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Preliminary Syllabus
for
Danish Films from Dreyer to Dogmer
Winter Quarter 2006/2007

Required Viewing:

Director	Film Title
Carl Th. Dreyer	<i>The Passion of Joan of Arc</i> , 1927 <i>The Day of Wrath</i> , 1943 <i>The Word</i> , 1954
Gabriel Axel	<i>Babette's Feast</i> , 1987
Bille August	<i>Pelle the Conqueror</i> , 1987
Lars von Trier	<i>The Kingdom</i> , 1994 <i>Breaking the Waves</i> , 1996
Thomas Vinterberg	<i>The Celebration</i> , 1998
Lone Scherfig	<i>Italian for Beginners</i> , 2002

Required Reading:

Dinesen, Isak.	"Babette's Feast" [<i>Anecdotes of Destiny</i>].
Gordon, Maru.	<i>Joan of Arc</i> .
Munk, Kaj.	<i>The Word</i> .
Nexø, Martin Andersen.	<i>Pelle the Conqueror</i> .

Course Requirements:

Watch the movies, participate in class discussions

And

Write 6-10 page paper due: **March 7, 2007**

On

A film viewed

or

Write a paper on one of the directors and his work.

Or

Compare the literary work behind the film to the actual film.

Or

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Tests: Midterm - February 9, 2007

Final - March 21, 2007

Grade:

33.33% on each test; 33.33% on the paper.

Suggested Reading:

The Dogme Web Site

Cinema Journal

Film Quarterly

Film Literature Quarterly

Quarterly Review of Film and Video

Quarterly Review of Film Studies

Bergsten, Bebe. *The Great Dane and the Great Northern Film Company*. Los Angeles: Locare Research Group, 1973.

Bondebjerg, Ib & Mette Hjort. *The Danish Directors: Dialogues on a Contemporary National Cinema*.

Bristol, UK & Portland, Or.: intellect Books, 2003.

Boorman, John & Walter Donohue, eds. *Film Makers on Film*

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Making.

- Bordwell, David. *The Films of Carl Theodor Dreyer*.
 Berkeley: University of California Press, 1981.
- *Filmguide to La Passion de Jeanne d'Arc*. Bloomington:
 Indiana University Press, 1973.
- Brooke, Michael. *Biography for Lars von Trier*. Internet
 Movie Database, Inc., 2004. <http://www.imb.com>,
- Cohn, Norman. *Europe's Inner Demons*. New York: (North
 American Library) Basic Books, 1975.
- Cook, Pam & Philip Dodd, eds. *Women and Film: A Sight and
 Sound Reader*.
- Hurt, James. *Focus on Film and Theater*.
- Ingwersen, Faith & Niels. *Quest for a promised Land;
 The Works of Martin Andersen Nexø*.
- Kelly, Richard. *The Name of This Book Is Dogme 95*.
- Kelman, Ken. *Great Film Directors: A Critical Anthology*.
 Ed. Leo Braundy & Morris Dickstein. New York:
 Oxford University Press, 1978.
- Leyda, Jay, ed. *Voices of Film Experiences: 1894 to the
 Present*. Doug Tomlinson & John Hagan, researchers.
 New York: MacMillan, 1977.
- MacCann, Richard Dyer, compiler. *The First Film Makers*.
- Milne, Tom. *The Cinema of Carl Dryer*. New York: A.S.
 Barnes & Co., 1971.
- Monty, Ib. Intro. *Carl Theodor Dreyer's Jesus*. New York:
 The Dial Press, 1972.
- Morris, Ron. *The Danish Cinema Before Dreyer*. N.J. and
 London: Scarecrow Press, Metuchen, 1988.
- Neergaard, Ebbe. *The Story of Danish Films*.
- Roud, Richard, ed. *Cinema: A Critical Dictionary: The Major
 Filmmakers*.
- Schrader, Paul. *Transcendental Style in Film: Ozu, Bresson,
 Dreyer*. Los Angeles, Ca.: University of California
 Press, 1972.
- Skoller, Donald, ed. *Dreyer in Double Reflection: Carl
 Dreyer's Writing on Film*. New York: Da Capo Press, 1973.
- Warner, Marina. *Joan of Arc. The Image of Female Heroism*.
 New York: Vintage Books, 1982.
- Zettl, Herbert. *Sight, sound, Motion: Applied Aesthetics*

Dogme websites

www.laweekly.com/wik/98/48/film.php
<http://www.martweiss.com/film/dogma95.shtml>
www.filmfestivals.com/berlin99/html/ws/news9.htm
<http://movie-reviews.colossus.net>
<http://movie-reviews.colossus.net/movies>

“If you are a student with a documented disability and registered with the Disability Resource Center, please contact me immediately to facilitate arranging academic accomodation.”

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Danish Films

Danish films have a long history. In 1896 the first "living" pictures were publicly shown in Copenhagen. The first Danish filmstrip was made in 1896-97 by Peter Elfeldt. It was called *Kørsel med grønlandske hunde* [Travel with Greenlandic Dogs]. This film is still in existence.

1906 Ole Olsen founded the Nordisk Films Co. where movies were made which were shown worldwide. *Løvejagten* [The Lion Hunt] from 1908 was one of them.

By 1910 Danish films entered a golden age as they enjoyed success both at home and abroad. *Afgrunden* [The Abyss] with Asta Nielsen and Poul Reumert was one example.

By 1913 Nordisk Films Co. was the second largest in the world. The director Carl Th. Dreyer was employed there in 1917.

Two Danish engineers, Petersen and Poulsen, invented the sound movie system. Stockbroker Carl Bauder financed this. In 1923 the first movies with sound were shown in Copenhagen. But not until 1931 after several financial crises did the production get into full bloom.

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While Danish movies kept the domestic movie market going the film industry abroad outdistanced Danish films. Not until 1965 when a school for filmmaking was opened did the development of Danish films enter the world stage again. Danish films began to win prizes at film festivals abroad such as the Film Festival in Cannes, France and at the Berlin Film Festival, Germany.

In 1987 the director Bille August received an Oscar for the movie *Babette's Feast* and in 1988 he received an Oscar for his film *Pelle the Conqueror*. Danish film had made a come back.

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Danish Films from Dreyer to Dogmer

Participants in this course will view a number of Danish films produced from 1928 to 1996. During this period Denmark went from being a serious contender to the premier place in film making on a worldwide scale to a very local film making industry. Only when the Film Institute was set up in the 1960s did the tide turn and Danish films have again taken a seat on the world stage.