

A Brief History of Cinema

By Sam Baron

BLACK.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

There was a time, many years ago,
when life was simple.

FADE IN:

EXT. FIELD - DAY

A man in ragged clothes is smashing at the soil with a pickaxe, working hard, concentrated.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

All the boys grew up to be men,
and worked in the fields with
their fathers.

A small boy runs up to the man, also in ragged clothes, and produces something from behind his back. It is a small pickaxe. The father's eyes light up, and he picks his son up off the ground and squeezes him to his chest.

He puts him down, and they start going at the soil together, in time with the music.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

And all the girls grew up to be
women, and did an smashing job at
it too.

We now see a woman and her daughter, both dressed alike in ragged clothes, each with a bucket in their arms, each stirring the bucket with a big wooden spoon in time with the music.

The man and his son look up from their work, and, simultaneously, wolf-whistle at the woman and daughter. They then go back to their work.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

But, in 1824, an English physician
wrote a paper that destroyed this
idyllic lifestyle - forever.

CUT TO:

INT. DARK ROOM

A man is sitting at a typewriter. He is sitting up straight, blinking with ferocity. All of a sudden he stops, and his eyes light up. He begins bashing at the typewriter, the words pouring out.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

His name was Peter Mark Roget, and he introduced the principle that images remain on the human retina for longer than they're actually there, causing the images to blur into the illusion of motion.

He finishes, and jumps up, running out the door.

CUT TO:

EXT. BUSY STREET - CONTINUOUS.

He is running up to people, trying to show them his paper. They ignore him.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Thankfully, no one listened to him. Well, not until 1891, when William Kennedy Laurie Dickson demonstrated his Kinetoscope, the first commercial film projection apparatus.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - DAY

A man in a suit stands by a table. He is surrounded by a large crowd.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

By 1895 an American store on Broadway was set up, where people could pay to watch the Kinetoscope.

CUT TO:

MAP OF THE WORLD

A large red dot appears over New York.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

The first Kinetoscope showing in

Europe was in Berlin later that
Year.

The red dot produces a red line, which heads over to
Berlin, where it rests in a dot, before heading over to
Paris, and staying there.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

However, the quality was poor, and
it took two French men to really debut
the motion picture, one month later, in
Paris - the Lumière brothers.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - DAY

Two men in suits with moustaches hi-five, then pull out
French baguettes and start eating.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Of course, once cinema became trendy,
production started all over.

CUT TO:

EXT FIELD - DAY

The man and his son are still working the fields with
pickaxes. We pull back, to see they are being filmed on a
very primitive camera. The director is sitting in a fold-
out chair, yelling instructions through a mega-phone.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Any Tom, Dick, or Harry with a mega-
phone