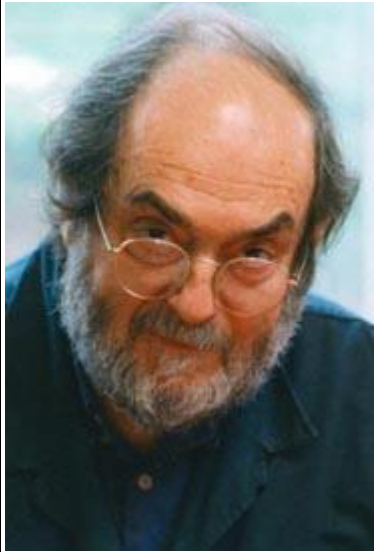


Auteur: a filmmaker who has a personal style and keeps creative control over his or her works



Stanley Kubrick in the late 1990s

Kubrick

The Auteur

Stanley Kubrick (July 26, 1928 - March 7, 1999) was a Jewish-American film director born in The Bronx, New York City who lived most of his life in England. His films are highly acclaimed for their technical perfection and deep symbolism. As a director he was legendary for relentless perfectionism and an attention to detail that could alienate those he worked with (an example: Jack Nicholson, who worked with him in *The Shining*, vowed to never work with him again). Several of his films were extremely controversial upon release for their supposed thematic repugnance and stark portrayal of sexuality and violence.

Explaining his theory of the role of director, Kubrick told Joseph Gelmis: "A director is a kind of idea and taste machine; a movie is a series of creative and technical decisions, and it's the director's job to make the right decisions as frequently as possible." Describing his aesthetic approach to Michael Ciment, he said "I think that one of the problems with twentieth-century art is its preoccupation with subjectivity and originality at the expense of everything else... Though initially stimulating, this soon impeded the full development of any particular style, and rewarded uninteresting and sterile originality."

Features of Kubrick's Work

- Long Production Period. Kubrick took years to produce his films, paying meticulous attention to every detail.
- Small production group. Kubrick chose to work with a small production group as this allowed him to maintain control.
- Director, writer and producer. By undertaking all these roles Kubrick could again maintain control.
- Inspired use of music (both classical and modern) in soundtrack.
- Reclusive. Kubrick preferred to work from home and in later life refused to leave England for production.
- Symbolism.
- Technical perfection: tracking shots and zoom shoots in particular.