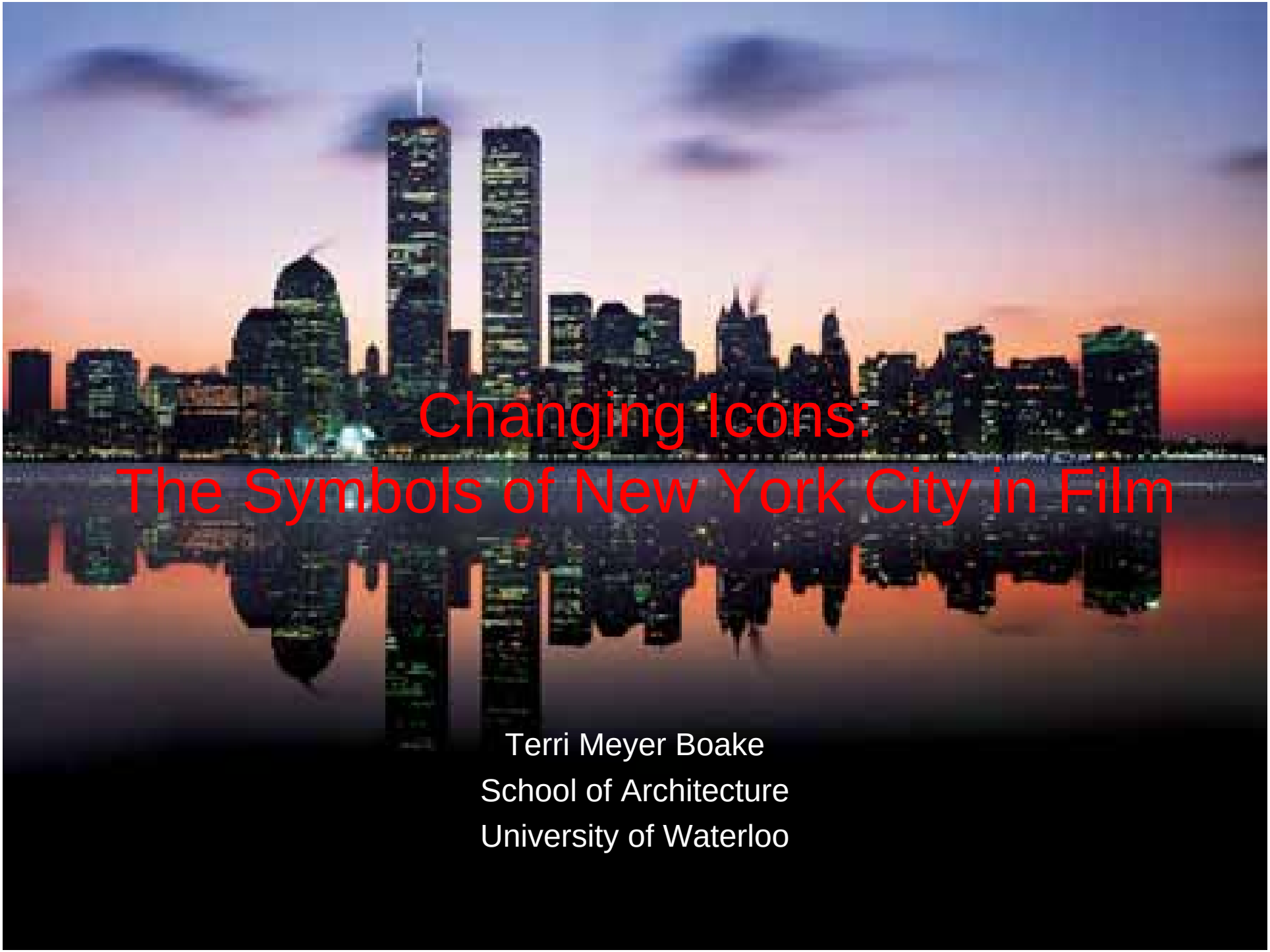
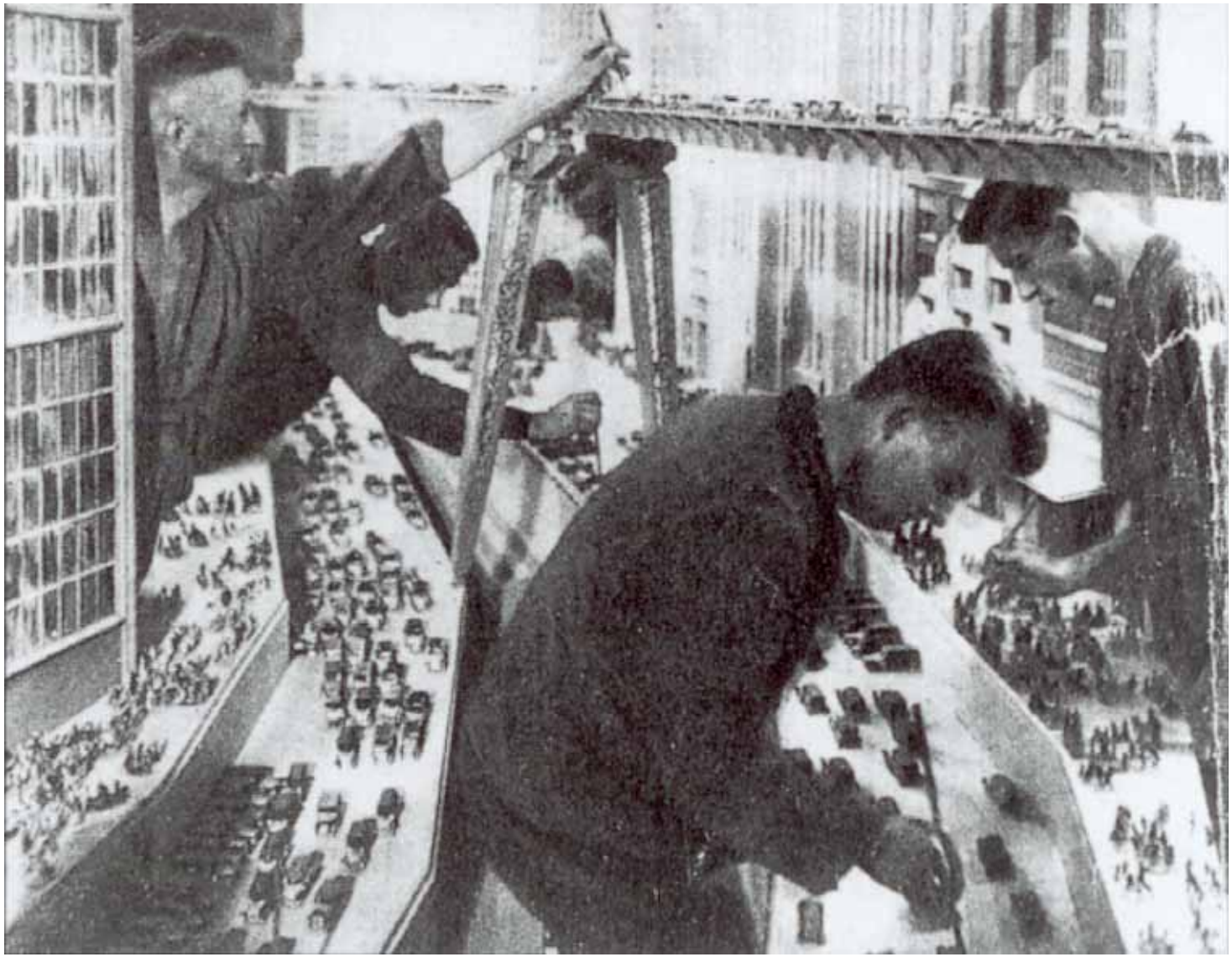


