Directors

By:

Ashé Kennedy, Gabriel Rivera, Jon Briendel, Leah Stewart

&

Xena Gonzalez

The Role of a Director

- Filming directors came about with the birth of the film industry in the early 1900's
- Directors have many responsibilities
- Directors have many relationships
- Directors need to consider finances
- How did aspiring directors begin in the industry?

Directors Guild of America

- The Directors Guild of America is a labor organization that represents the creative and economic rights of directors and members of the directorial team working in film, television, commercials, documentaries, news, sports and new media.
- The DGA was founded in 1936 when a small group of the best-known directors of the time joined together to protect the economic and creative rights of directors in motion pictures

Best Directors Working in Hollywood Today

Ashé Kennedy

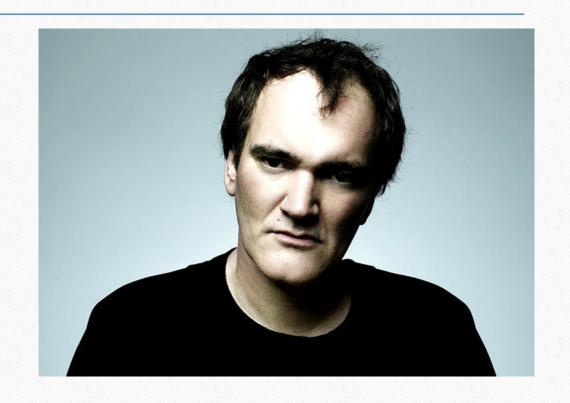
Dave Fincher

- Se7en(1995)
- Fight Club(1999)
- The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (2008)
- The Social Network (2010)
- The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo (2011)



Quentin Tarantino

- Pulp Fiction (1994)
- Kill Bill Vol. 1(2003) and 2 (2004)
- Inglorious Basterds (2009)
- Django Unchained (2012)
- The Hateful Eight (12/25/2915)



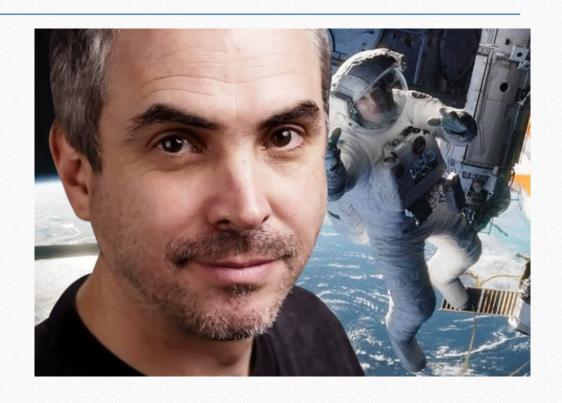
The Wachowskis

- The Matrix (1999)
- The Matrix Revisited (2001)
- Jupiter Ascending (2015)



Alfonso Cuarón

- Great Expectations (1998)
- Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban (2004)
- Children of Men (2006)
- Gravity (2013)



Steve McQueen

- Hunger (2008)
- Shame (2011)
- 12 Years a Slave (2013)



Ang Lee

- Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon (2000)
- Hulk (2003)
- Brokeback Mountain (2005)
- Life of Pi (2012)



Sir Peter Jackson

- Heavenly Creatures (1994)
- The Lord of the Rings Trilogy (2001,2002,2003)
- King Kong (2005)
- The Lovely Bones (2009)
- The Hobbit Trilody (2012, 2013,2014)



More Notable Directors Working in Hollywood Today

- Lee Daniels
- Martin Scorsese
- Richard Linklater
- Paul Thomas Anderson
- Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu
- Kathryn Bigelow
- David O'Russel

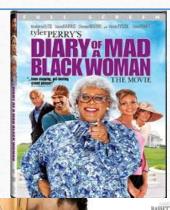
- Wes Anderson
- Bennett Miller
- Terrence Malick
- Alexander Payne
- Steven Spielberg
- James Cameron

