**Mike Nichols, ‘The Graduate’ 1967**

 Directed by Mike Nichols (died 2014); his most successful film.

Dustin Hoffman as confused Ben looking for meaning in life – something “different” – alternative to LA upper middle classes (scuba diving scene portrays his difference)

Ann Bancroft as alcoholic, lecherous, status-conscious Mrs. Robinson

Katherine Ross very dull as her daughter; William Daniels very funny as Ben’s father

Anti-bourgeois satire: corruption in LA; upper middle class “plastics”; immorality of Mrs. Robinson; compared to purity and sincerity of youth

Mrs. Robinson much reviled; but at least she is an adult with a complex personality and vulnerable; she has issues of her own.

Simon and Garfunkel – three songs: “The Sound of Silence”; “Mrs. Robinson” (composed for the film); “Scarborough Fair”

Turns into romantic comedy in second half? But tone changes at church when Benjamin arrives “in the nick of time” – crucifixion, the cross, anger, violence. Where is the couple headed at the end? Happily ever after? Settle in suburbia or alternative life style? “Open ending” of the 70s film?

Big impact: cheered by the under 30s as a “generational declaration of independence.”