

Joy of Learning



Le Gai Savoir, JLG, 1969

The first World Cinema DVD I purchased was a pirated copy of an episode from Jean-Luc Godard's monumental work, 'Histoire(s) Du Cinema' – 'Fatale Beaute', which, in retrospect, proved to be a prophetic title since it's a very apt term for the object of my lifelong obsession - Cinema. The film and the filmmaker were the first of several great recommendations by Dinesh Bhai, the awesome film crazy pirated dvd dealer from Palika Bazaar, New Delhi. Miraculously, the DVD is still in pristine condition, as if to suggest, much like Godard's work, it's immune to the violence of time. I watched the episode that very evening with a lot of fascination but without understanding much. Little did I know back then that I would keep returning to 'Histoire(s) Du Cinema' at least once every year and each viewing would enrich my love not only for Cinema but all art forms. Around the same time, I purchased my first ever book on Cinema – 'Godard on Godard'. I was 17 and my Cinema journey began right here. Both the book and the film remind me of Borges' words on James Joyce's 'Ulysses', about the fact that it's a novel that can never be completed. The same can be said about every creation of

Godard which continually keeps reinventing itself. Such has been Godard's impact on Cinema that I've always strongly felt every time you write a sentence on Cinema or take a shot or edit a sequence, you're not only communicating with the History of Cinema but also Godard's work. Godard takes us back to our origins, the origins of Cinema, the origins of our love for Cinema. Godard IS Cinema.

It's impossible for me to express in words how immensely personal this loss feels. But there's much grace to be found in a profound grief that's deeply felt by every individual who believed and shall continue to believe in Cinema.

For-ever Godard.

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