

Film as High Art

Week Five | Mega-Clip Week
Dr. Gavin Keulks

Our (Awesome) Agenda

- Bicycle Thieves Review
- Films of Orson Welles
- Films of Ingmar Bergman
- Films of Federico Fellini
- Midterm Exam Overview
- Midterm Q & A
- Two breaks (~5:30 & 6:30)



Still. Good. For. You.

REVIEW: BICYCLE THIEVES

1. Yep, Bruno is very important. Hugely so. Not all of you got A's on your written assignments: details matter—as does exposition of significance.
2. The film visually “navigates” between grand and gross, high and low spaces to frame its moral & humanist questions



3. Like many Italian Neorealist films, *Bicycle Thieves* blends Marxist and Christian humanism to raise questions about the parallel relationship between:
- God and humanity
 - Government and its people
 - Fathers (or parents) and families



4. The film's poetic style/mise en scene sometimes tempers or contradicts its bleak narrative arc



5. The film's final scene both negates and confirms closure
- No closure: Ricci still has no bike, therefore no job. His quest has failed and he has "fallen" before his son's eyes.
 - Closure: Ricci has Bruno (& Maria & baby at home), more than some people
 - Bruno also helps orchestrate his father's salvation and grace
 - Ricci's stolen bike, a "Fides," translates as both "faith" and "reliance." Has he lost or found these things?



Homework

Study for the Midterm:

- Be able to define and correctly use ALL terminology
- Review ALL handouts and PowerPoints
- Watch any clips or movies you missed
- Familiarize yourself with—and be able to write about or identify—ALL in-class material, including clips

In-class, Monday, November 1st, 4:30-5:45

MIDTERM EXAMINATION

Sections of the Exam

- Know it or you don't material
 - Identifications (including directors & screencaps)
 - Definitions
 - Short Answers
 - True/false
- Paragraph Responses
- Clip-based Essay #1
 - On a major film we have discussed (ie. not today's clips)
- Clip-based Essay #2
 - On a film we haven't discussed
- Possible Extra Credit Questions

Major Material

Films & Clips

- Early Silents
 - Edison
 - Lumiere Brothers
- Un Chien Andalou
- The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari
- Bicycle Thieves
- Clips from Welles, Bergman, Fellini

Movements

- Early Inventions and Innovators
- Surrealism
- German Expressionism
- Italian Neorealism

Midterm Essay Question

The following question will apply to both of your midterm essays. I'm giving it to you in advance for practice analysis with our in-class clips.

“Analyze the mise en scene of the following clip. Watch the clip twice, taking notes on the ways its visual techniques relate to its themes and meaning. Then, using appropriate terminology, discuss these technical elements as specifically as possible. Remember, your focus should be on the ways the film's form relates to (and creates) meaning.”