

On Cinema at the Buzzer

Questions by Will Nediger

Packet 01

1. This person talks about how adults lose their brain plasticity and reach a “plateau of stupidity” at the beginning of a film that opens with an overhead shot of this person holding a model of a human brain. In a review of another film, Pauline Kael wrote that “there’s something unknowable and almost autistic” about this person, who she calls a “stupefying performer” who “bobs his head like a chicken.” At the beginning of that 1984 film, the camera holds tight on this person’s white sneakers as he walks down a (*) stage and places a cassette player on the ground. Classical Japanese theater inspired the ridiculously large suit worn by this man during the song “Girlfriend Is Better” in a Jonathan Demme film. For 10 points, name this singer who appears in the concert film *Stop Making Sense*.

ANSWER: David Byrne (The first clue is about Spike Lee’s concert film *American Utopia*.)

2. In a film mostly set in one of these places, Xiao (“sh’yow”) catches an arrow in a porcelain cup and flicks it so that it kills the man who fired it. In the opening sequence of *Come Drink with Me*, a woman named Golden Swallow easily dispatches a gang of bandits in one of these locations. The same director’s film *The Fate of Lee Khan* is mostly set in one of these places. A film titled for one of these places is the final movie to be screened at a decrepit Taipei theater in a film by (*) Tsai Ming-liang (“t’sigh ming-lyong”). A brother-and-sister team of martial artists fend off the secret police of the eunuch Tsao in a 1967 Taiwanese film titled for one of these locations. For 10 points, a classic *wuxia* (“woo-SHAH”) film by King Hu is titled for an establishment of what type called Dragon Gate?

ANSWER: inns [or hotels or taverns; accept *Dragon Inn*; accept *Dragon Gate Inn*; accept *Goodbye, Dragon Inn*; prompt on restaurants]

3. A woman in this film throws a glass of water in a professor’s face after he tells her that he thinks she likes rolling around in the mud. This film features a slow zoom on an old woman who is explaining that she put a curse on her sister’s airplane, even though she says afterwards that she doesn’t believe in curses. The protagonist of this film exclaims “There ain’t supposed to be (*) miracles any more!” after learning that a man’s mother in Sicily miraculously got up from her deathbed. John Patrick Shanley won an Oscar for writing the screenplay to this film, in which Johnny’s fiancée has an affair with Johnny’s estranged brother Ronny, who has a prosthetic hand. The song “That’s Amore” (“ah-MOH-ray”) plays over the credits of, for 10 points, what romantic comedy starring Nicolas Cage and Cher?

ANSWER: Moonstruck

4. A director with this first name is known for the operatic sensibility on display in films like *The Death of Maria Malibran* and *Malina*. In a film by a director with this first name, the prelude to *Das Rheingold* (“doss RYNE-golt”) plays while the sky darkens as a man rests on a mountaintop during a journey to a castle. That director with this first name made a film in which a singer based on Sarah Bernhardt lip-syncs the words to (*) *Ernani* in a performance that also features Enrico Caruso. A director with this first name made a film about an Irish opera lover who dreams of building an opera house in Iquitos (“ee-KEY-tohss”) and who transports a steamship over a steep hill. For 10 points, give the first name of the director of *Fitzcarraldo*, whose last name is Herzog.

ANSWER: Werner [accept Werner Schroeter; accept Werner Herzog] (The second clue is about *Nosferatu the Vampyre*.)

5. The star of this film, now working as a farmer, telephones his co-star, now living in Alaska, in the documentary *A Thousand Suns*, which was directed by the niece of this film's director. After the main characters of this film steal some clothes, the female protagonist dons a light pink suit and a bright red hat and wields a cigarette holder. This film's opening sequence includes an unsimulated scene of a buffalo's throat being slit. Josephine Baker's (*) "Paris, Paris, Paris" ("pah-REE pah-REE pah-REE") is prominently featured in this film, whose protagonists dream of escaping to Paris. In this film, Magaye Niang ("mah-GUY n'YONG") stars as Mory, a cowherd who drives a motorcycle mounted with a bull's skull through Dakar. For 10 points, name this Djibril Diop Mambéty ("jee-BREEL dee-OP mahm-bay-TEE") film with a rhyming title.