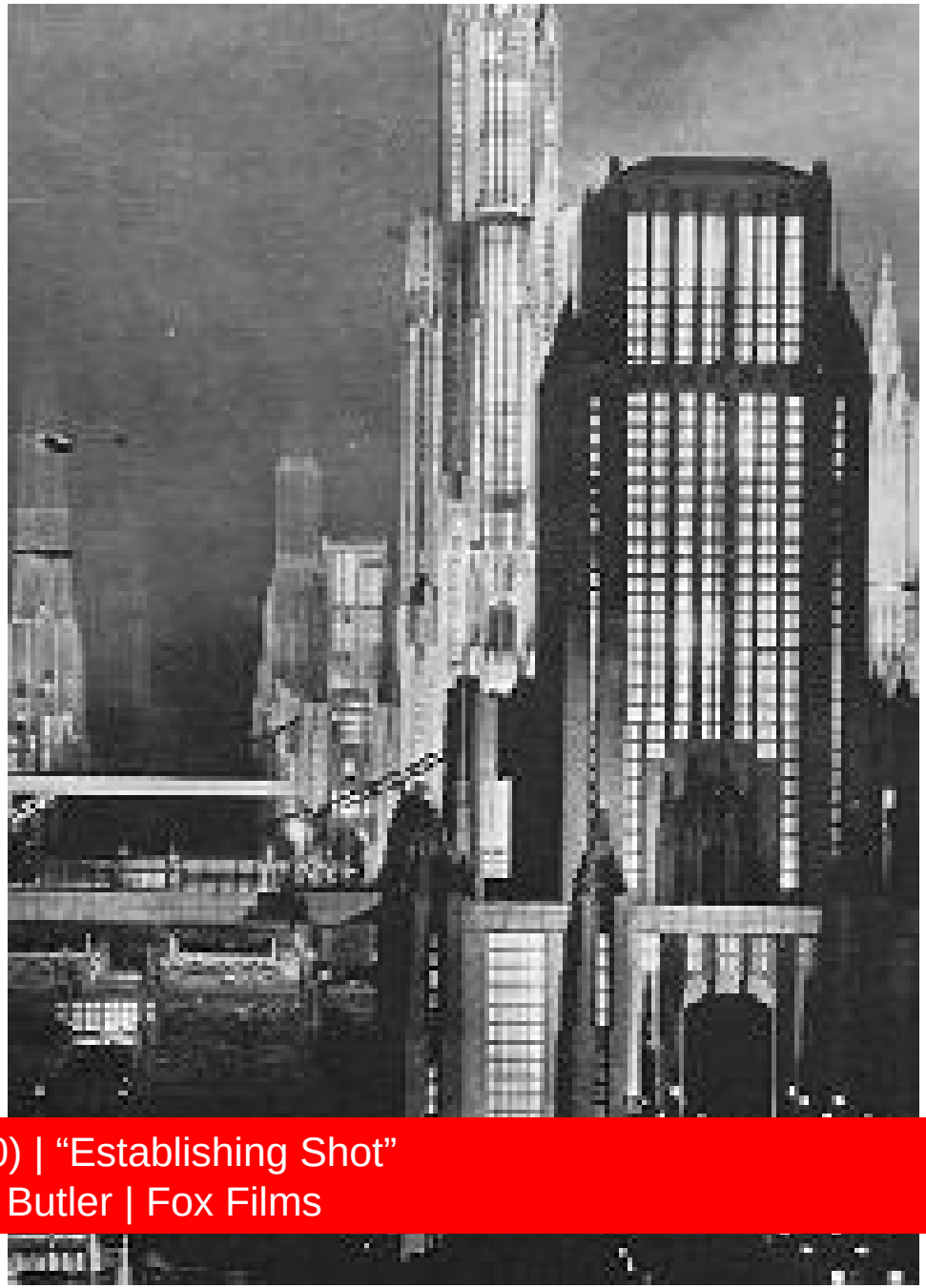
Changing Icons:
The Symbols of New York City in Film

Terri Meyer Boake
School of Architecture
University of Waterloo

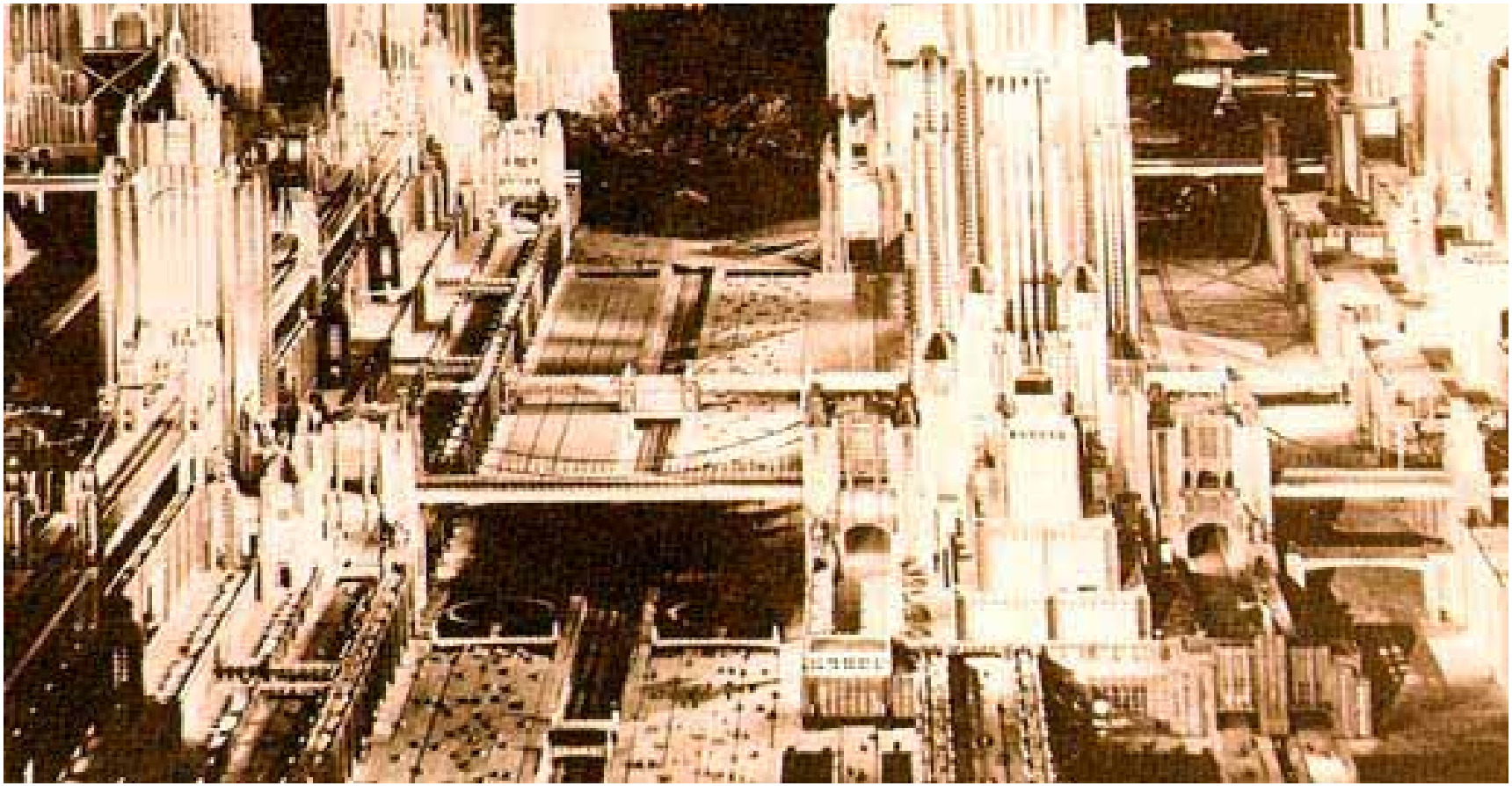
Metropolis (1927) | “Establishing Shot”
Directed by: Fritz Lang | UFA