Good Directors Who Go Unnoticed

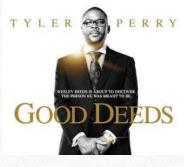
Leah Stewart

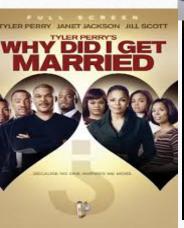
Tyler Perry

- Tyler Perry is a director, writer, producer and actor.
- He got started in the industry when he was given the opportunity to stage one of his plays which ended up selling out, gaining him more recognition with investors.
- He is well known in the African American community for playing the role Madea in the majority of his films and plays.
- First film was Diary of a Mad Black Woman in 2005.
- The total domestic growth was \$50,633,099.
- Established Tyler Perry Studios in 2006 in South West Atlanta. His studio consist of 5 sound stages, a post production facility, a 400 seat theater, back lot, private screening room, and event space.
- Central theme in all his works is forgiveness.
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EzUPEoaOmOk

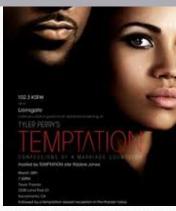












Tim Story

- At the age of 12 Tim Story began directing his own silent films on a 8mm camera that he got from his older brother..
- Tim Story debuted his talent with the 2002 film Barbershop; the film was number 1 at the box office.
- The only African American Director to have six films at number 1 at the box office in its opening week.
- His well known productions are Barbershop, Fantastic Four, Think Like a Man, Ride Along, Think Like a Man Too, Hurricane Season (TV movie), Fantastic 4: Rise of the Silver Surfer, and Taxi.
- He also directed an episode of CSI: Miami.
- Founded "the story company" financed, produced, wrote, edited, and directed 2 feature films.



James Wan



- Australian director, screen writer, and producer.
- James Wan is mainly attributed with his work on horror films.
- Directed Insidious 1 and 2, The Conjuring 1 and 2, Saw, Dead Silence, Death Sentence, as well as Fast 7 which isn't a horror film.
- Screenwriter for The Conjuring 2, Insidious 2, Dead Silence, and Saw.
- Met Leigh Whannell at Royal Melbourne Institute and they came up with the idea to do a horror story. (Saw)





Neil Burger

- Directed The illusionist, Limitless, Divergent, The lucky ones, Interview with the Assassins.
- Wrote the screenplay for The Lucky ones, Interview with the Assassins, and the Illusionist.
- Was chosen to direct divergent because of his ability to direct a large cast as well as the fact that he hasn't acted in a film before.
- "I always think about what's the difference between being tenacious and having an inability to learn from failures," (LA Times)



Doug Liman

- American director and producer.
- Started his career making independent films.
- Known for The Bourne series, The Edge of Tomorrow, Mr. & Mrs.Smith.
- Had dreams of making the Bourne Identity from reading the book as a kid.
- Flew to meet the writer Robert Ludlman, the first opportunity he had in order to get the rights.



Female Directors

Xena Gonzalez

Comparison

- The Cannes Film Festival
 - "lack of recognition..."
- American Films 2010
 - Meta Score
- San Diego State University's Center for the Study of Women in Television and Film

Penny Marshall





- Comedy
- "I don't know one lenses from another..."
- "I've directed..."
- "I want you to laugh and cry. That's what I do."
- Penny Marshall



- The Piano
 - Drama
- "I would love to see more women directors.."
- "I feel like directors are at times..."
- Jane Campion



- Comedy
- "I don't shoot movies quickly because..."
- "Movies don't look hard..."
- Nancy Meyers



- Comedy
- "For the most part...."
- "I hated that bastard..."
- Penny Marshall



- Comedy
- "I get offered..."
- "I just want to...."

Vicky Jenson





- Comedy
 - Partnership
- Steven Spielberg
- Unplanned

Catherine Hardwicke





- Drama
- "As a director, we work..."
- "Some directors..."
- Director and Star
 - Paramore



- Comedy
- "I don't feel like my films..."
- "If you do something..."
- "Making the choice to cast.."
- Postponed and Planning



• "I don't understand..." • Creative Control

From Cinematographer to Director

Jon Briendel



Wally Pfister & Christopher Nolan

- Nolan and Pfister had an incredible rapport almost from the start which is the biggest reason for their success
- Their first collaborated film, Memento, marked the beginning of a 6 film partnership as Nolan's only cinematographer
 - Including 3 Oscar nominations and 1 win for Inception
 - Insomnia, Batman Begins, The Prestige, The Dark Knight, Inception, The Dark Knight Rises
- The rapport the DP and Director was the most important aspect of their partnership.
 - Nolan will come up with an idea such as the spinning hallway scene in Inception and Pfister will figure out how to achieve it
 - The two of them have the same view on lighting both feeling natural light is better than technology used for lighting
- Many of Nolan film's most iconic scenes are actually ideas of Pfister which Nolan then writes into the script
 - Batman Begins: Batman standing on the Sears Tower at Dusk, over looking the city.
 - Inception: The shot outside the café where the city folds in on itself.
 - Interstellar: Any shot that features light bending gravity effects.

