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gaffer The chief electrician in charge of lighting equipment on the set.

gag A joke or comic bit used in film or television production.

gagman A person employed to write jokes for a comedy film or television show. Many famous actors and directors began their careers in this way. Notable examples include Woody Allen and Mel Brooks.

general release, general showing The first distribution of a film for general exhibition throughout the country, which usually follows an official *première* and a more limited FIRST RUN.

genre (film genre) A key concept introduced into film theory in the late 1960s, which refers not only to a film type, but also to audience expectations and responses as well as to film industry practices of production and generic marketing. Genres have traditions, codes, and conventions with which audiences and filmmakers are familiar. Generic conventions and genres are not static: they evolve with the passage of time for a number of reasons, and may even disappear. While some genres have existed since the beginnings of the cinema (such as: BIOPIIC, FANTASY, WESTERN), a number of new genres emerged in recent decades (such as: BLAXPLOITATION or HERITAGE films). Some theorists claim that the role of film genre in modern times is comparable to that of myth and legend in earlier epochs.

German Expressionism A style of filmmaking developed in Germany in the years immediately following World War I, character-

ized by the use of a variety of non-naturalistic techniques to create the effect of a heightened reality and perceptual distortion through extreme stylization of sets and decor, high-contrast chiaroscuro lighting, symbolic action, and stereotyped characters. The huge, grossly distorted sets were equally expressive as the performers, who externalized their emotions to the extreme, and also unusual camera angles adopted to emphasize the fantastic and the grotesque. Expressionist filmmakers attempted to represent not objective reality, but the subjective feelings of the artist in response to it. The emblematic film of German expressionism is Robert Wiene's *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari* (1919). Famous expressionist films include Paul Wegener's *The Golem* (1920), Fritz Lang's *Dr. Mabuse, the Gambler*, and Friedrich Murnau's *Nosferatu* (both 1922). Some of the Expressionist classics were remade after World War II. The major directors of the German expressionist cinema had a strong influence on the next generation of filmmakers, such as Alfred Hitchcock and Orson Welles.

ghost image 1. A hazy image made by DOUBLE EXPOSURE or double printing to give the illusion of a ghostly presence in films with a supernatural theme. **2.** The same effect in television reception caused by the reflection of signals from mountains or tall buildings.

glass shot A type of SPECIAL EFFECTS shots in which part of the scene is painted on a glass plate and held before the camera so that it blends with the live action when the scene is shot.

Gothic film A COSTUME DRAMA based on Gothic novels and tales, such as *Dracula*, *Frankenstein*, *Interview with the Vampire*.

grain A quality of the film EMULSION. Grainy emulsions which are characterized by poor DEFINITION, are sometimes used by film directors to achieve the effect of realistic photography.