Metropolis (1927) | building the model
Directed by: Fritz Lang | UFA

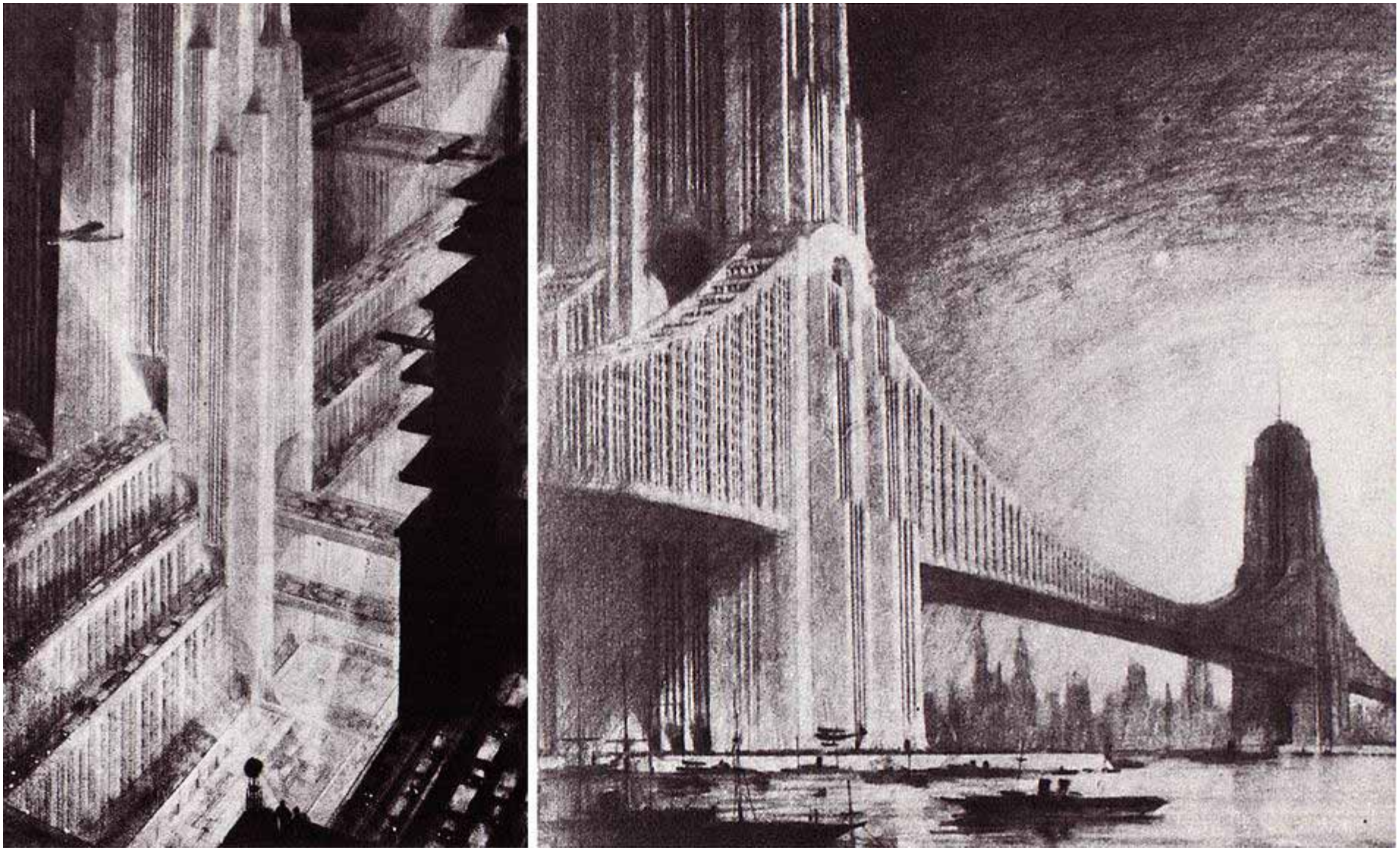


Just Imagine (1930) | “Establishing Shot”
Directed by: David Butler | Fox Films



Just Imagine (1930) | model
Directed by: David Butler | Fox Films

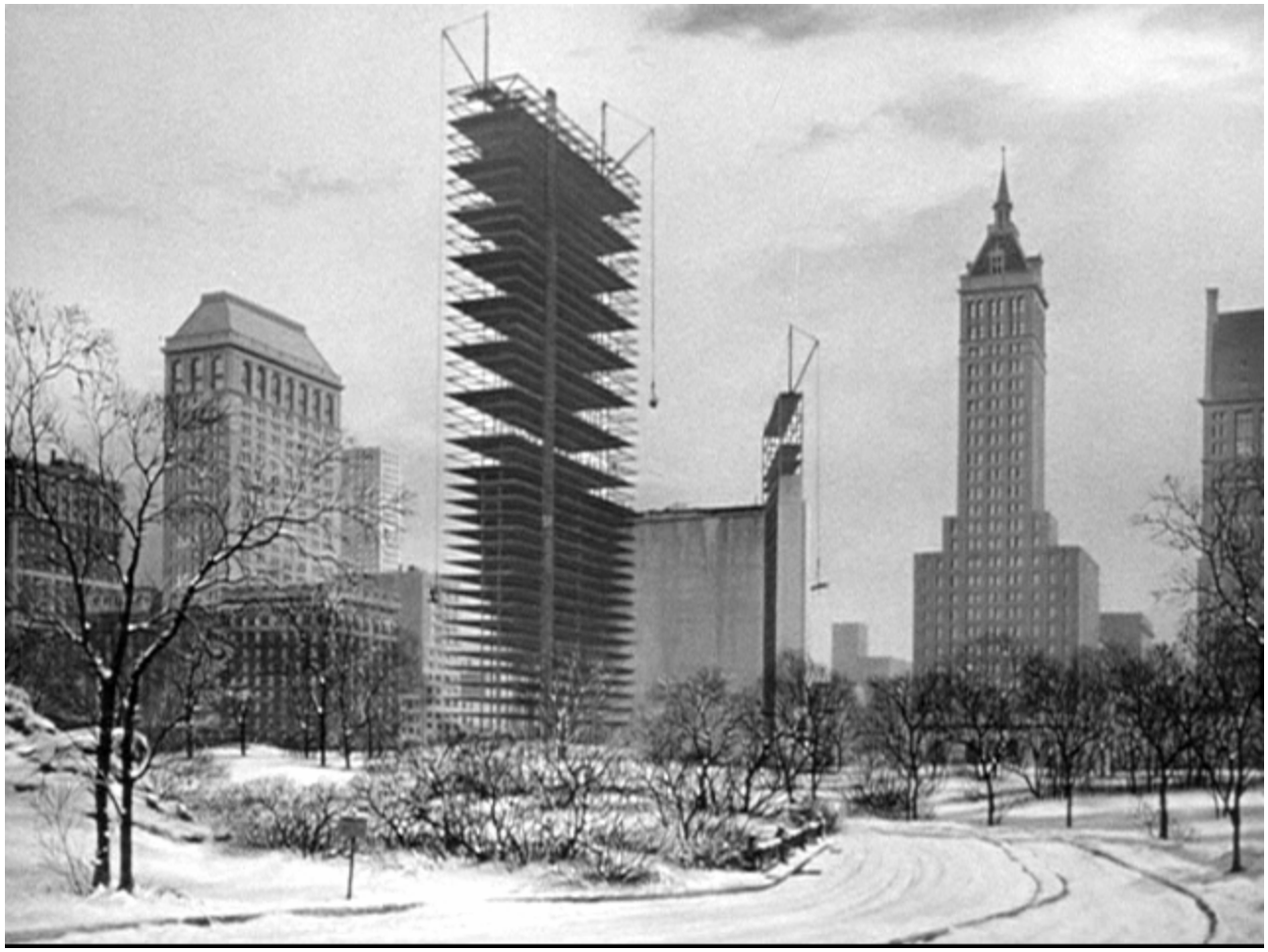
Cover image of “Celluloid Skyline” | James Saunders | December 2001



