Assignment 02 (due: 2/24/2016)

Director’s Cut

The internet archive (www.archive.org) is the most comprehensive digital library of free audio/visual materials available to all for free downloading and reuse.

For assignment 02 I ask you to use films from this online resource (and only this resource!), cut them up, and recombine them to create a new video with new meaning based on the found footage from the archive. Apply strategies of continuity and montage to create new narratives from previously unrelated material and turn your final composition into a video of a maximum length of 2 minutes.

Please also turn in a written project description (2 paragraphs maximum) addressing the following aspects of your work:

- Title of your work
- What is the idea behind the work?
- How does the new arrangement of the found video and audio footage express meaning – what do you want your audience to take away from the experience?
- Are there any other aspects that inspired/motivated your work or can be used to contextualize your work (for example other artworks, social/political/cultural/environmental/economic issues)?
- Is there a relationship between the context of the original found materials and the final composition (e.g. you can think about montage strategies to deliberately critique or invert the intention behind the original footage)

The final video will be presented as an MPEG 4 movie from your portfolio thumbdrive in class.

Goals:
- Explore the potential of editing techniques to create temporal montages and new meaning out of existing footage
- Use a public domain media archive as a project resource and be aware of digital rights as a challenge and chance of contemporary art production.
- Learn to distribute your videos in form of a DVD

What to turn in:
- Digital video file, H.264 compression (.mp4 container), no longer than 2 minutes
- Written project description printed out, no longer than 2 paragraphs
"Following Lenin's admonition that "Film is the most important of the arts", the first film school in the world, the USSR State School on Cinema Art, was founded following the Soviet victory in 1917. In charge was a young film-maker by the name of Lev Kuleshov. Under his tutelage, a workshop for the development of Soviet Film makers was organized at the school. This workshop operated under the most severe material handicaps, principal amongst which was the almost total shortage of raw film stock, which prevented them from shooting their own footage with which to experiment. As a result, in order to both develop their various theories and begin to work with film in spite of these shortages, the members of the workshop began to reedit whatever existing footage they were able to forage. The subsequent experiments with this "found footage" led them to discoveries about the nature and effect of film editing which subsequently developed not only into whole theoretical constructs, but which theories also formed the basis of the films they subsequently went on to make."

Further Resources

- The Rosebud Project: A Film Studies Resource [http://mith2.umd.edu/clients/mlifton/rosebud_old](http://mith2.umd.edu/clients/mlifton/rosebud_old) (unfortunately no longer available online – under construction!)

- Alfred Hitchcock on cutting/editing: A Talk with Hitchcock (from the 1964 television series "Telescope") – excerpt on [www.youtube.com/watch?v=NG0V7EVFZt4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NG0V7EVFZt4)

- Francis Ford Coppola on editing (see: [http://www.achievement.org/autodoc/page/cop0int-1](http://www.achievement.org/autodoc/page/cop0int-1)):

  "The essence of cinema is editing. It's the combination of what can be extraordinary images, images of people during emotional moments, or just images in a general sense, but put together in a kind of alchemy. A number of images put together a certain way become something quite above and beyond what any of them are individually."
Student Work Examples

- Ariana Filippini, The Fun of Making Friends
- Aaron Doenges, Grindcore Radio

Artist Examples

- Bruce Conner:
  A Movie (1958) http://www.criticalcommons.org/Members/ccManager/clips/bruceconneramovie50deinterlaced.mp4/view


- Dara Birnbaum:
  Technology/Transformation: Wonderwoman (1978/79) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k6xZOUXNyQg


- Martin Arnold
  Passage à l’acte (1993) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UCnph6Clz3A