THE POLICE PROCEDURAL

THE NAKED CITY

(Jules Dassin, 1948)

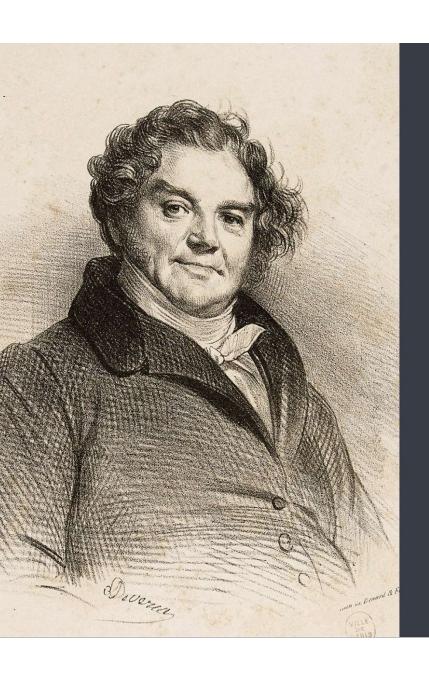
TYPES OF DETECTIVE STORIES

The amateur detective and the classic murder mystery

The private eye and the hard-boiled detective story

The police procedural

THE POLICE OFFICER AND THE PROCEDURAL



EUGÈNE FRANÇOIS VIDOCQ

1775–1857

THE FIRST MODERN DETECTIVE

FATHER OF MODERN CRIMINOLOGY

FOUNDER OF THE FRENCH SÛRETÉ

FOUNDER OF THE FIRST PRIVATE DETECTIVE AGENCY

SHORT HISTORY OF THE CLASSIC POLICE PROCEDURAL

Lawrence Treat, V as in Victim (1945) (novel)

The Naked City (1948)

The Street with No Name (1948)

He Walked by Night (1948)

Border Incident (1949)

Dragnet (1949 radio series)

The 87th Precinct novels by Ed McBain

POLICE PROCEDURAL GENERIC ELEMENTS

Group protagonist

Cops: working stiffs versus Great Detective and hard-boiled detective

Large city district setting for crime

Crime as routine, not a puzzle or a personal challenge

Criminals are professionals or desperate amateurs

Significant amount of documentary detail on policework

Success beyond identification and arrest of the criminal

The phone rings . . .

THE CLASSIC COP HERO

Represents legitimate authority

Subject to danger

Highly experienced professional

Middle- or working-class background

Can't choose cases

Almost always married with children

KEY INFLUENCES ON THE NAKED CITY

- WARTIME COMBAT DOCUMENTARY FILMS
 - ON-LOCATION SHOOTING
 - GRAINY B&W FILM STOCK
 - "VOICE OF GOD" NARRATION

DOCUDRAMAS: (1945-1948):

• The House on 92nd Street, 13 Rue Madeleine, Boomerang!, T-Men

WEEGEE (ARTHUR FELLIG), TABLOID PHOTOGRAPHER





POLICE PROCEDURAL'S POPULARITY

Wartime fiction films' focus on battle units like Bataan and Sands of Iwo Jima

The Organization Man as masculine model

Police Paradox resolved

NEW YORK CITY AS A CHARACTER IN THE FILM

The Naked City is not a studio production

Real New Yorkers appear as extras

Real NYPD cases shape the script

Movie shot in 107 authentic locations

Final chase on the Williamsburg Bridge became iconic

THE NAKED CITY (JULES DASSIN, 1948; 95 MINS

KEY CHARACTERS (AND THE ACTORS WHO PLAY THEM

DET. LT. DAN MULDOON (BARRY FITZGERALD)

DET. JIMMY HALLORAN (DON TAYLER)

CAPTAIN DONAHUE (FRANK CONROY)

DET. PERELLI (TOM PEDI)

FRANK NILES (HOWARD DUFF)

RUTH MORRISON (DOROTHY HART)

GARZAH (TED DE CORSLA)

Dr. Stoneman (House Jameson)

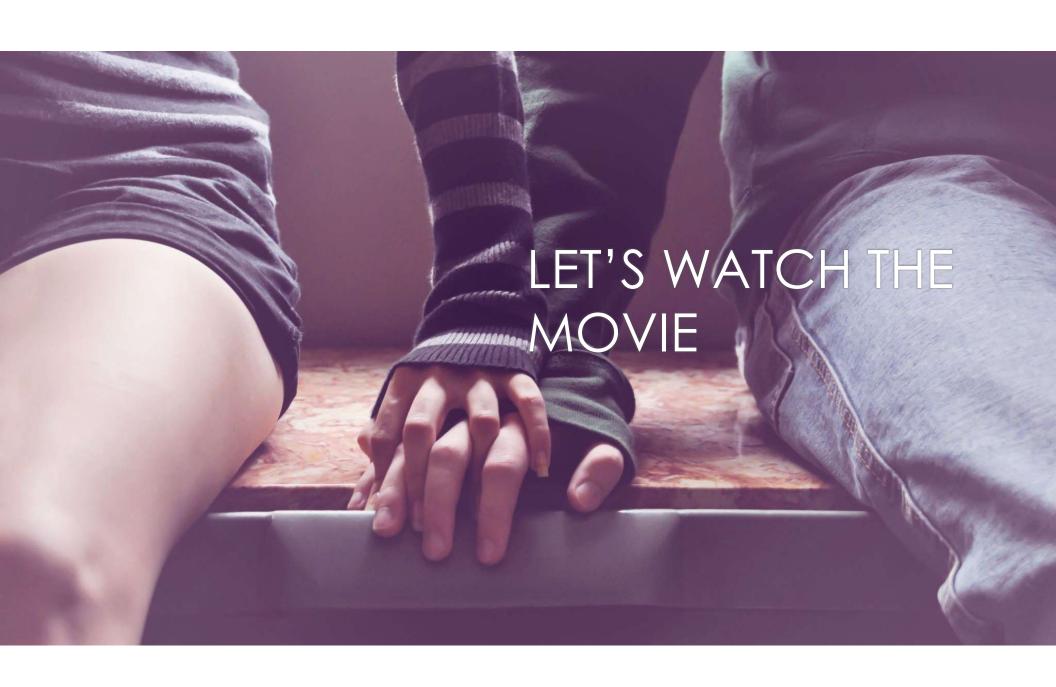
MRS. HALLORAN (ANNE SARGENT)

MRS. BATORY (ADELAIDE KLEIN)

MR. BATORY (GROVER BURGESS)

Mrs. Hylton (ENID Markey)

NARRATOR (MARK HELLINGER)



THE CREATORS OF THE NAKED CITY

Malvin Ward, screenwriter

Albert Maltz, rewriter

Jules Dassin, director

William Daniels, cinematographer

KEY ELEMENTS IN OPENING

Aerial view of the city

Hellinger reads the credits

Montage of city life

"Children at play"

Stoneman and Niles part of city's tapestry

Dexter murder à la film noir

The police force mobilizes

FROM THE POLICE PROCEDURAL TO THE COP FILM

1950s: atmosphere of corruption and brutality

• Touch of Evil, The Big Heat, The Big Combo; Detective Story, Where the Sidewalk Ends

1960s: nonconformist but good cop

• Bullitt, The Detective, Madigan

1971: Dirty Harry and Clint Eastwood

1980s and on: Cop films → Black and White buddy films

• 48 Hrs., the Lethal Weapon series, Miami Vice, End of Watch

Look to TV for the classic procedurals: