

Great Directors: Kubrick

Barry Lyndon 1975

Friday, November 28 - Thursday, December 4, 2008



Film Information

Directed by
Stanley Kubrick

Language
English

Running Time
184 minutes

Film Notes

Experience BARRY LYNDON on the big screen and you can honestly say you've seen a film that looks like no other. That's because Kubrick's period drama, winner of four Academy Awards and nominated for another three (including Best Director and Best Picture), was shot unlike any movie before or since.

Lighting any film is tricky business, but lighting a film set pre-electricity and trying to make it look natural is nearly impossible. "Prior to BARRY LYNDON, the problem has never been properly solved," Kubrick said at the time of the film's release. "Even if the director and cameraman had the desire to light with practical light sources, the film and the lenses were not fast enough to get an exposure. A 35mm movie camera shutter exposes at about 1/50 of a second, and a useable exposure was only possible with a lens at least 100% faster than any which had ever been used on a movie camera."

Ever the perfectionist, Kubrick found his lens at NASA, which required such speeds for satellite photography. Necessity being the mother of invention, he adapted it to work with motion picture equipment—no small task—and in doing so produced a film that has the look and feel of an 18th century painting.

Despite the awards, initial reaction toward BARRY LYNDON

was mixed, but the film's reputation has grown since its release. Martin Scorsese, who cites the film as his favorite Kubrick picture, once called it the director's "boldest project."

"You go to movies to be involved in the picture, to lose [yourself] up on that screen for a few hours, and in a sense know what it's like to be human in a way," Scorsese said in an interview after Kubrick's death. "Then you come across certain films that when you go to the theater and see them, you're completely surprised. They make you look at life a different way, they make you look at being human a different way. They touch areas that you don't want touched sometimes. They provoke you, which is good. And then there's that rarest of films, that when you see it continuously... you still see more in it. And what's even better, if you're making pictures, you go back to this well, this source, for (a) inspiration and (b), to learn, to learn how to make pictures."

—Casey



OMAHA'S OWN
NONPROFIT CINEMA
402.933.0259
FILMSTREAMS.ORG



RUTH SOKOL
1340 WEBSTER
OMAHA, NE
FILMSTREAMS

DEVOTED TO THE PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF FILM AS AN ART FORM · DE

“Money, well-timed and properly applied, can accomplish anything.”

More Information

Screenplay by
Stanley Kubrick

Based on the novel by
William Makepeace Thackeray

Featuring
Ryan O’Neal
Marisa Berenson
Patrick Magee
Hardy Krüger
Steven Berkoff
Gay Hamilton
Marie Kean

Cinematography by
John Alcott

Art Direction by
Roy Walker

Film Editing by
Tony Lawson

Country of Origin
UK

“I have had a complete set of Thackeray sitting on my bookshelf at home for years, and I had to read several of his novels before reading *Barry Lyndon*. At one time, *Vanity Fair* interested me as a possible film but, in the end, I decided the story could not be successfully compressed into the relatively short time-span of a feature film. This problem of length, by the way, is now wonderfully accommodated for by the television miniseries which, with its ten- to twelve-hour length, pressed on consecutive nights, has created a completely different dramatic form. Anyway, as soon as I read *Barry Lyndon* I became very excited about it. I loved the story and the characters, and it seemed possible to make the transition from novel to film without destroying it in the process. It also offered the opportunity to do one of the things that movies can do better than any other art form, and that is to present historical subject matter. Description is not one of the things that novels do best but it is something that movies do effortlessly, at least with respect to the effort required of the audience.”

—Stanley Kubrick

Also Recommended, by Kubrick

Lolita 1962
Eyes Wide Shut 1999