Director, Wally Pfister

- Cinematography impacted his directing
 - Pfister feels his work as a news cameraman made it easier, He also feels that his time working on major budget films allowed for a lack of intimidation on set as director
 - In working on the film his vast knowledge of lighting helped him get his ideas into his shots
- Directing was always in his future
 - He feels that directing is was always a goal for him and that then as he started to become more successful he wanted to try challenging himself
- Pfister's directorial debut with Transendance
 - There were many brand new areas, he felt his greatest challenge was directing actors and delving into their performance for the first time
 - He used connections with actors he had previously worked with to get a great cast

DP, Barry Sonnenfeld

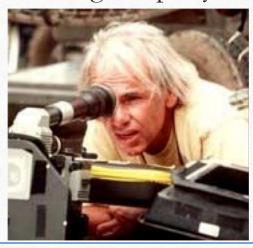
- Debut as DP, In Our Water received an Oscar nomination
- After his debut he began his career with the Coen Brothers
 - Blood Simple, Raising Arizona and Miller's Crossing
 - These 3 films are where Sonnenfeld made his name
 - Their collaborated work was successful but the rapport of the DP/Director was one of constant disagreements and conflict
- After the Coen Brothers
 - One of the most successful movies Sonnenfeld worked on was as a cinematographer in the blockbuster hit and classic, When Harry Met Sally with director Rob Reiner
 - Sonnenfeld also was the director of photography for director Penny Marshall in another blockbuster hit, Big.

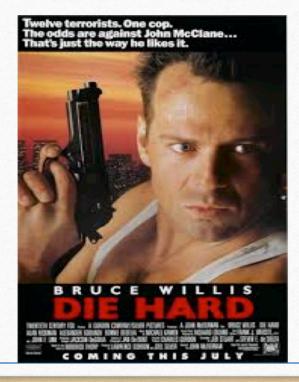
Director, Barry Sonnenfeld

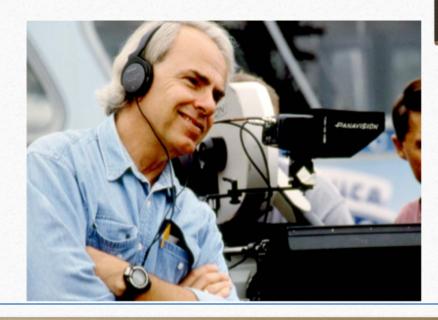
- Debut as a Director with The Addams Family
 - Sonnenfeld had a fantastic cast in his first film, Enjelica Huston, Raul Julia, Christina Ricca and Christopher Lloyd, but the film was not a hit
- Film Resume
 - The Addams Family, Addams Family Values, For the Love or Money, Get Shorty, Men in Black, Wild Wild West, Men in Black III, Big Trouble, RV, Men in Black III, and the upcoming Nine Lives
- Claim to Fame
 - Sonnenfeld's biggest success as a director was with Men In Black franchise
 - His franchise accumulated 8 academy award nominations and won 2 as well as 4 Golden globe wins, however none were for best director
- His Other Great Success, Get Shorty
 - A film about a mobster who discovers the movie business is much like his criminal job received 13 nominations and 6 wins
 - The most impressive nominations being Sonnenfeld's Golden Globe nom for Best motion picture not to mention his win at the ASCAP Film and

DP, Jan De Bont

- Debut as a DP
- Michael Chapman Fellow DP turned director
- Coming out party



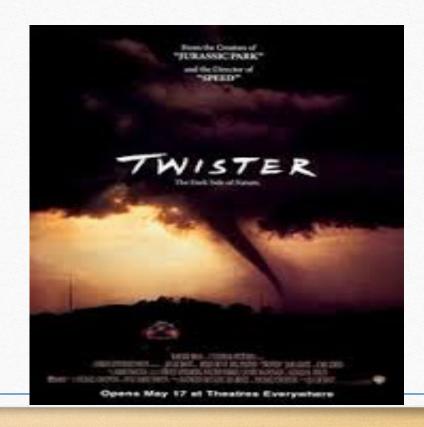




Director, Jan de Bont

- Directorial Debut, Speed
- Debut was his peak
- Second success and last success