Classic renderings by Hugh Ferriss | “The Metropolis of Tomorrow” 1929

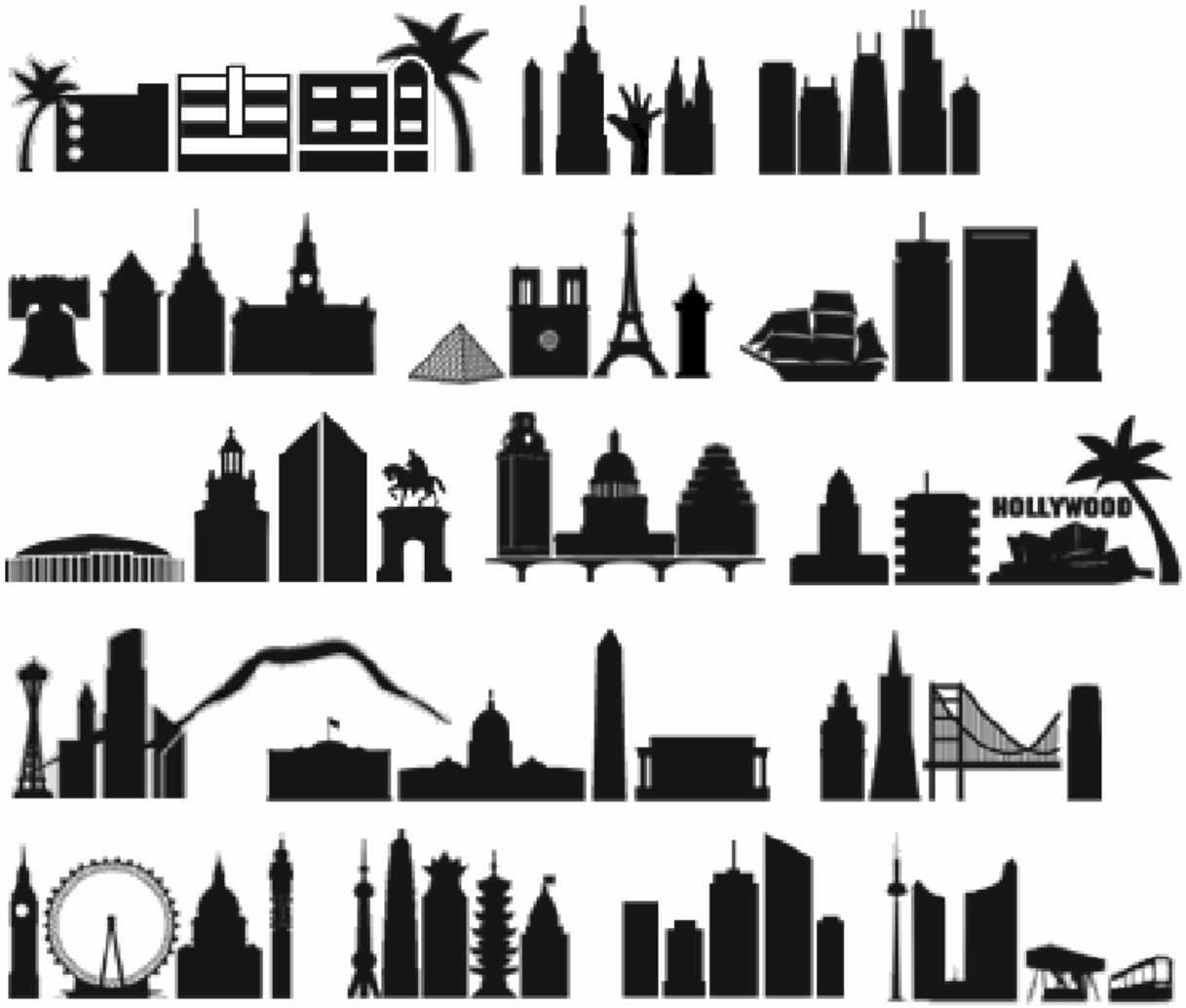
The Fountainhead (1949) | New York City “Establishing Shot”
Directed by: King Vidor | Warner Brothers

The Fountainhead (1949) | New York City “Establishing Shot”
Directed by: King Vidor | Warner Brothers



The Fountainhead (1949) | New York City “Establishing Shot”
Directed by: King Vidor | Warner Brothers

The Fountainhead (1949) | New York City “Establishing Shot”
Directed by: King Vidor | Warner Brothers


HOLLYWOOD

King Kong (1933)
Directed by: Merian C. Cooper + Ernest B. Schoedsack | RKO Pictures

King Kong (1933)
Directed by: Merian C. Cooper + Ernest B. Schoedsack | RKO Pictures

The most exciting original motion picture event of all time.
King Kong
Dino De Laurentiis presents
a John Guillermin Film
"King Kong"
Jeff Bridges Charles Grodin Introducing Jessica Lange
Screenplay by Lorenzo Semple, Jr. Produced by Dino De Laurentiis
Directed by John Guillermin Music Composed and Conducted by John Barry
Panavision® In Color A Paramount Release

King Kong (1976)
Directed by: Dino de Laurentis | Paramount Pictures

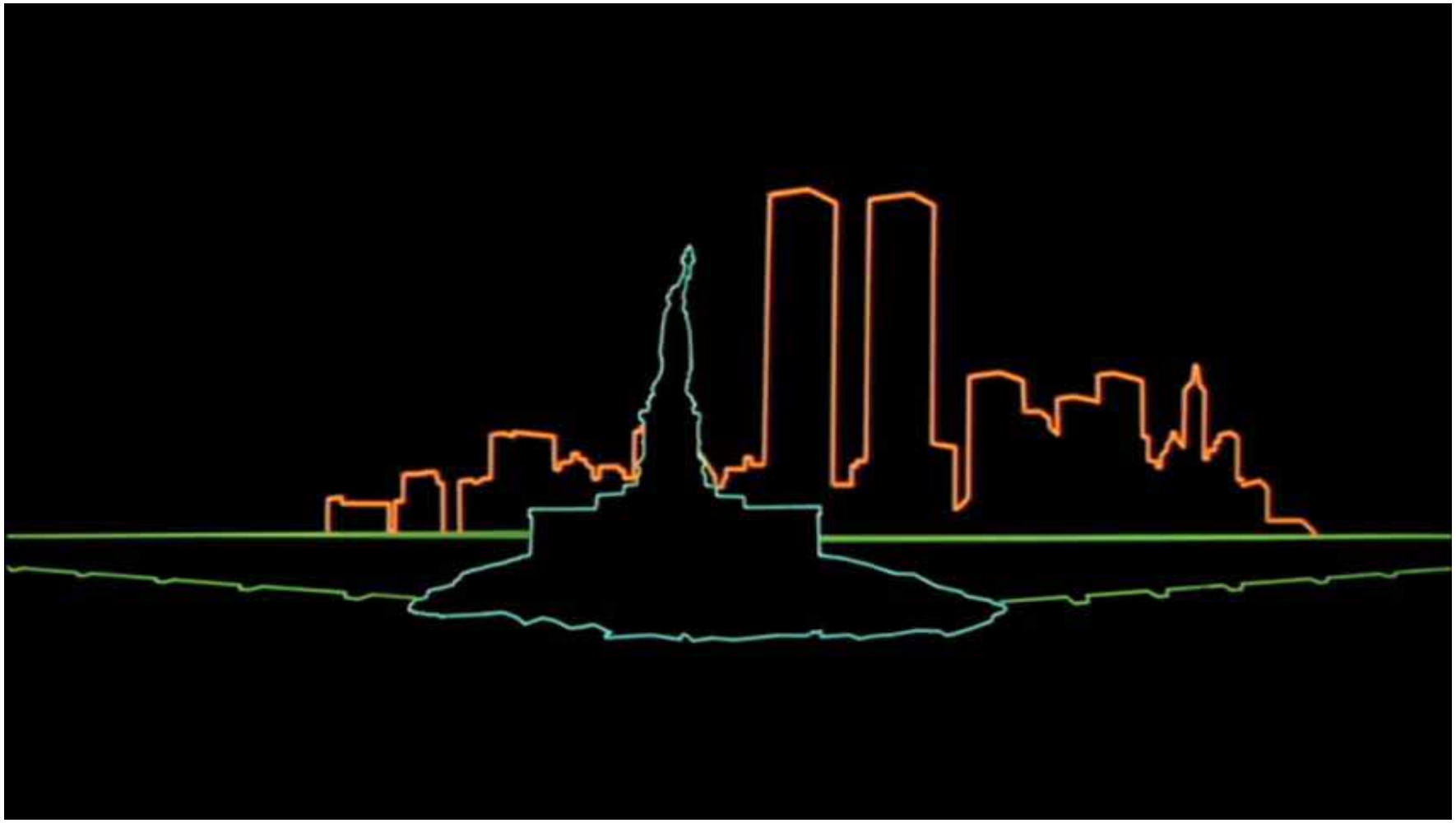
King Kong (1976)
Directed by: Dino de Laurentis | Paramount Pictures

