

**VIVEKANANDA COLLEGE  
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NAAC ACCREDITED 'A' GRADE**

**Topic: Auteur Theory**

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# What is Auteur Theory?

Auteur Theory is the idea that the director is the author and primary creative force behind a movie.

At first, it seems strange to call the director of the film the "author."

The Auteur theory argues that a film is a reflection of the director's artistic vision; so, a movie directed by a given filmmaker will have recognizable, recurring themes and visual queues that inform the audience who the director is (think a Hitchcock or Tarantino film) and shows a consistent artistic identity throughout that director's filmography.

The term "Auteur theory" is credited to the critics of the French film journal *Cahiers du cinéma*, many of which became the directors of the French New Wave. However, according to New York University professor Julian Cornell, the concept had been around for a while prior.

*Casablanca*, considered one of the greatest movies of all time, has five credited writers. At least one more uncredited.

Film credits can be their own minefield to navigate, so if you want to know more on that check out this post on understanding film credits.

Back to "authorship"...

As much as everyone depends on the quality of a script the end product of a movie is a result of the execution.

And the execution often comes down to the director. The director will be the one helping each department execute the script.

So if you ask who made a movie, the answer will invariably be: The Director.

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