ANSWER: Touki Bouki [accept *The Journey of the Hyena*]

6. Over a closeup on the face of a dying man in this film sitting at his fireside, the narrator says that the man is preparing to enter "an unknown country, where he was not even sure of being recognized." This film's director says "I wrote the script and directed it" over a shot of a microphone at the end of this film's spoken closing credits. In this film, Fanny's nervous breakdown is precipitated by her slumping against a (*) water heater that she realizes is no longer hot. This film's protagonist, who is embarrassed when his sleigh overturns and he has to be driven back home in a "horseless carriage," is played by Joseph Cotten. RKO destroyed over an hour of footage from this 1942 film and shot a happier ending for it. For 10 points, name this Orson Welles film based on a Booth Tarkington novel.

ANSWER: *The Magnificent Ambersons*

7. When a man criticizes this character's earrings and "cheap imitation necklace," she retorts "I've always been known to have stacks of style." This character fixes her hair and conspicuously reads a book called *India's Love Lyrics* to attract a man who dropped out of high society after his father's suicide left him penniless. As an act of self-sacrifice, this character pretends she wants to marry Ed Munn, thus deceiving a character played by (*) Anne Shirley. This character created by Olive Higgins Prouty chews on her handkerchief as she stands outside a window to watch her daughter get married to the upper-class Richard Grosvenor ("GROVE-ner") III at the end of a film directed by King Vidor. A 1937 melodrama stars Barbara Stanwyck as, for 10 points, what mother of Laurel Dallas?

ANSWER: Stella Dallas [accept Dallas before "Dallas"; accept Stella Martin]

8. A website with blurbs on all 68 extant films by this director is maintained by Dan Sallitt, who has analyzed this director's use of "shadow narratives" in films like *Every Night Dreams*. In a five-year span in the 50s, this director made five adaptations of Fumiko Hayashi novels, including one about a secretary who has an affair with a forester in French Indochina. This director's many collaborations with Hideko (*) Takamine ("tah-kah-mee-nay") include a 1960 film in which the hostess Keiko dreams of opening her own bar, with the steps that she has to climb every day symbolizing her financial dependence on the male-dominated order. For 10 points, name this director of pessimistic dramas like *Floating Clouds* and *When a Woman Ascends the Stairs*.

ANSWER: Mikio Naruse ("NAH-ruh-say")

9. A film based on this book includes the epigraph "The truth lies not in one dream, but in many." A traveling matte shot in a film based on this book was the first usage of the bluescreening process, invented by Larry Butler. In a film based on this book, a man shoots a dildo-tipped arrow into a woman's vagina. This book was the basis for the oldest surviving animated feature film, which was made using a silhouette technique invented by (*) Lotte Reiniger ("RYNE-ig-er"). A film based on this book stars Douglas Fairbanks as a man who uses a cloak of invisibility to get past some guards. Adaptations of this book, *The Decameron*, and *The Canterbury Tales* make up Pasolini's Trilogia di Vita. For 10 points, name this classic book that inspired *The Thief of Bagdad*.

ANSWER: *One Thousand and One Nights* [or *The Arabian Nights* 'Entertainment or *The Book of the Thousand Nights and One Night* or *'Alf Laylah wa-Laylah*]

10. **The dark yellow urine of a character in this film is revealed in an overhead shot that pans between the two main characters sitting in adjacent bathroom stalls. The protagonist of this film pictures a starfish-like Mac screensaver when she dissociates during a tense scene in a motel room. This film includes a montage of men pulling down their underwear in a sequence in which (*) Stefani (“Stephanie”) makes thousands of dollars in one night after the protagonist edits her Backpage advertisement. The narrator of this film asks “You wanna hear a story about how me and this bitch fell out?” and proceeds to tell the story of how she was roped into going to Florida with a fellow stripper and her pimp. For 10 points, name this 2020 Janicza (“juh-NIK-suh”) Bravo film based on a viral Twitter thread.**