King Kong (1976)
Directed by: Dino de Laurentis | Paramount Pictures

"The New York City Skyline was adopted as the new Establishing Shot"

Saturday Night Fever (1977) | “The Skyline as the new Establishing Shot”
Directed by: John Badham | Paramount Pictures

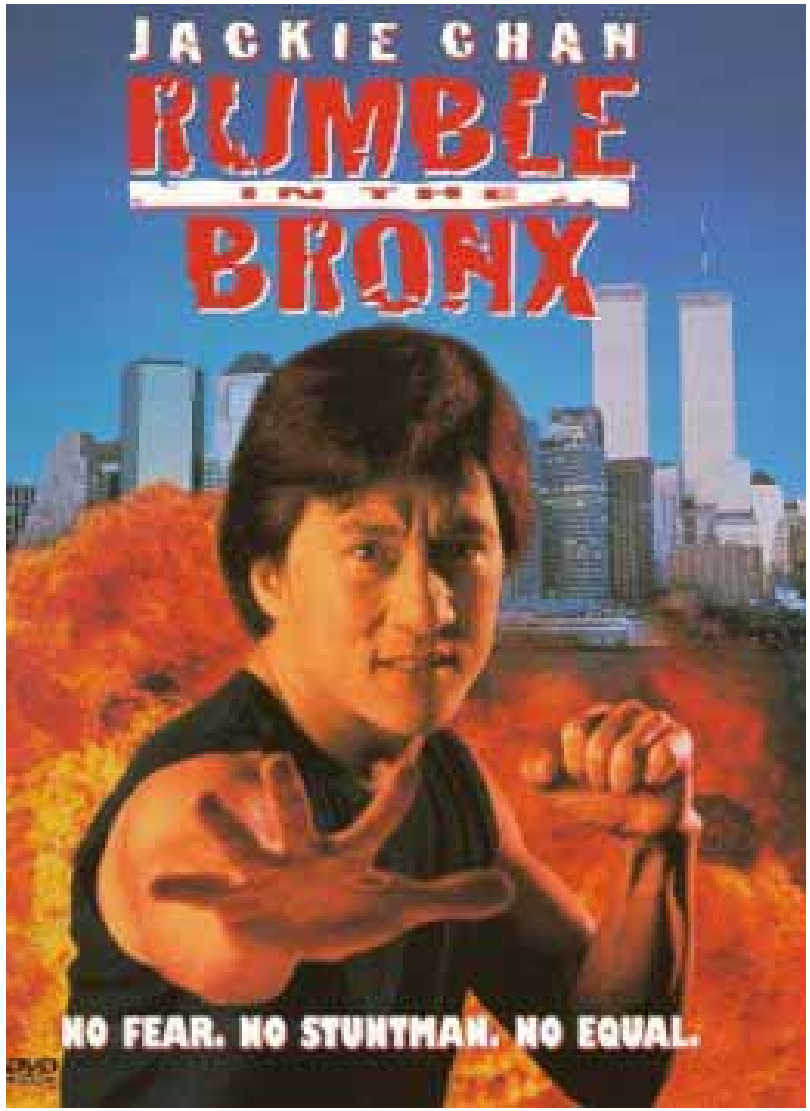
Saturday Night Fever (1977) | “The Skyline as the new Establishing Shot”
Directed by: John Badham | Paramount Pictures



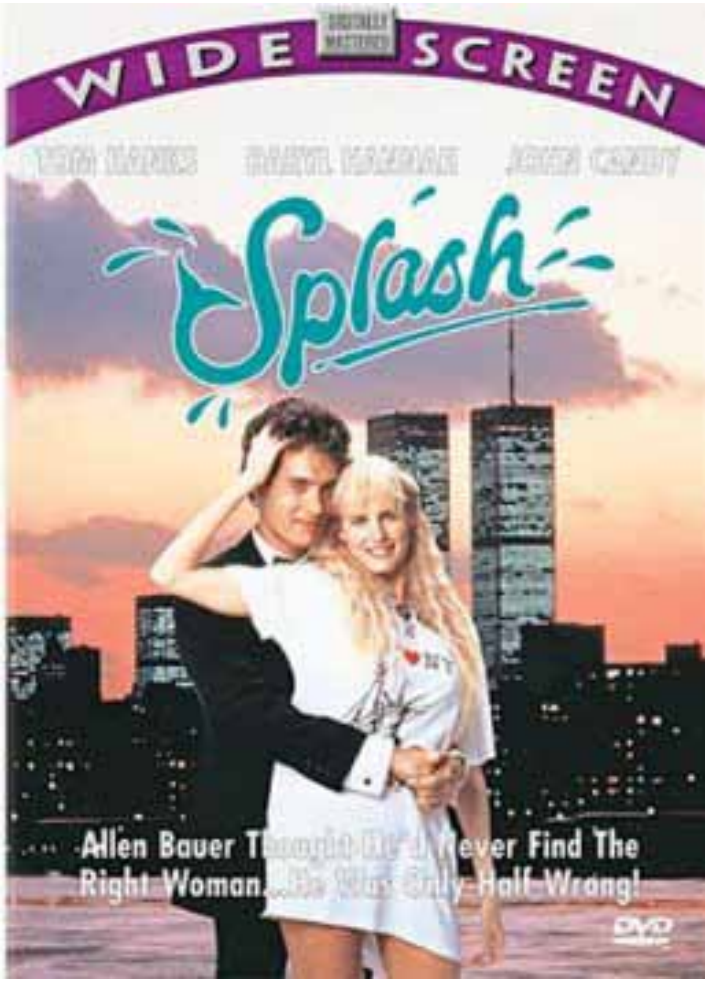
Escape from New York (1981) | “The Skyline as the new Establishing Shot”
Directed by: John Carpenter | Avco Embassy Pictures

For anyone who's ever won.
For anyone who's ever lost.
And for everyone who's still in there trying.
Harrison Ford
Melanie Griffith
Sigourney Weaver
A MIKE NICHOLS FILM
Working Girl
TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX
HARRISON FORD • SIGOURNEY WEAVER • MELANIE GRIFFITH
MIKE NICHOLS
WORKING GIRL
CARLY SIMON
ROB MOUNSEY
PATRIZIA VON BRANDENSTEIN
MICHAEL BALLHAUS, A.S.C.
SAM O'STEEN
ROBERT GREENHUT AND LAURENCE MARK
KEVIN WADE
DOUGLAS WICK
MIKE NICHOLS
R

