



# America on Film: Modernism, Documentary, and a Changing America

*Sam B. Girgus*

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This study examines a selection of films made in the last quarter of the twentieth century in an effort to trace how the notion of "American" has changed drastically from that portrayed in American cinema up to the 1950s. In works such as *Mississippi Masala*, *Lone Star*, *Malcolm X*, *Raging Bull*, *When We Were Kings* and *Bugsy* Sam Girgus finds a new and ethnically varied array of characters that embody American values, ideals and conflicts. He charts these changes through analysis of cinematic tensions between fiction, documentary and modernism.

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