ANSWER: Zola

11. **In a short with this adjective in its title, a shot of a woman on a swing is interrupted by a rapidfire series of images including three wine bottles and a smiling mouth. An essay whose most common English title includes this adjective claims that Abel Gance (“gahnss”) unwittingly issued an invitation for cinema to liquidate “the traditional value of the cultural heritage.” George Antheil (“AN-tile”) wrote the music for a Dadaist film by Dudley Murphy and Fernand (*) Léger (“fair-NAHN lay-ZHAY”) titled for this kind of “ballet.” A character whose name combines a shortened form of this adjective with “Godzilla” fights Godzilla in a 1974 film. For 10 points, what kind of reproduction is inherent to the creation of film, according to a Walter Benjamin (“VAHL-ter BEN-yah-meen”) essay about works of art?**

ANSWER: mechanical [accept *Ballet Mécanique*; accept “The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction”; prompt on Mechagodzilla]

12. **Completely black screens alternate with closeups of this actor in a scene in which this actor, in voiceover, recites a poem beginning “Your voice, your eyes, your hands, your lips.” That scene is from a science-fiction film that ends with this actor’s character, the previously emotionless Natacha, haltingly saying “I love you.” An iconic closeup of this Danish-born actor shows (*) tears running down her cheeks as she watches *The Passion of Joan of Arc*. This actor’s husband fictionalized their rocky relationship in the film *Contempt*. Coco Chanel helped this actor come up with her Tolstoy-inspired stage name. For 10 points, name this star of many 1960s films by Jean-Luc Godard (“goh-DAR”), including *Alphaville* and *Vivre sa vie* (“VEEV-ruh sah VEE”).**

ANSWER: Anna Karina [or Hanne Karin Bayer]

13. **One of these events is the subject of a William Selig film starring two members of the vaudeville group The Rag-Time Four. A film reenacting one of these events from the play *The Widow Jones* inspired many imitators, including a George Albert Smith film set in a tunnel. The earliest known onscreen depiction of one of these events involving African Americans was in the film (*) *Something Good*, which was rediscovered in 2017 and added to the National Film Registry the next year. A public uproar was caused by an 1896 film produced by Thomas Edison’s studio that showed May Irwin and John Rice engaging in this action. For 10 points, name this action which, in the Hays Code era, was generally not allowed to last for more than three seconds.**

ANSWER: kisses [accept *Something Good* — *Negro Kiss*; accept *The Kiss*; accept *The Kiss in the Tunnel*]

14. **An incident in which people were held hostage in one of these locations is the subject of a documentary by *Elite Squad* director José Padilha (“zhoo-ZEH pah-JEEL-yuh”). The picture turns from sepia tone to color as the survivors of a hostage situation in one of these locations reach the top of a mountain at the end of Shinji Aoyama’s *Eureka*. While holding people hostage in one of these locations, a villain asks for a flight out of the (*) Santa Rosa airport, a demand which is ignored by the protagonist. A sing-along of songs like “Row, Row, Row Your Boat” is led by Scorpio after he takes people hostage in one of these locations in *Dirty Harry*. For 10 points, name this type of vehicle which a terrorist played by Dennis Hopper rigs with a bomb in the film *Speed*.**

ANSWER: buses [accept school buses or city buses; accept Bus 174 or Ônibus 174; prompt on vehicles before “vehicle”]

15. A man and a woman in this film have a conversation while looking at each other through a piece of embroidery that shows a woman leading a child by the hand. This film both begins and ends with scrolling shots of a piece of illuminated sheet music with the shadow of a cross over it, but at the end a pair of dissolves remove the music and replace the cross with a grave marker. After a woman in this film delivers a monologue declaring that she wishes her husband was dead, her husband calls out the name (*) “Martin” and dies of a stroke. A children’s choir sings this film’s title song as Herlof’s Marte (“HER-loffs MAR-tuh”) is burned at the stake for witchcraft. Anne confesses to being responsible for her husband Absalon Pedersson’s death at the end of, for 10 points, what 1943 Carl Theodor Dreyer (“dryer”) film?

