

# Heterotopia, Heterochronia: place and time in cinema memory

Annette Kuhn  
[a.f.kuhn@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:a.f.kuhn@qmul.ac.uk)

“ ”

Cinema was a real thrill in those days....Talking about it I can almost feel how I felt. Yeah. Yeah. Mm. It was wonderful.

*Beatrice Cooper, born 1921*

**Cinema in the world**

**The world in the cinema**

# Cinema in the world

- familiar vs exotic
- abundance vs scarcity
- freedom vs constraint
- routine, repetition

# Heterotopia

'a sort of place that lies outside  
all places and yet is actually  
localizable'

*Michel Foucault*

“ ”

And of course...got people from  
humdrum life and you  
know...that's TWO HOURS OF  
FREEDOM.

*Arthur Orrell, born 1920*

“ ”

You could sit in and see it three times round if you wanted....If that was a picture I liked, you know....I'd say, oh, I'll see some more of that.

*Phyllis Bennett, born 1915*

“ ”

You just went in anytime. It could've been halfway through or whatever. And then you sort of sat through the programme and then waited to see the bit that you'd missed.

*Eileen Barnett, born 1924*



“ ”

I said 'I think I'll watch it again'. So I sat on and watched it again and I...got up to come out and was passing a friend with her parents and she said '...Don't go out, Helen. Just sit with me'. So I sat through it again! And at the end...she said..., 'Could I sit through this again?' and they said 'Well, if Helen'll stay'. I sat through the film four times. ...

***Helen Smeaton, born 1917***



**TO BE CONTINUED...**

“ ”

Cos you had to go, you see.  
Cos they had a serial on....And  
it got to an exciting part and that  
went off until next week. So of  
course you had to go.

*Phyllis Bennett, born 1915*

“ ”

That meant we had to go to the  
cinema thirteen weeks in  
succession. But you know, it  
couldn't come quick enough....

*Thomas McGoran, born 1927*

# The world in the cinema

- heterotopia
- cinema time
- the body

Heterotopia, Heterochronia:  
place and time in cinema  
memory

Annette Kuhn

[a.f.kuhn@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:a.f.kuhn@qmul.ac.uk)