Music intro.

Lord David Puttnam: Cinema and television, in my judgement, are, without question, the most socially influential mass media of the early 21st Century. Over the next 10 sessions, I’m going to take you through, not just my own career, but also the films that influenced me and the films that allowed me to make the choices I’ve made.

I’d like to show you a clip of what, for me, is one of the finest documentaries ever made.

(Clip with laughter from Puttnam and audience)

Puttnam: This is an interview from 25 years ago with Bill Moyers from PBS.

(Interview clip: The creative community are supposed to be the ones pushing, using their strength, using their power, using their talents, to push against what is, into what may be.)

Puttnam: Now let’s interrogate that a little, and I would really like to hear from you.

Student: Hello David.

Student: Hi David.

Student: Hi David.

Student: Hi David. My questions relates to how you worked with the key creatives during the process of filming.

Puttnam: On the set, be there at the beginning, be there at the end, and be there when you’re needed.

Student: Is there still a hunger, or an appetite, for The Mission type films in today’s movie-going audience?

Puttnam: What those were, I would argue, were a salve. They allow people to feel that there was a better world out there, and that they themselves, were capable of better. And I think that’s the role of filmmakers. Politicians, by definition, can never be part of moving society forward, because they’re always trying to catch up with where society is.

Our job, your job, is to move society forward. The film is yours. It’s yours, it’s the writers, it’s the directors. It has to come from within you. If it doesn’t, it’s empty, and it’s a product.

Everything is about the choices you make. Everything. Not just the people you work with, but the themes you choose, the way in which you conduct your life, the things that are important to you, the way you use your time, it’s all about choices.

Goodnight and good luck!