



# MARTIN SCORSESE

AUTEUR PRESENTATION

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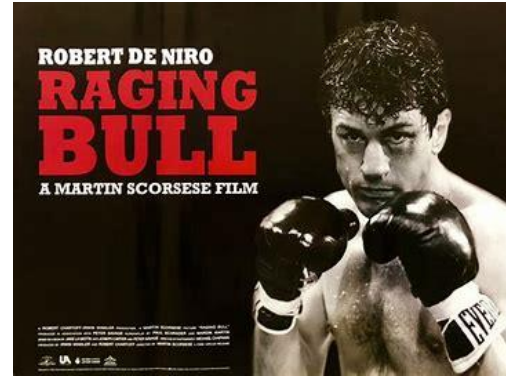


# BIOGRAPHY

- Martin Charles Scorsese (**born on November 17, 1942, in the Flushing area of New York City's Queens borough**) is an American film and television director, producer, screenwriter, and film historian, in addition to occasionally serving as an actor.
- As a boy, he had **asthma and could not play take part** in activities, so his parents and his older brother would often take him to **movie theatres**; it was at this stage in his life that he developed a passion for cinema
- He graduated the all-boys **Cardinal Hayes High School** in the Bronx, in **1960**. He had wanted to become a **priest, but failed** after the first year. This gave way to cinema and consequently Scorsese enrolled in **NYU's Washington Square College**
- While attending the **Tisch School of the Arts**, Scorsese made the short films *What's a Nice Girl Like You Doing in a Place Like This?* (1963) and *It's Not Just You, Murray!* (1964).
- In **1967**, Scorsese made his **first feature-length film**, the black and white *I Call First*, which was later retitled *Who's That Knocking at My Door*, with his fellow students actor Harvey Keitel and editor Thelma Schoonmaker, both of whom were to become long-term collaborators

# SELECT FILMOGRAPHY

- Who's That Knocking At My Door (1967)
- Mean Streets (1973)
- Taxi Driver (1976)
- New York, New York (1977)
- Raging Bull (1980)
- The King of Comedy (1982)
- After Hours (1985)
- Goodfellas (1990)
- Cape Fear (1991)
- Casino (1995)
- Gangs of New York (2002)
- The Aviator (2004)
- The Departed (2006)
- Shutter Island (2010)
- The Wolf of Wall Street (2013)
- The Irishman (2019)



# GENRES

- Crime
- Drama
- Thriller
- (Dark) Comedy
- Biography

# MESSAGES

- Karma/Lifestyle of Crime and/or betrayal/violence never works out for anyone
- Perception changes everything/trust and illusion
- Romance/love often equals tragedy
- Good doesn't always prevail/expect unexpected







# NARRATIVE THEMES

- Unreliable protagonist/mentally unstable narrator/lens
- Lack of morality/ no real 'good' character, a conflict between equally dark characters
- Tragedy/ false sense of closure or security before downfall and the journey of characters becomes arguably worthless
- Flawed male protagonist is given a sympathetic perspective
- Violence/ unethical acts are fought with further violence/unethical acts rather than solved peacefully.

# CINEMATOGRAPHY

- Low angle shots
- High angle shots
- Close ups (often one point perspective)
- Steadicam/tracking shots





## EDITING

- Montages (rhythmic or sometimes alongside narration)
- Unprecedented flashbacks or visions, their space in the timeline ambiguous (e.g. Teddy's hallucinations and dreams of his dead wife in Shutter Island)
- Kuleshov effect (sometimes used to compliment close ups)



# SOUNDTRACK

- Narration
- Needle drop moments (often a use of the same widely identifiable song in multiple films, sometimes to completely contrast the events of a scene which can add unease or doubt)
- Score which correlates to a main theme or identity of the story or characters (i.e. use of U2 in Gangs of New York)
- ominous/subtle underscore to build tension





# MISE EN SCENE

- Colour themes seen via props/set to create a tone or atmosphere (Blue/Misty Grey (mystery) - Shutter Island, Earthy colours (alludes to routine) - The Aviator)
- A motif created by an object or place (i.e. the taxi used to mirror the thread of sanity and meaningless of the routine of everyday life in Taxi Driver)
- Detailed and bold, period accurate costumes
- Main male leads - Robert De Niro, Leonardo DiCaprio



# SOURCE LIST

- [How Martin Scorsese Straddled Hollywood and Auteur Filmmaking ‹ Literary Hub \(lithub.com\)](#)
- [Martin Scorsese - Wikipedia](#)
- (above links referenced on slide 'BIOGRAPHY')
- (pictures from Google)