

# Silent Film (I)

- Origins of film (1890s)
- Edison, Lumiere, Melies
- Technical developments (1900-1920)
- The first Hollywood films (1910s-1920s)
- German Expressionism in the 1920s

# The origins of film

- Still photography (1830s)
- Persistence of vision
- Series photography (Eadweard Muybridge, 1870s)
- Thomas Alva Edison's Kinetograph and Kinetoscope (1893-1895)
- The first film projection: the Lumiere Brothers (1895)

# The Lumiere Brothers

## (films 1895-1897)

- First films to be projected
- Documenting scenes of everyday life
- Static camera, one reel, less than 2 minutes
- *Workers Leaving the Factory*
- *Arrival of a Train at La Ciotat*
- *Baby's Lunch*
- *The Sprinkler Sprinkled*

# Georges Melies

## (films 1896-1912)

- The first narrative films
- Introduction of the fantastic
- Theater transported to the screen
- The first special effects
- *A Trip to the Moon* (1902)
- *The Black Imp* (1905)
- *The Eclipse* (1907)

# Developments, 1900-1915

- Edwin S. Porter, *The Great Train Robbery* (1903)
  - Cinematic realism (vs. Melies' fantasy)
  - Parallel editing, straight cuts, the sequence
  - Innovative camera placement for exteriors
- Early comedy: Keystone Kops, *Bangville Police* (1913)
- D. W. Griffith, *The Girl and Her Trust* (1912)
  - Close-ups and long shots
  - A variety of camera angles
  - Moving cameras
  - Interwoven narrative strands