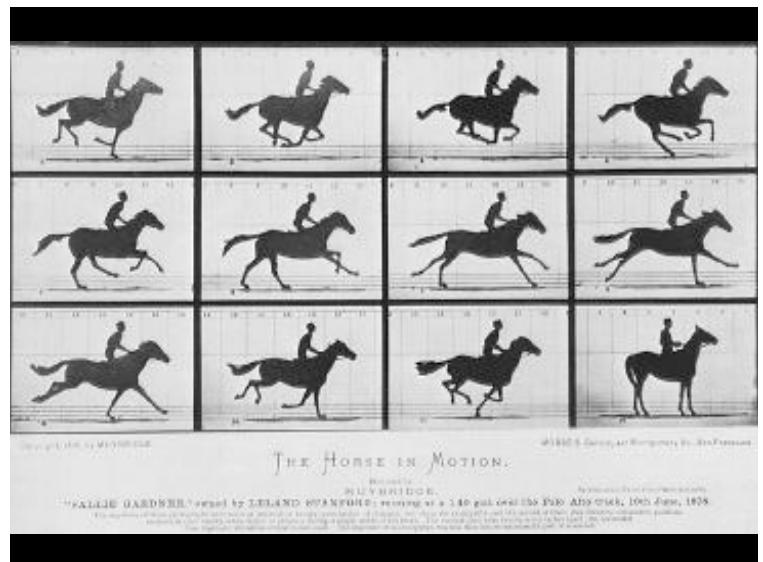
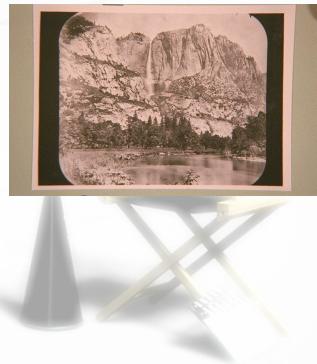
## Redo Lecture

- » Too long
- » Skip early, begin with Moon?
- » Skip Saint-Saëns?



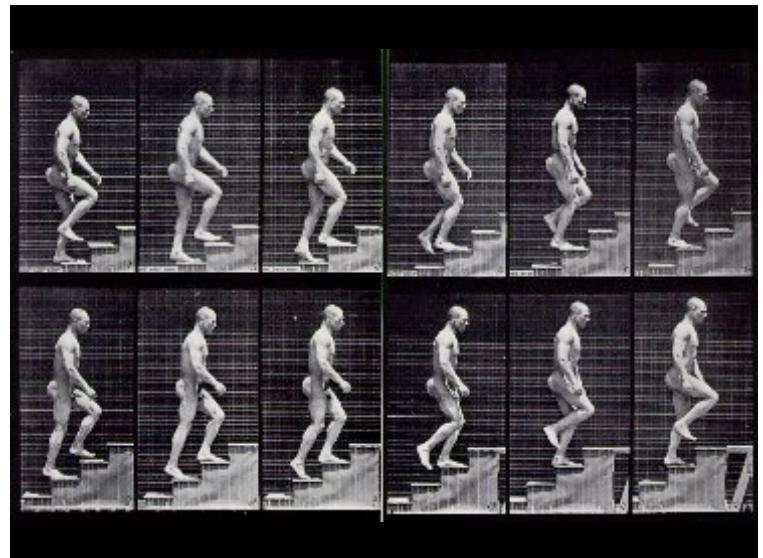
## Forerunner: Eadweard Muybridge

- » Famous photographer of the West
- » Developed shutter for camera, could capture motion
  - Helped Leland Stanford win famous bet
  - Captured horses in motion, something the eye cannot do



## Forerunner: Eadweard Muybridge

- » Created mechanism to show images quickly which recreated the motion
- » Took photos of animals and human models
- » Demonstrated his invention before Royalty
- » Seen as a scientific activity
- » Even impacted art





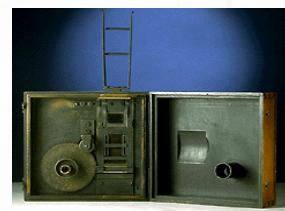
## Forerunner: Thomas Edison

- » America's greatest inventor
  - Wanted moving pictures to accompany music from his phonograph
  - Asked Muybridge to work together; declined
- » Moving Picture Inventions
  - Kinetoscope (shown)
  - Kinetophone
- » W.K.L. Dickson
  - Created short films for Edison
  - Most without music, some with



## Lumiere Brothers

- » Developed portable camera/projector: Cinematographe
  - Camera could be carried outdoors
  - Films shown to paying audience on **December 28, 1895** – official birth of film
  - Pianist accompanied films; later orchestra



## Georges Melies

- » French magician, present at Lumiere debut
- » Created similar camera for films to be shown during magic shows
- » *A Trip to the Moon* (1902)
  - Generally acknowledged as 1<sup>st</sup> narrative film
  - Magical effects throughout



