



*"In many ways, the work of a critic is easy. We risk very little, yet enjoy a position over those who offer up their work and their selves to our judgment. We thrive on negative criticism, which is fun to write and to read. But the bitter truth we critics must face, is that in the grand scheme of things, the average piece of junk is probably more meaningful than our criticism designating it so. But there are times when a critic truly risks something, and that is in the discovery and defense of the \*new\*. The world is often unkind to new talent, new creations. The new needs friends."*

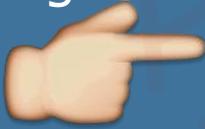


# I'm A Critic-All About Movie Reviews

B1-B2

Module 4

Here's What We  
Will Be Learning  
in this  
Presentation:



# Summary

- Who is a Film Critic?
- What Makes a Film Critic the Best?
- 2 Well-Known Film Critics.
- Exercises to Develop Your Critical Writing Skills.

# Vocabulary

**Proficient:** Competent or skilled in doing or using something. For example: Lana is a proficient singer.

**Forge:** (In this context) to form or make, especially by concentrated effort. For example: They forged a firm friendship which lasted a lifetime.

**Blogosphere:** The realm of Internet blogs and the people who read or write them. For example: The blogosphere is now a medium to reach out to people from varied cultural backgrounds.

**Film criticism** is the analysis and evaluation of films and the film medium. In general, film criticism can be divided into two categories: journalistic criticism found regularly in newspapers, magazines and other popular mass-media outlets. Second is academic criticism by film scholars who use film theory and is published in academic journals.

**“NO CRITIC WRITING ABOUT A FILM COULD SAY MORE THAN THE FILM ITSELF, ALTHOUGH THEY DO THEIR BEST TO MAKE US THINK THE OPPOSITE.”**

**FEDERICO FELLINI**

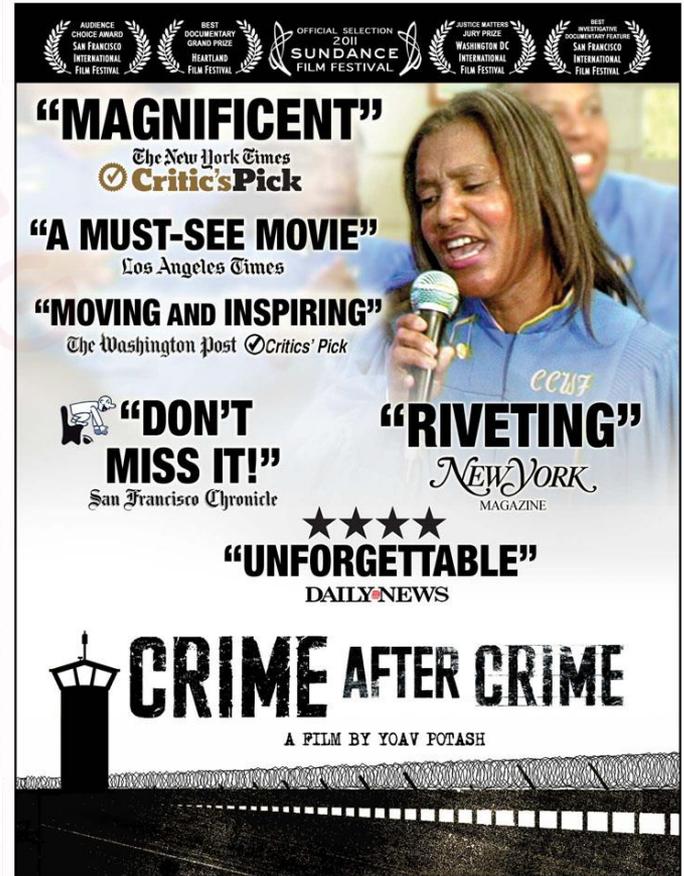
Movie critics evaluate, rate, and share their views without giving too much of the plot away. If you're thinking about a career as a movie critic, you will likely need a bachelor's degree in film studies, journalism or cinematography. Internships are a good way to gain experience in this field.

### **What do Film Critics do?**

Film Critics work in journalism, watching and reviewing movies for the general public. It's fun work, however, a wealth of knowledge is needed to become proficient. One has to be well-spoken, a good writer, clever and fresh with each new movie – good and the not so good ones.



Movie reviews are published by editors of media outlets viz., magazine, newspaper, news show, website, blog...they have to be entertaining as well as combine elements of the movie and audience response. Reviews guide people's cinematic decisions in a whole lot of mediums, from newspapers to twitter. This eventually affects a movie's ticket sales value.





Valentine's Day is being marketed as a Date Movie. I think it's more of a First-Date Movie. If your date likes it, do not date that person again. And if you like it, there may not be a second date.

(Roger Ebert)

Like Jay-Z is for rappers, Roger Ebert was the most widely recognized movie critic ever. He was known for entertaining, witty, and often heartfelt reviews—while working for the Chicago Sun Times—since 1967. He forged a 40-plus-year career conquering print media, the online blogosphere, and even television. He co-hosted the groundbreaking show 'At the Movies' with Gene Siskel (former Chicago Tribune critic). Together, they made upward and downward thumbs iconic. Ebert's congratulatory reviews were top-notch, yet his negative reviews of poor cinema were more delightful to read.

André Bazin's book 'What is Cinema?' is still taught in film classes today, it's the definitive explanation about movies as a medium, offering ground-breaking views on visual storytelling, with a special fondness for patience and duration.

He also co-founded the game-changing magazine '[Cahiers du Cinéma](#)' in 1951, through which Bazin and his colleagues introduced the [auteur theory](#) that has since helped to contextualize the classic films made by the likes of Fritz Lang, Howard Hawks, and Alfred Hitchcock.



Every image is to be seen as an object and every object as an image.

Andre Bazin

# Exercise 1

**Choose words which are appropriate to complete and rewrite the below sentences.**

- 1) We felt like '24 Carson Road' would never finish! The story was so \_\_\_\_\_ (fast-paced/slow).
- 1) I was completely engrossed in the movie; it was \_\_\_\_\_ (boring/riveting).
- 1) After all the hype, the sequel was \_\_\_\_\_ (clever/disappointing). It was a waste of time and money!
- 1) Some of the scenes between the lovers made us laugh. The plot was a mix of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (drama and suspense/romance and comedy).
- 1) After about 30 minutes the movie becomes \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (charming and insightful/uninteresting and weak). We wanted to get up and leave immediately!

# Exercise 2

**Use any of these adjectives to write your own movie reviews.  
(Atleast 5)**

Absorbing	Insightful	Clever	Charming	Comical	Powerful	Thought-Provoking
Flawed	Boring	Juvenile	Distasteful	Weak	Uninteresting	Disappointing
Dramatic	Slow	Romantic	Fast-Moving	Riveting	Sentimental	Suspenseful

# Exercise 3

**Write down short answers to these questions.**

1. What are the two types of film criticism?
1. What are the essentials to choose film criticism as a career option?
1. What is the impact of movie reviews?
1. What do you think is “upward and downward thumbs”? Where did it come from?
1. Who was André Bazin?