

Although there are thousands of filmmakers that have changed the course of film history and many I was not able to look into--I was still able to come up with some of the most important ones. Many of them come from America or France, as the film industry in those places was thriving throughout much of the twentieth century. Some of the filmmakers considered the most significant are the ones from the early nineteenth-hundreds and before that. The beginning of film started with Eadweard Muybridge, who predicted that a horse lifted all of its hooves off the ground, proving the theory by taking quick photos of a horse on a track, which is thought to be the first film ever created. Three years later a man named Étienne-Jules Marey created the first successful portable motion-picture camera. Other filmmakers from that era include the Lumiere Brothers; who created a camera/projector called *Cinematographe* which held the first commercial exploitation of film, Alice Guy; the first successful female director who created the world's first film with a plot, Thomas Edison and Edwin Porter; two partners in filmmaking, and George Méliès; who created some of the first fantasy films including special effects and color. (Dixon and Foster 1-18).

After breaking the ice with film, America was probably the first to bring a rise of commercialization, but it was the filmmakers there that made it happen. Some of the most influential were Cecil DeMille, Charlie Chaplin, Eric Von Stroheim, Ernst Lubitsch, Walt Disney, and Orson Welles. These all made their mark in cinema with new techniques and styles, but one of the most memorable filmmakers of the time was D.W. Griffith. He discovered that film has the power to make an audience feel a certain way by using camera techniques and little details one wouldn't notice as an average audience member. He also brought controversy in his films, some that many people would not agree with (Dixon and Foster 22-26). But, he still ended

up changing the course of film history, making a path for new filmmakers such as Martin Scorsese and Francis Ford Coppola, two directors you have most likely heard of since they are still around.

America was not the only country to become involved with filmmaking. All over Europe people started catching on, particularly France where film was being created even before the nineteenth century. In the sixties, during the French New Wave, directors such as René Clair, Jean Renoir, Jean Cocteau, Jean Luc-Godard, Agnès Varda, and François Truffaut made a huge difference in filmmaking, many of them having large imagination and a will to experiment. Nearby in Italy, they were making great progress as well. Elvira Nolari was the creator of the neorealist movement, an important part of Italian film history. Federico Fellini was one of those neorealist filmmakers and was very famous for it (Dixon and Foster 66-67 and 212-214). In England, Alfred Hitchcock was becoming a big deal, and he soon moved to Hollywood for his long-lasting career. Alexander Korda and Stanley Kubrick also rose in popularity--Stanley Kubrick considered one of the greatest directors in film history, who used a lot of dark humor and realism in his films (Dixon and Foster 269-271).

German film was also very important throughout the twentieth century, during the time of the Nazis, with filmmakers like Leni Riesenstan, a female director during that period who made very ambitious films for the Nazis (Dixon and Foster 156-158). Fritz Lang started out as a German filmmaker but moved to Hollywood like many others to get away from the Nazis. He is considered to be a predecessor of George Lucas, as he was a great inspiration for the *Star Wars* films (Dixon and Foster 81-85). Not so far away in Russia around the twenties and thirties, there was a brilliant filmmaker at work, named Sergei Eisenstein. Taught by Lev Kuleshov, a founder

of the world's first film school, Eisenstein came up with a groundbreaking theory of montage that changed how people made film. In all, each of these filmmakers helped change film history and influenced what techniques we use today for adding emotion and seamlessness to movies.