

# Le Cinéma Britannique

## Milestones :

1895 : first Britain movie  
: ***Incident at Clovelly Cottage***

1929 : first talkie movie :  
***Blackmail*** and first color  
movie : ***The Romance Of Seville***

1948 : First Oscar for a  
British movie : ***Hamlet***



British movies have been directed since the beginning of the cinematography.

Even if the UK produces less movies than other countries, famous ones were realized. And because there are no good movies without good directors, we'll follow the path of six of them.

## Alfred Hitchcock (1889-1980):

Probably the best director of thriller movies, he began his career with silent movies, his first one was ***The Lodger*** (in 1927). This movie contains many effects of his own, which will make him famous. ***Blackmail*** is his first talkie movie (and also the first British one), Hitchcock used the sound to bring new feelings to his movies. ***The man who knew too much*** (1934) brought him international reputation. During World War II, he produced many movies for Americans' studios like ***Rebecca*** in 1940. Which was nominated for several Academy Awards. It's after the war that he made his most famous movies: ***Notorious*** (1946), ***Dial M for Murder*** (1953) and ***Rear Window*** (1954). It's in 1960 that he made his masterpiece: ***Psycho***. With it, Hitchcock wanted to control when and how the public would react. He successfully made it and this movie became a cornerstone in the thriller/horror style.

## John Boorman (1933-....):

Boorman's movies are very special because in it, the cities in which the plot take place can be fully assimilated to character, for example in ***Catch us if you can*** (1965). He also made a semi-autobiographical movie taking place during World War II called ***Hope and Glory*** (1987)

## Ridley Scott's (1937-....):

Ridley's bet to give up character and plot development to improve special effect in his movies. And he succeeded perfectly with ***Alien*** (1979) and ***Blade Runner*** (1982). During 15 years he had a lot of box office failure. But, more recently he made another world known movie: ***Gladiator*** (2000).

## Derek Jarman (1942-1994):

Jarman was a campaigner for gay rights. And he wanted to represent his opinion in his movies. Like in ***Sebastine*** (1976) and ***Jubilee*** (1977).

## Peter Greenaway (1942-....):

Before being director, he was an artist. This had an influence on his work, we can see it with the light, perspective and visual material on his work. We can see it through ***A Zed and Two Noughts*** (1985).

## Mike Leigh (1943-....):

Born into the middle-class, most of his movie are based on social differences. For example in ***Naked*** (1993) where the main character is in a vicious circle of homeless and unemployment. His main idea, when he directs a movie, is improvisation: he starts with basic ideas and reveals the plot to the cast slowly. It gives realism to the movie.