1988

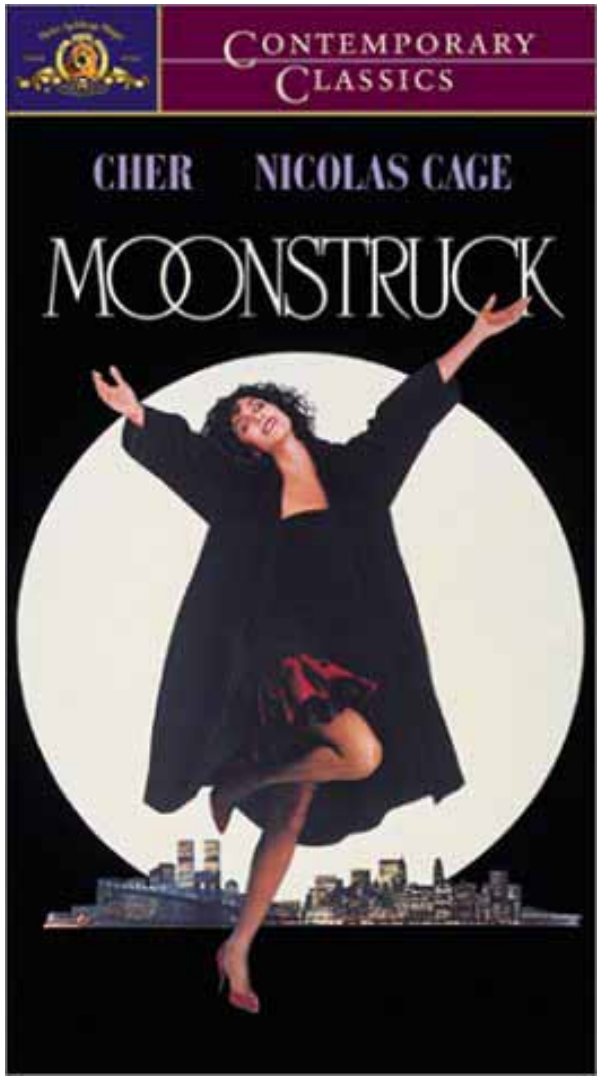

JACKIE CHAN
RUMBLE
IN THE
BRONX
NO FEAR. NO STUNTMAN. NO EQUAL.

