



**First Light Media Publishing • VisionQuest Video & Audio
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For immediate release

Educational DVD decodes film language elements

Los Angeles, California, 3/10/5 – Film and cinema enthusiasts love nothing more than getting lost in a compelling story. They relate to the characters, feel the tension of the action and memorize favorite bits of dialogue.

But are they getting the whole picture?

Recently a film-studies professor and media arts educational video company joined forces to unravel some of the complexities of filmmaking and help viewers understand its specialized language.

A Movie Lover's Guide to Film Language: Classic Scenes from Timeless Films,
(2004, First Light Video \$19.95 DVD/VHS)

www.firstlightvideo.com/Visual_Language_Media_Studies.html

re-released by First Light Media Publishing for the consumer market, identifies and explains the main elements of cinematic language: Lighting, Camera, Mise en Scene, Sound and Editing, with clips from five classic films and guided voice-over commentary. Communication and Film Studies Professor Thomas Valasek of Raritan Valley Community College in New Jersey, wrote, directed and narrated *A Movie Lover's Guide*. Each lesson is underscored by scenes from the following films: Carol Reed's "The Third Man" (Lighting), Buster Keaton's "The General" (Camera), Fritz Lang's "M" (Mise en scene), Sergei Eisenstein's "Alexander Nevsky" (Sound), and Alfred Hitchcock's "Sabotage" (Editing).

The interactive program disc allows viewers to go directly from the introduction, to any of the five lessons, to supplementary information about the classic films or to the glossary of film terms used in the program.

Valasek says that all film lovers can benefit from *Movie Lover's Guide*, by looking at the subtleties of timeless classics. What ordinarily affects viewers on a subliminal level, now becomes a whole new way to experience film. Students are often amazed at what could be done with film 50 to 60 years ago, he says.

Having used film clips in his classes for several years, Valasek says the technique brings immediacy to learning that today's student can relate to.

"Everyone now is so accustomed to MTV that anything older than five years is virtually antique," Valasek says. "Today's college-age student is used to very quick cutting, which can lead to overlooking the powerful but often subtle technique used in dramatic films. Students watch this and say, 'Ah-hah, now I see.'"

Each clip incorporates a brief overview of the topic covered, then the original scene from a classic film, followed again by the same clip with voice-over, insight into the significant cinematic elements of the clip.

A Movie Lover's Guide to Film Language is available on VHS and DVD from First Light Video, <http://www.firstlightvideo.com>.

Further information and review copies are available by contacting cwilson@firstlightvideo.com or by calling (310) 574-0886.

First Light Media Publishing - the largest single source of instructional programming on the Media Arts and Mass Communication studies. As one of the most important teaching resources for students, educators, institutions & professionals, First Light Media programs provide unique and valuable teaching opportunities.

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