The Great Train Robbery Encyclopedia Article

The Great Train Robbery

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The Great Train Robbery

Made in 1903, Edwin S. Porter's eleven minute *The Great Train Robbery* is a landmark in the evolution of film editing. Porter's film, in its cutting back and forth between multiple simultaneous story lines, showed that movies need not be restricted to linear story-telling. *The Great Train Robbery* is also interesting as a transitional film; in some scenes the backgrounds are clearly painted, while in others, such as the famous train-top fistfight scene, the action is thrillingly "real."

Further Reading:

Kauffmann, Stanley. "The Great Train Robbery." *New Republic.* Vol. 213, No. 10, 27-28.

Kirby, Lynne. *Parallel Tracks: The Railroad and Silent Cinema.* Durham, North Carolina, Duke University Press, 1997.