1996

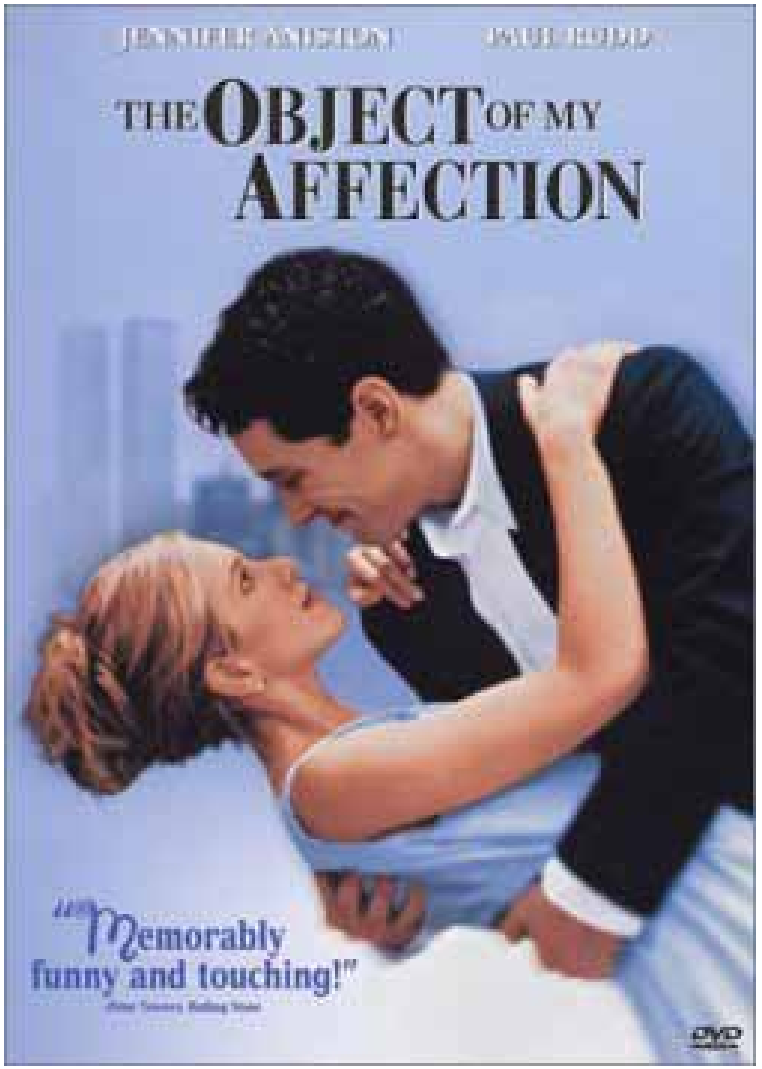


1984

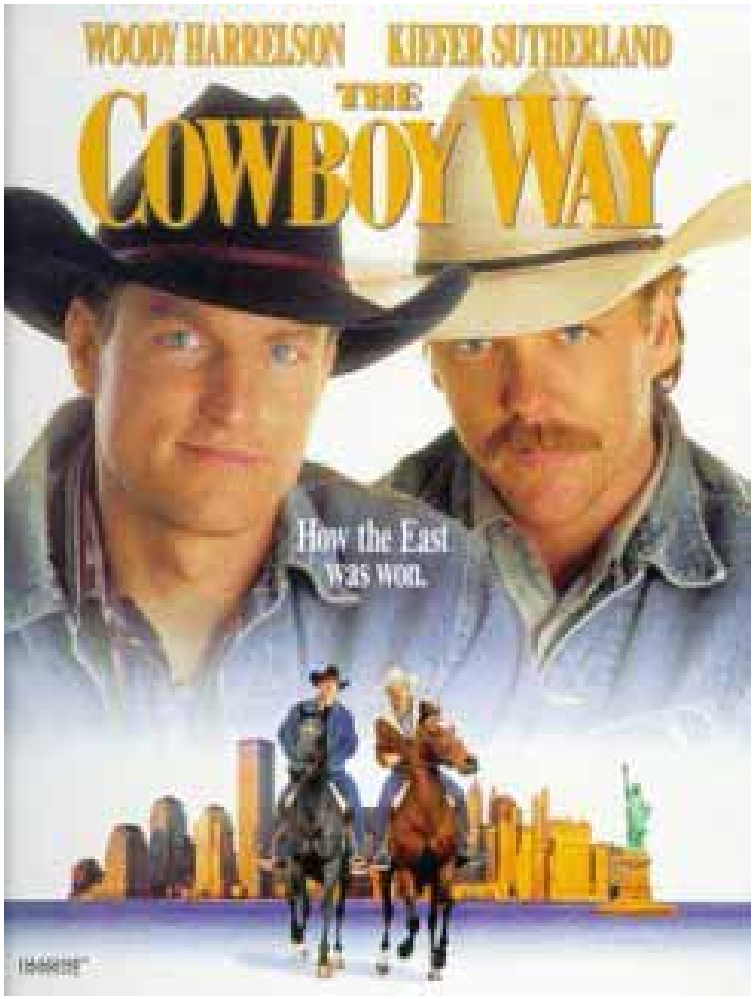
1980


CONTEMPORARY
CLASSICS
CHER NICOLAS CAGE
MOONSTRUCK

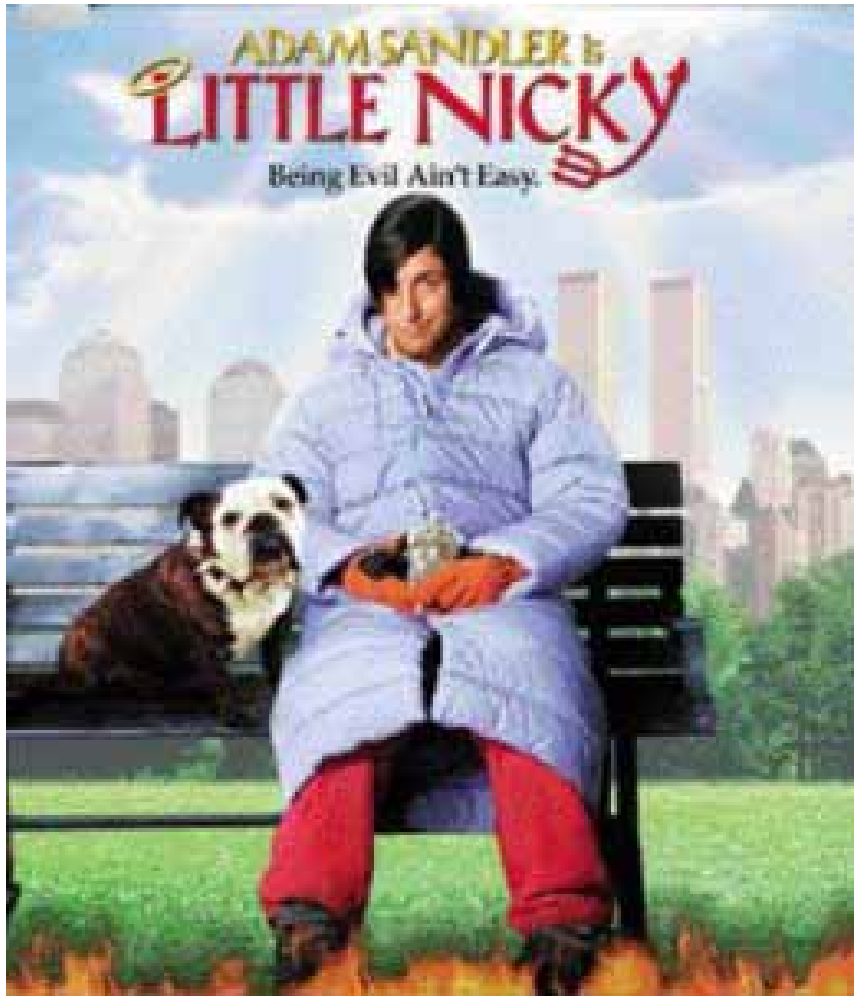
1987


THE OBJECT OF MY
AFFECTION
"Memorably
funny and touching!"
DVD

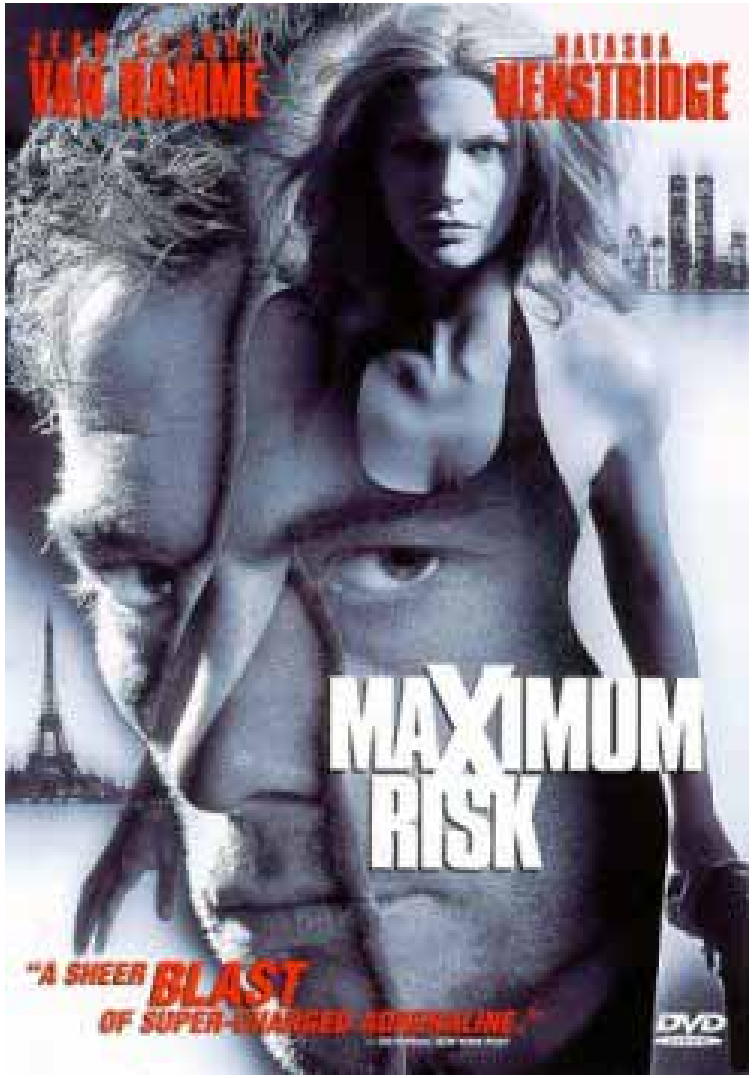
1998


WOODY HARRELSON
KIEFER SUTHERLAND
THE
COWBOY WAY
How the East
Was Won.

1994


ADAM SANDLER is
LITTLE NICKY
Being Evil Ain't Easy.

2000


VAN DAMME
VENSTRIDGE
MAXIMUM RISK
"A SHEER BLAST
DVD

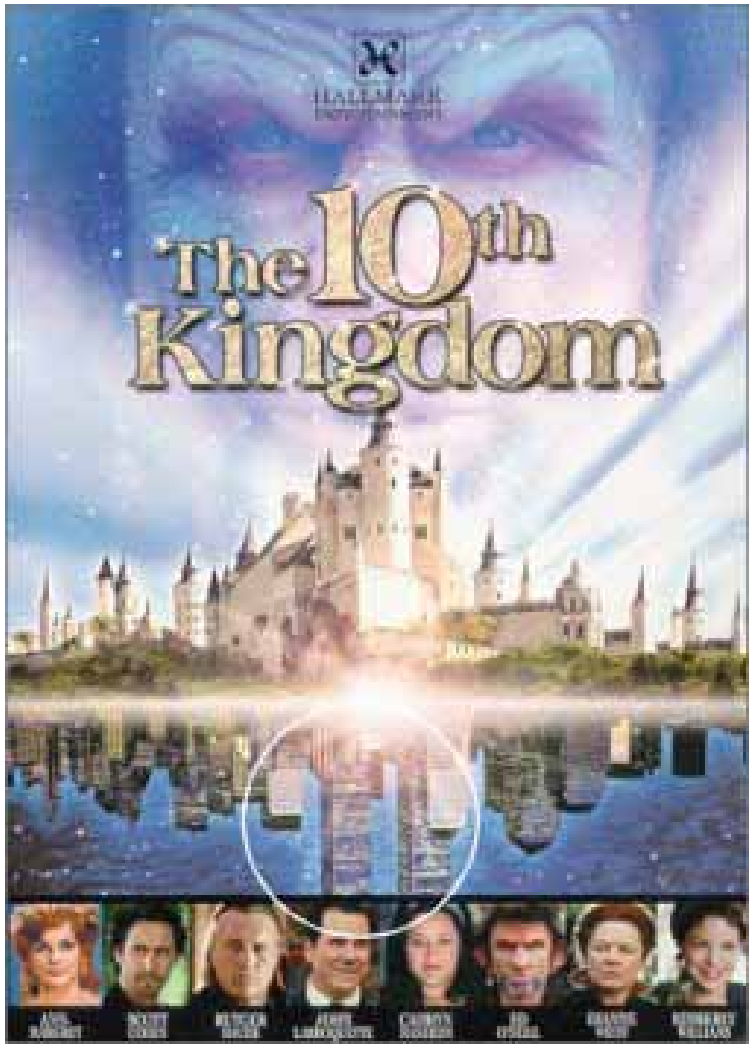
1996

DENZEL WASHINGTON · ANNETTE BENING
THE SIEGE
AND BRUCE WILLIS
"EXCITING AND COMPELLING"
"TENSE AND NERVE-WRACKING"
DVD

1998

MANHATTAN
WOODY ALLEN
DIANE KEATON
MICHAEL MURPHY
MARIEL HEMINGWAY
MERYL STREEP
ANNE BYRNE

1979


The 10th Kingdom

2000

Men In Black (1997)
Director: Barry Sonnenfeld | Ambin Entertainment

The Fifth Element (1997) | Matte painting: Jean-Claude Mézières
Directed by: Jean Luc Besson | Société des Etablissements L. Gaumont

