

Motion Pictures

Introduction

As with Impressionistic Art which got its inspiration from photography (1839), the same is true with the invention of motion pictures. In both cases we have art developing from a scientific invention. Thus the separation of art and science is clouded. Where does one stop and the other begin? The film industry today is very much both: art – acting, lighting, color, music, staging, scenery, and the list goes on; science – film equipment, advance technology of sound, film, and the list goes on.

- A. Peter Mark Roget (1779-1869)
 - 1. English Physician
 - 2. “The Persistence of Vision with Regard to Moving Objects”
 - 3. Toys were invented such as rotating wheels, books with pictures flipped by the thumb.
 - 4. These drawn toys lead to photograph pictures as the quality of film increased, the exposure time decreased allowing the actual photographing of moving events. This moving of photographs was the invention of Edison.

- B. Thomas Alva Edison
 - 1. 1888 Edison begin as a complement to his already successful phonograph.
 - 2. William Dickerson aided Edison in developing a working camera to photograph moving events.
 - 3. Kinetoscope
 - 4. Moving pictures with sound did not work.
 - 5. “The Black Marie”
 - 6. Edison’s camera, kinetoscope, and stage was the beginning of the motion picture industry.

- C. Progression of the Filming Business
 - 1. Trick films made in Europe – heads change on the film
 - 2. The Great Train Robbery (1903) – the first film edited to present plot development.
 - 3. Nickelodeons – Nickel theaters
Contract theater (motion pictures) with theater (stage production)
By 1907, 200,000 people attended daily
Usually 20 minute film with a piano
 - 4. Movie stars
 - 5. Hour long films
 - 6. 1926, movies with sound
 - 7. 1927, The Jazz Singer – starring Al Jolson was first film with talking and singing.
 - 8. 1929 Technicolor
 - 9. 1940 Citizen Kane RKO Studios

