



Smithsonian Associates

How To Watch Movies Like a Film Professor

With Marc Lapadula

Monday, July 19, 2021 - 6:30 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. ET

Some Questions to Ask After Watching a Film

1. What genre or blending of genres does this film fit into?
2. What was the director, in league with the screenwriter(s), attempting to say about society with this movie? What socio-political issues was it dealing with, especially on a rich subtextual level?
3. How successful was the film at world-building? Did it convincingly create a sense of time and place in the execution of the narrative?
4. How would you characterize the film's tone? Was it consistently sustained throughout the course of the narrative? Did it need to be? Shifts in tone do occur.
5. Do the characters speak in well-delineated voices? Are they brought to three-dimensional life with believable and layered character personality arcs? How do characters change and evolve as individuals in the unfolding of the story? What major plot points hasten such change to happen?
6. Was the movie's ending satisfying? Did the climax/ resolution justify, in retrospect, everything that occurred throughout the narrative leading up to it or did it feel inorganically grafted onto the denouement?