

### 3/3 Notes

- Citizen Kane cntd:
  - o Welles shows you to watch the movie for the WAY its told not the ending
  - o Considered art cinema since its influenced by modernist tactics but isn't abstract
- **Narrative** is an ADDITIONAL component of style (add it to mis en scene, editing, cinematography)
- Classic Narrative: narrative style #1
  - o Linear, chronological plots
  - o have a beginning (the problem, conflict, desire, etc), a middle (goal oriented to resolve that with suspense in between), and end (resolution to the problem)
  - o invisible editing so viewers attention is drawn towards the characters and actions
  - o ex: birth of a nation, voyage to the moon, rear window, etc
- Art Cinema (Art House): narrative style #2
  - o Beginning, middle, and end are out of order
  - o Plot is not linear so seems fragmented
  - o Impressions and state of mind dominate the film
  - o Narratives develop by chance - action without a clear cause
  - o Style is evident and draws attention to peoples moods/states of mind and NOT the logic of the actions
  - o End Is usually open ended, unresolved, arbitrary
  - o Ex: dr. caligari, un chien andalou, rashomon, breathless
- Beyond Art Cinema: narrative style #3
  - o Experimental film without a narrative but in galleries
  - o Ex: return to reason, anemic cinema
- Kane: a halfway between art cinema and the classic narrative
  - o Doesn't resolve in an easy way and because of the flashbacks it feels out of order but it isn't - Thompson line is especially linear
  - o Plot: kane dies, Thompson watches news reel, then goes and visits each narrator
- **Narrative Elements**:
  - o Story: what is told - events you see and assume to have occurred, arranged by us in chronological order; viewers imaginarily construct all events together
  - o Plot: how film is told; films presentation of the events in the story; all events that are directly presented....
  - o Narration: process thorough which plot conveys or withholds information \*Carmen slides have the rest of these definitions. I couldn't write fast enough to catch it all and they aren't posted yet \*

- o Ex: Kane – the rise and fall of a powerful man/ reporter searches for the meaning of a mans final words
- o Ex: Roshoman – a man dies in the woods after a bandit rapes his wife / 3 men discuss the circumstances of a rape/murder
- **Roshomon:**
  - o Told by many people and is changed by each teller's role in the story (SIMILAR to kane BUT here there is NO objectivity and in kane the newsreel gave us objectivity)
  - o Only 8 characters in the story (Kane has a lot)
  - o Kurosawa doesn't rely on the words/literary content but instead pulls away and is nostalgic for what images/silent film can do → super famous across the world
- Opening Scene:
  - o 2 men and a stranger are there – the stranger is a FOIL for us to ask ?s viewers want to know
  - o \*check Carmen slideshow for awesome diagram of who tells what stories in the movie\*
    - all stories are told 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> hand so you should ? how reliable they are
- 1<sup>st</sup> scene with woodcutters 1<sup>st</sup> story: focus in on the environment and how calm/peaceful it is so you can tell how unprepared he is for what he is about to see
  - o there is a musical piece above the movie (no dialogue yet here) that displays his emotions as he walks and sees the items one by one
  - o the items/story are slowly unfolded with: 1. Girls hat 2. Guys hat 3. Rope cut 4. Knife case 5. Dead body
    - with 1-4 they use shot reverse shot but do NOT in 5 b/c then you'd know how the man was killed and which story was right
- in general: in the courtroom the person present in the background helps us remember who the overall story teller is
  - o ex: when the priest is telling his story the woodcutter is in the background because this story is actually being told to the stranger by the woodcutter (helps us follow)
- every story is told AND retold with different versions, each told for that specific character to save their pride – they'll even admit to murders and other heinous things if it saves their pride (ex: policeman describes catching tajomari as him falling off his horse but tajomari says it is because he drank water and got a stomach ache)
  - o everyone is willing to compromise everything for pride and will have their way in the fictional world if they cant in real life
- the woman is shown in the movie as a pawn/object between the two men and is only valued when one/both of the men say she is