Ernest Dickerson & Spike Lee

- Dickerson and Lee collaborated on 7 films
 - Malcolm X, Jungle Fever, Mo' Better Blues, Do the Right Thing, School Daze, She's Gotta Have It, Joe's Bed-Stuy Barbershop: We Cut Heads
- Do the Right Thing
 - Dickerson won Best Cinematographer at the New York Film Critics Circle
 - Dickerson used neo-noir saying it helps him to obtain an emotional response with compositions and lighting
 - Dickerson worked on the film from the start and was essential in the success of the film being shot in 8 weeks but was able to make it appear that the film took place in one day
- In the Spike Lee joints, Lee Considered Dickerson more of an assistant director
- Dickerson structured the riot scene in DTRT
- It was Dickerson who set up the juxtapose scenes in Mo' Better Blues

Director, Ernest Dickerson

- He always intended to become a director in his own right
 - He had written the screenplay for *Juice*, what would become his directorial debut 8 years prior, before he'd begun to cement his reputation as a talented DP
- Dickerson's Directorial Debut, Juice
 - The hip-hop film noir about the life and struggles of Tupac Shakur was not a blockbuster hit but did well considering the low budget and that it has become a cult classic
- Directors Film Resume
 - Juice, Surviving the Game, Demon Knight, Bulletproof, Ambushed, Blind Faith, Bones, Never Die Alone
- Directors Television Resume
 - The Walking Dead, Dexter, Treme, Law and Order, The Wire, CSI: Miami
 - "MOST OF THE SHOWS THAT I'VE DONE, THEY WANT ME TO COME IN AND INTERPRET THE EPISODE SCRIPT IN MY OWN WAY. SHOWS LIKE THE WIRE, DEXTER, AND THE WALKING DEAD REQUIRE A MORE CINEMATIC APPROACH TO DIRECTION". ERNEST DICKERSON
 - Won Best Direction in a drama series for the Walking Dead at the OFTA Television Awards

ACTORS TURNED DIRECTORS

After years of a successful acting career, many talented actors decide to take a shot behind the camera—Director

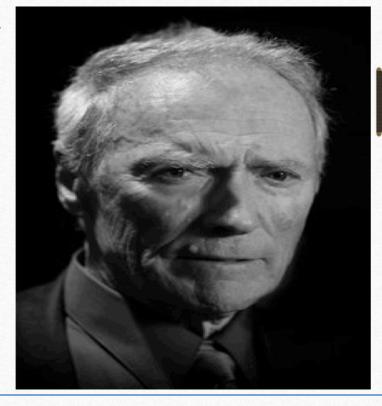
Gabriel Rivera



CLINT EASTWOOD The Director

- Acclaimed Actor and Director
- Career spans six decades
- Directorial debut was in 1971 Play Misty For Me:
 - Critical and Commercial success
 - *83% on rottentomatoes.com and 4/4 on rogerebert.com
- The Outlaw Josey Wales confirmed without a doubt his credentials as a major Director:
 - Critical and Commercial success

- Allows actors to find their way with just a few occasional supportive suggestions
- Has directed Westerns, Comedies, Cop Dramas, Biopic
- He is categorized as a genre director
- "In general his movies possess a sort of unforced naturalism of manner that is glad to bend even break with strict realism as well as with strict generic convention."



CLINT EASTWOOD THE DIRECTOR

- 5 Academy Award Nominations for Best Picture:
 - Won on his first nomination in 1992 for Unforgiven
 - Other films include: Mystic River, Million Dollar Baby, Letters from Iwo Jima, and American Sniper
- 4 Academy Award Nominations for Best Director:
 - Won on his first nomination in 1992 for Unforgiven
 - Other films include: Mystic River, Million Dollar Baby, and Letters from Iwo Jima,
- Nominated for numerous other awards

- Directing credits include 34 films
- "He is a subversive-an elusive director who does not care to be understood too quickly, who actually prefers not to let his hand show at all."

