

## from *Cinema Tarot*

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*Cinema Tarot began as a photo project. I had just bought a new camera and was experimenting with taking pictures of my TV screen. I like to think of the resulting images as a conversation between the shutter and the pause button on the remote control. So the first level of transcription was from moving picture to movie still. In a sense, the images are appropriated, but I also feel they have a personal quality in that I cropped many of them and in the way my old-fashioned TV (not a flat screen) cast its own peculiar bluish light over everything.*

*The idea of organizing the pictures into a tarot deck came next. I had read somewhere that the poet, Michael McClure, once asked his students to each come up with a set of images and archetypes especially meaningful to them. I'd always wanted to try that assignment myself and was also inspired by wonderful examples of artist's decks by people like Wallace Berman among others. When I was growing up, my mother and I read our cards on an almost daily basis. It was a favorite after-school activity—partly an associative game and partly an exercise in story-telling. With Cinema Tarot, I decided to revisit favorite movies of mine from the 50s and 60s and draw my symbolism from them.*

*In writing the divinatory meaning of each image, I confess I couldn't resist adding a little rhyme, alliteration—in short, a literary component. As I'm particularly fond of captions, haiku, and aphorisms, it was an interesting challenge to come up with something I feel works as both an oracle and a poem. Eventually, I hope to publish all thirty-two of them as a deck of cards, but for now I hope you enjoy this excerpt.*



### #15 Black Orpheus

*(Orpheus knows a good thing when he sees it)*

Search everywhere for beauty.

When you find it, whistle.

Don't get stuck on cute.

Don't be pacified by pretty.

It's harder than you might think  
to see for yourself, but keep looking.



**#16 What a Way to Go!**

*(Gene Kelly isn't about to disappoint his fans)*

Dive into the mosh pit.

Be collective in your consciousness.

Wear the perfume of a crowd.





### #17 The 7<sup>th</sup> Voyage of Sinbad

*(A diminutive princess gives good advice)*

Heed the small still voice,  
blue fairy,  
inner flame.

Pay attention to details.

Take one baby step toward reaching a goal.



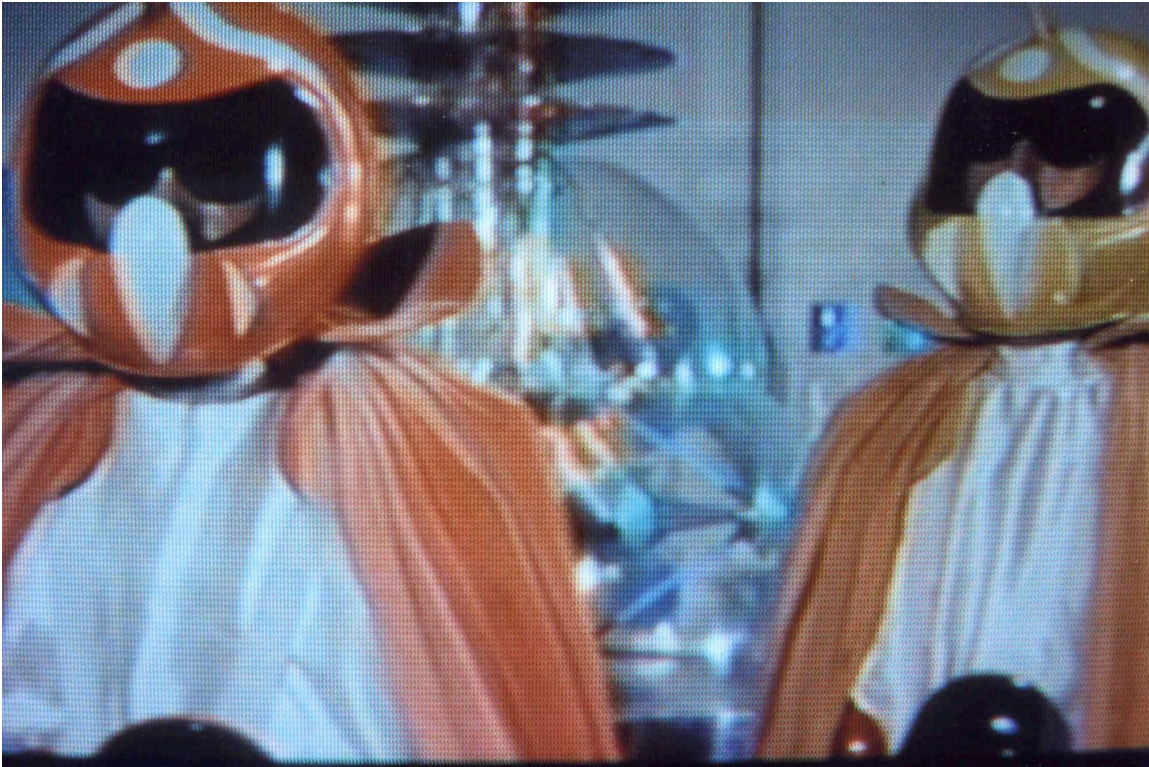
### **#18 The Magnificent Seven**

*(Yul Brynner and a friend brood over drinks)*

Those who live outside the law  
must adhere to a stricter moral code  
than those who simply obey it.

Use your powers for good,  
and one day they'll name a robot  
in a theme park after you.





### #19 The Mysterians

*(Two stylish space invaders address the people of earth)*

Others see you as exotic—  
often imperious—a diva  
“from another planet.”

Try not to make everything you say sound like an  
order.



**#20 The Magnificent Seven**

*(Robert Vaughn keeps up a good façade)*

It's true, you're slipping.

Not as quick or charismatic  
as you used to be.

But we still love you  
and wouldn't want you  
to do anything heroic just yet.





**#21 Sayonara**

*(Marlon Brando can't help looking like a winner)*

Confidence brings victory.

Victory brings confidence.

You're caught in a vicious circle of success.





## #22 Sayonara

*(A geisha plays the role of Spanish cowboy)*

Don't just cross dress—  
while you're at it, change your ethnic identity  
too.



**#23 Finian's Rainbow**

*(Petulia Clark holds a high note)*

Follow the path of a song.