New World Cinema

Joshua Clover*
This is how a movie goes, iris out, good guys in hats, bad guys in hats, it’s Cinema Chapeau Americain, some of the bad guys are bad girls, some of the good guys are good girls, get the picture.

This is how a movie goes to war, whirr.

This is how it goes, a movie, “bang!” the soundtrack kicking clangorously into full effect, the dimbulb houselights sleeping throughout, sleeping through it.

This is how a movie goes, Jean Seberg married to the movies hearing voices, Joan of Arc the teen queen of the European Theatre hearing voices, Jean of Joan of the rocket’s red arc.

This is how a movie goes along, boy meets girl, boy gets girl, boy gets et cetera, some of the boys are girls, some of the girls are et cetera et cetera.

This is how a movie goes in the Cinema Et Cetera Americain, Sharon Tate doing a veronica sashay into Hollywood, voices, (title sequence), “starring in . . .” whirrr.

This is how a movie goes to work in the morning, reeling out of the candyglass home, whirr, & the movie’s wife languorously—No that’s the home movie!

This is how a movie goes over, always late for an appointment with the war that lasts for endless, it’s over-, it’s overseas, it’s set overseas, its set’s smoked with white phosphorous hail Mary Mary incendiary how does your movie go?

This is how a movie goes, clangorously, phosphorously, languorously, whirrr.

This is how a movie goes, it’s a real black necrophiliac Film Noir Americain, a black screen, black mise en scene, a black machine, whirr, fade to black to break your movie’s back.

& this is no the I you can reverse, no the optical effect New World Resurrection, not the corpse backtracking into quickness, no moving, no go, how is this?

This is how a movie goes home, the shooting day over, the wife costumed as a starlet late for an appointment with her clothes, looped languorously across the couch MOS, the shooting day echoing, the shooting echoing clangorously, the movie-lover so slo-mo she’s history, this is the home movie, what it’s about.

This is how a movie goes to bed with a dead woman, whirrr . . .

This is how a movie goes to sleep, whirrr, the camera rolling over, a blond bombshelter, whirrrr, fabulous hallucinatrix of the lip-synched lullabye, oh no not another snuff film, no focus hoax, th-th-that’s all folks, iris in, whirrrrr, not another nursery rhyme.