

Screen Epiphanies

By Geoffrey Macnab



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What is your earliest or most significant film memory?

In *Screen Epiphanies*, the BFI has drawn together a series of revealing and incredibly touching interviews with a host of leading international filmmakers including Martin Scorsese, Lars von Trier, Danny Boyle, Mike Figgis and Stephen Frears in which they discuss their early encounters with film culture. It also includes a previously unseen interview with the late Anthony Minghella.

Each and every director's 'epiphany' is different and remarkable whether it is the lasting impression made by a single ephemeral moment in a film long forgotten by others; a movie which captured their imagination and inspired them creatively; or the overall magical effect of going to the cinema and the nostalgia of an early film-related experience. With refreshing frankness and clarity some of the directors describe the hurdles they had to overcome because of race, class or gender to break into the movie industry. Films were a support to many, they describe how they identified with the themes growing up and how they were inspired to pursue a filmmaking career. Their experiences of film and film-making styles may differ radically but what stands out from each director's epiphany is their genuine passion and enduring respect for film.

Geoffrey Macnab is a freelance journalist and author based in London. He writes for the *Guardian*, the *Independent* and *Sight & Sound*, among other publications. His books include *J Arthur Rank and the British Film Industry* (1994), *Searching for Stars: Stardom and Screen Acting in British Cinema* (2000) and *The Making of Taxi Driver* (2006).

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