Robert Redford The Director

Acclaimed Actor

- Proving that even a great Director has failures
- Directorial Debut in 1980 Ordinary People Won him an Academy Directing style is "Characterized by long, meditative takes and by Award for Best Director in 1981
- an emotional detachment from subject matter that serves to heighten the irony of the narrative"

- 1992 A River Runs Through It:
- Scored with critics and fans
- 1994- Quiz Show Earned him another Best Director nomination
- Directed various movies that received lukewarm reviews such as:
 - 1988 The Milagro Beanfield War
 - 2000 The Legend of Bagger Vance
 - 2007 Lions for Lamb



BEN AFFLECK THE DIRECTOR

- Directorial Debut 2007 Gone Baby Gone:
 - Critical commercial success
 - \$\infty\$ 94\% on rottentomateos.com
 - Nominated for an Oscar
- 2010 The Town:
 - Critical and Commercial success
 - 93% on rottentomates.com
 - Nominated for an Oscar
- **2**012 Argo:
- Critical and commercial success

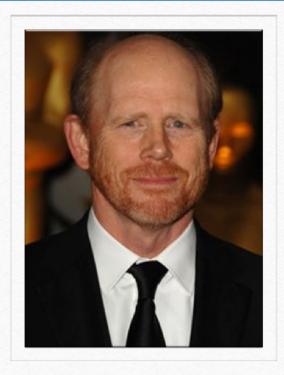
- 96 % on rottentomatoes.com
- Nominated for seven Oscars including Best Picture and Best Director
- Won three Oscars, including Best Picture for Affleck
- Actor Bryon Cranston who played the role of CIA Officer, Jack O"Donnell in "Argo" describes Affleck's directing style in an interview with the hollywoodreporter.com, "He's passionate about the subject matter. He's compassionate about the actors that he works with and what he's asking them to do. He lays responsibility on the actor, which I like."



RON HOWARD THE DIRECTOR

- Ope Taylor from The Andy Griffith Show, Richie Cunningham from Happy Days and Steve Bolander from American Graffiti
- Began shooting movies at 15 using a super 8 camera
- ♣ 1969 Short Credits under the name Ronny Howard for :
 - Old Paint, Deed of Derring,-Do and Cards, Cads, Guns, Gore & Death
- ₱ 1977 Directorial Debut Grand Theft Auto:
 - Film was a critical failure
 - 25% rottentomateos.com

- Nominal box office success
- 1982 Night Shift:
 - Critical and Commercial success
- 96% on rottentomateos.com
- 1984 Splash:
 - Established himself as a serious director
 - Both critical and commercial Success
 - 92% rottentomateos.com

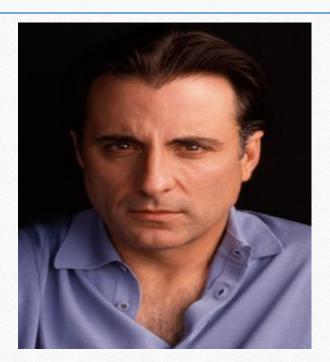


RON HOWARD THE DIRECTOR

- 1986-Cofounded Imagine Films Entertainment with Brian Grazer
- Under the film company he has produced and directed his most critically and commercially successful work:
- 1989 Parenthood
- 1995 Apollo 13: Nine Oscar nominations winning three
- 1996 Ransom
- 2000 Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas: Nominated for three Oscars winning one
- 2001 A Beautiful Mind: Eight Oscar nominations winning four including Best Picture and Director for Howard

- 2005 Cinderella Man: Three Oscar nominations
- 2006 The Da Vinci Code: Grossed more than \$750 Million Worldwide
- 2008 Frost/Nixon: Five Oscar nominations including Best Picture and Director for Howard
- 2009 Angel and Demons
- 2013 Rush
- Directing style "Howard's filmography is more eclectic than most, all his films are similar, not in any auteurist sense, but because they are merely what audiences expect of a genre film, competently made commercial stuff with no individual signature."

- Actors who have Failed
- Andy Garcia
 - The Lost City:
 - Critical and box office failure
 - 25% on <u>rottentomatoes.com</u>
 - Has not directed a film since
- Nicolas Cage
 - Sonny:
 - Critical and box office failure
 - 23% rottentmatoes.com
 - Has not directed since





- The Director is responsible for the vision of the film
- Directors are tasked with numerous duties, some of which must be delegated to others such as; the Director of Photography
- Best Directors Working in Hollywood Today
- Good Directors Who Go Unnoticed
- Women Directors
- From Cinematographer to Director
- Actors Turned Director

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