ANSWER: Day of Wrath [or Vredens dag]

16. A director born in this country declared “I do not intend to speak about; just speak nearby” in the voiceover to her ethnographic film about Senegal’s Serer (“say-RARE”) people, titled *Reassemblage*. In a film set in this country, sustained shots of linens and sandals accompany the sound of a servant telling the story of Tho (“toh”), a young girl who fell ill during one of her father’s many absences and died. That film set in this country ends with the pregnant protagonist reading poetry to the pianist who abandoned his (*) fiancée for her, shortly after she is seen preparing the title fruit. A director born in this modern-day country made *Cyclo* and *The Scent of Green Papaya*. For 10 points, what modern-day Asian country is a setting for American films like *Casualties of War* and *Platoon*?

ANSWER: Socialist Republic of Vietnam [or Cộng hòa Xã hội chủ nghĩa Việt Nam] (The directors clued are Trinh T. Minh-ha and Trần Anh Hùng.)

17. The camera zooms in on this film’s villain as he tells the protagonist “I bet [your wife] was a real beautiful girl before she met you,” prompting the sweat-drenched protagonist to threaten the villain with a gun. This film ends with a drought finally breaking as the protagonist’s wife Alice waves joyfully at him. In this film, Alex Potter’s body is hung from a chandelier in a hotel in Contention City, where (*) Ben tries to convince Dan to give up his quest for a \$200 reward. This film’s theme song, performed by Frankie Laine, describes an object that “whistles its sad refrain.” This Delmer Daves film was remade in 2007 by James Mangold, with Russell Crowe and Christian Bale. For 10 points, name this 1957 western in which a rancher escorts an outlaw to the title train in the Arizona Territory.

ANSWER: 3:10 to Yuma

18. A landowner promises an orisha that he will give away his land to the poor and perform this action if his donkey recovers from its illness in the film *O Pagador de Promessas* (“oo pah-gah-DOR jee proh-MEH-sahss”). A priest dreams that he is performing this action in the streets of Stockholm in Roy Andersson’s *About Endlessness*. A slow-motion scene in a 1988 film includes an overhead tracking shot of Willem Dafoe’s character performing this action, followed by shots of onlookers (*) laughing at him. A reluctant man who protests that he is innocent is forced to help a character played by Jim Caviezel (“kuh-VEE-zul”) perform this action in a 2004 blockbuster directed by Mel Gibson. For 10 points, name this action which Simon of Cyrene helps the protagonist perform in a scene from *The Passion of the Christ*.

ANSWER: carrying a cross [or carrying a crucifix; prompt on walking by asking “What else is he doing while walking?”]

19. A director of this ethnicity theorized a form of montage based on the disjunction rather than the junction of shots, which he called “distance montage.” That director combined Vivaldi with this ethnicity’s folk music on the soundtrack of the documentary *Seasons of the Year*. In a shot from another film, a boy of this ethnicity lies on a church roof surrounded by hundreds of open (*) books whose pages flutter in the wind. A map of an ancient kingdom of this ethnicity is formed by the juice spilling from some fruit onto a white cloth in a 1969 film inspired by a poet of this ethnicity named Sayat-Nova (“sah-YAHT noh-VAH”); that film is *The Color of Pomegranates*. For 10 points, name this ethnicity of Sergei Parajanov (“pah-RAH-jah-nov”).

ANSWER: Armenians [or hayer] (The first two clues are about Artavazd Peleshyan.)

20. Because over 50% of this film’s dialogue is in English, Joseph Cedar’s *Beaufort* was submitted for Best Foreign Language Film instead of this movie. At the beginning of this film, the lines “Not many remember this. It was not that important” appear on screen before a shot of the main characters standing in a line wearing powder blue uniforms. The seductive café owner Dina is played by Ronit Elkabetz in this film, in which the lack of (*) “p” sounds in Arabic is responsible for a miscommunication in which a group from Alexandria ends up in Beit Hatikva (“bait hah-TEEK-vah”). “Welcome to Nowhere” and “Omar Sharif” are songs from the Broadway adaptation of this film. For 10 points, name this 2007 Israeli film about a musical group’s stay in a small desert town.

ANSWER: *The Band’s Visit* [or *Bikur Ha-Tizmoret*]