The Fifth Element (1997) | Matte painting: Jean-Claude Mézières
Directed by: Jean Luc Besson | Société des Etablissements L. Gaumont

Independence Day (1996)
Directed by: Roland Emmerich | Centropolis Entertainment

Independence Day (1996)
Directed by: Roland Emmerich | Centropolis Entertainment

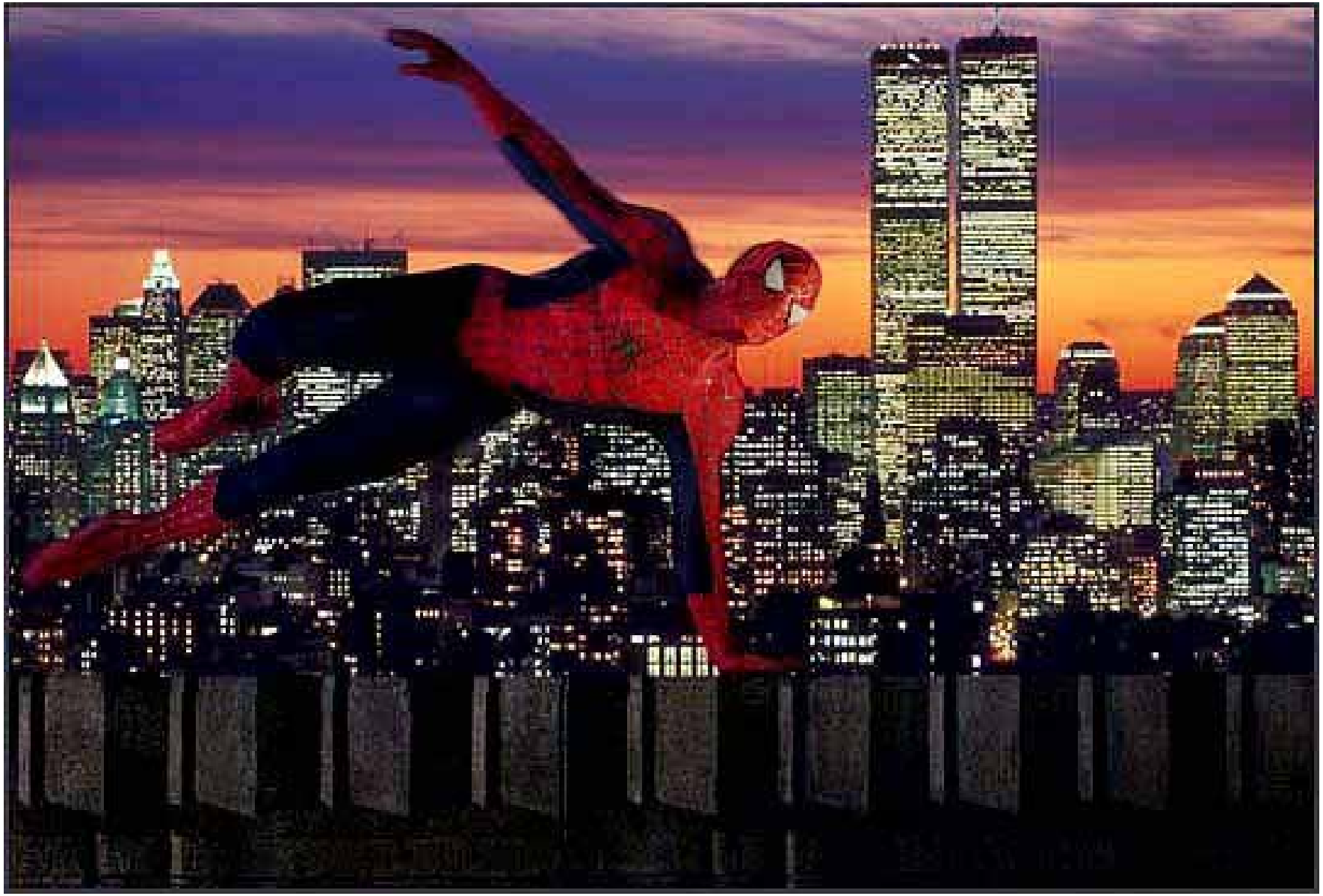
Independence Day (1996)
Directed by: Roland Emmerich | Centropolis Entertainment

Independence Day (1996)
Directed by: Roland Emmerich | Centropolis Entertainment

Armageddon (1998)
Directed by: Michael Bay | Touchstone Pictures

Armageddon (1998)
Directed by: Michael Bay | Touchstone Pictures

9/11



Spiderman (2002) | Promotional Image showing World Trade Towers
Columbia Pictures

Banned Spiderman Trailer

COMING 2002

Spiderman (2002)
Directed by: Sam Raimi | Columbia Pictures

Spiderman (2002)
Directed by: Sam Raimi | Columbia Pictures

The Day After Tomorrow (2004)
Directed by: Roland Emmerich | 20th Century Fox

The Day After Tomorrow (2004)
Directed by: Roland Emmerich | 20th Century Fox

The Day After Tomorrow (2004)
Directed by: Roland Emmerich | 20th Century Fox

Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow (2004)
Directed by: Kerry Conran | 20th Century Fox

Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow (2004)
Directed by: Kerry Conran | 20th Century Fox

King Kong (2005)
Directed by: Peter Jackson | Big Primate Pictures

King Kong (2005)
Directed by: Peter Jackson | Big Primate Pictures

MetLife

Gangs of New York (2002)
Directed by: Martin Scorsese | Miramax Films

Munich (2005)
Directed by: Steven Spielberg | Universal Films

Munich (2005)
Directed by: Steven Spielberg | Universal Films

ALL-NEW 2-DISC EXTENDED CUT
INCLUDES NEVER-BEFORE-SEEN FOOTAGE!
SPIDER-MAN 2.1
DVD

Spiderman 2 (2004)
Directed by: Sam Raimi | Marvel Enterprises

Spiderman 2 (2004)
Directed by: Sam Raimi | Marvel Enterprises

Spiderman 2 (2004)
Directed by: Sam Raimi | Marvel Enterprises

3
MAY 4TH

THE GREATEST BATTLE LIES WITHIN.
3

Spiderman 3 (2007)
Directed by: Sam Raimi | Columbia Pictures

Spiderman 3 (2007)
Directed by: Sam Raimi | Columbia Pictures

Spiderman 3 (2007)
Directed by: Sam Raimi | Columbia Pictures

Spiderman 3 (2007)
Directed by: Sam Raimi| Columbia Pictures

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Directed by: Sam Raimi| Columbia Pictures

Spiderman 3 (2007)
Directed by: Sam Raimi| Columbia Pictures

Spiderman 3 (2007)
Directed by: Sam Raimi | Columbia Pictures

MetLife