



## INTRODUCTION

*Forgotten film: From Beginnings to "Talkies"* is an optional cross curricular CLIL project aimed at students 15-16 years old.

When I decided to undertake this assignment, the initial idea was to carry out a project about the language of film. As all teachers know, the ability to understand film language is the starting point for many topics and activities at school, and as a cross curricular subject, the study of film can be a useful tool in a variety of other subjects.

The point is, if teachers use films to provide stimulus for debate, why don't we teach film? Cinema is an art and a craft at the same time. Why don't students study film as a subject in its own right?

Throughout primary and secondary school, students have the opportunity to study arts such as literature, painting, sculpture, music, but they can't study film, probably the most successful of arts. Film is the forgotten subject at school.

If cinema is the forgotten subject, silent film is the forgotten film, so why not start at the beginning as we do in other subjects and provide students with a necessary background to understand modern films?

This project could be just a first step and personally I feel that it should continue.

Although students are active learners, teachers should understand that *Forgotten film: From Beginnings to "Talkies"* is not a workshop and that students are not going to record or edit films. Instead they are going to talk about film, read films, watch films, and I hope, enjoy films.

The project is split into three units:

- Unit one, *Precinema* presents students with new ideas about film and shows them how important it was that inventors shared knowledge before film became a reality.
- Unit two, *This is cinema!* enables the students to discover the beginnings of film and the first silent films. They will learn about the earliest film techniques, and finally, they will develop understanding of the chronology of early films linking them with a historical period.
- Unit three *Cartoon animation* shows the beginnings and the process of creating cartoons.

*Forgotten film: From Beginnings to "Talkies"* integrates content and language and contains many documents: Lesson Plans (aims, learning outcomes, thinking skills, competences and



assessment criteria), Teaching notes (procedures, resources, timing, language support, answer key), Student's workbook, and Supplementary materials such as power points and recorded word banks by a native speaker.

In addition to the power points, links and films are attached as supplementary materials in *Forgotten film: From Beginnings to "Talkies"*. ICT support will be essential for developing classes. They are the main materials because the teacher cannot explain film without examples of real films and photographs. It is for this reason that teachers must ensure:

- A classroom with a projector and the possibility to darken /obscure it.
- A computer / laptop
- Internet connection
- Appropriate software to open documents, power points and watch films (programs and codec pack)

I recommend you:

- Check all materials in advance to avoid wasting time.
- Download films from youtube in advance to avoid internet connexion troubles.
- Provide students with a digital file with all film links.

Although the subject of this project is planned chronologically teachers could decide to go forward and backward or change the order of the activities. To ensure efficient learning I suggest you bind the student's workbook.

Enjoy it.

#### Acknowledgments

I would like to express my gratitude to all those who gave me the possibility to undertake this project. I am deeply indebted to my school for giving me permission to go to England to prepare this task. I want to thank NILE (Norwich Institute for Language Education), especially Carole Robinson for all the help, support, and interest. Finally I would like to give my special thanks to Kay Bentley whose help, stimulating suggestions for improvement and encouragement helped me in all the time of research and writing of this project.