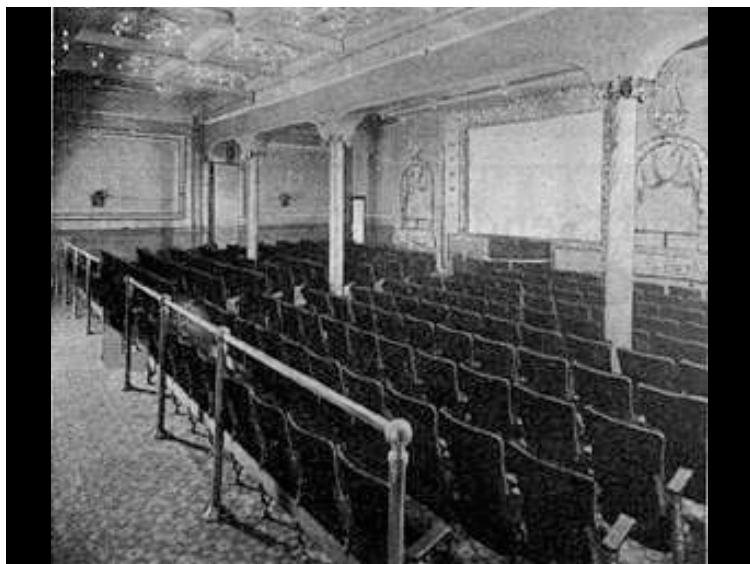
## Edwin Porter

- » Early American director
- » *The Great Train Robbery* (1903)



- "First" American narrative
- Western, but based on current event
- Both indoor and outdoor scenes
- Camera pans in several scenes
- Discontinuous story telling
- Dance scene; future cliché for Westerns

DIRECTOR



## *The Assassination of the Duke de Guise* (1908)



- Film d'Art produces high quality works
- Dramas based on history or mythology
- Engaged leading stage actors
- Asked Camille Saint-Saëns to compose score
- Elements of "classical" score are present
  - Setting for orchestra (13 players)
  - Wall-to-wall music
  - Depicts full range of emotions
  - Uses leitmotifs

## Early Silent Era

- » Where were films shown?

- Some in theaters; part of vaudeville show
- Most in large rooms, such as in a hotel
- Nickelodeons appear in 1908

DIRECTOR

- » What instruments?

- Smaller venues with piano
- Theaters with ensembles



## The Music

- Who chose the music?

- Generally the theater music director
- Specific scores for films rare until the 1920s

- What type of music was played?

- Adaptations of Classics
- Arrangements of tunes
- Newly composed



## Movie Palaces



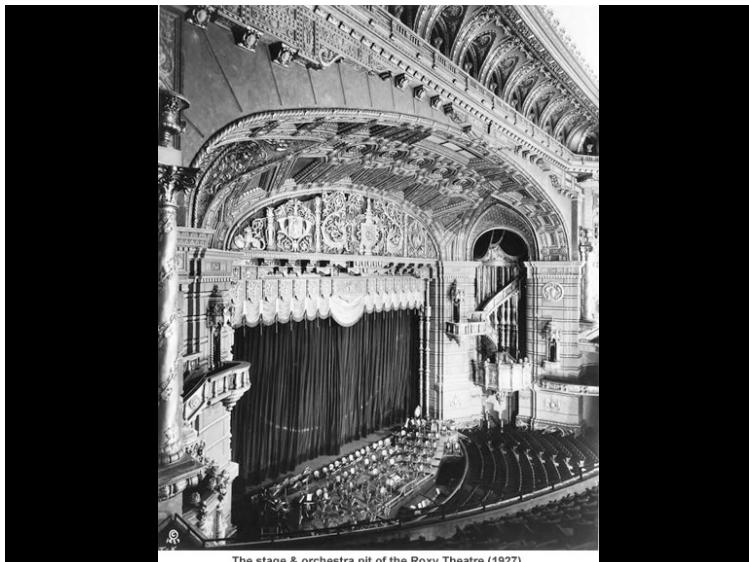
- After 1913, building of Movie Palaces

- New York

- Roxy theater, built in 1927, seats 6,214!
- Radio City Music Hall; dancers called Roxyettes; later just Rockettes

- Hollywood

- Grauman Chinese Theater (pictured)
- Egyptian Theater



## Musical Accompaniment

- The pianist gave way to the organ
  - Wurlitzer created theater organs that could also do sound effects
  - By end of silent film era, organ was the most common type of musical accompaniment



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- Ensembles grow in size with theater
  - Small number (chamber group)
  - Small orchestra (13 or 14)
  - Full orchestra (50 - 100) for biggest palaces

## *The Birth of a Nation, 1915*

- Director: D.W. Griffith
- First masterpiece in film
  - Noted for length
  - Exploration of cinematography techniques
  - Brilliant use of film to further the plot
  - Film score created specifically for this film
- Flaw: racist



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## *Music for Birth of a Nation*

- Composer: Joseph Carl Breil
- Uses all three types
  - Adaptations
  - Arrangements
  - New
- Within new music: leitmotifs
  - Themes that represent aspect of the story
  - Themes can be altered to reflect changes in story
- First clip: Viewer Guide 6.1



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## *The Big Parade, 1925*

- ① One of the best American silent films
- ① The biggest box-office hit of the 1920s
- ① Music by William Axt; revised Carl Davis
- ① Much is playful and romantic, increasing the horror of realistic battle scenes
- ① Parting scene (Viewer Guide 6.2)
  - ① "Over There" (song by Cohan) as a march
  - ① Love theme (by Axt)

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