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Media Studies 342w

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Mid-Term Paper Assignment

The concept of Films Noir came from French critics who described the emerging

When was this?

movement of Hollywood films containing dark and pessimistic themes. The critics

"From '40s to '44"

observed signature motifs in the film from the seductive Female Fatales, dark shadows,

Femmes Fatales

rain-slicked streets, and alienated antiheroes. They extensively borrowed from hard-

boiled but literary detective novels to portray society in the mid-20th century. However, in

the midst of these films, one notes the indemnifying roles that females play. The

Is that a pun?

producers ensured that the patriarchal nature of society maintained the role of a woman

Italianize Titles

could be clever. seems like a key part

to insignificant to that of a man. The film Double Indemnity by Billy Wilder portrays the

insignificant position that women played in Hollywood. The director ensures that gender

and sexuality between men and women are entirely different and maintain the traditional

role in the home. Gender and sexuality are constrained to the traditional beliefs of the

woman being the morally upright wife in marriage, while men can seek sexual pleasure

elsewhere. Most of the female characters in these films were sexually objectified in

Is Noir or Film in General?

Again doesn't Phyllis violate this notion?

image and position compared to other characters in the movie. Double Indemnity

achieves sexual objectification through Phyllis, who is the sexually attractive wife to Mr.

Neff. Her role is constrained to that of a housewife with minimal opinion and function.

The director assigns Phyllis a lesser role in the film. She is only to act as a bitter wife

Isn't she pivotal in the man's downfall?

who seeks revenge on her husband. The husband mistreats her and assigns her no

Phyllis but doesn't violate this idea?

Phyllis not married - she is married to someone else - she has an affair with Neff

respect. When compared to other characters in the film, Phyllis holds a less significant

position. The director gives other male characters significant roles that are easily

(Surname 2) memorable. However, the female character has to endure sexual objectification and lesser roles because that is what society demands of her. The

women are treated as the subordinates of men in the family, and they cannot make any significant decisions in the home. The traditional standing of women in society was that

of a lesser gender. Most cultures still believe that women are helpers to their husbands and should follow what their men say.

Film noirs took these positions seriously when assigning roles to women characters. In most films, women rarely held any significant role apart from that of bitter wives with plots to murder their cruel husbands for their

fortune or revenge. The trend is replicated in Double Indemnity, where the women are constrained to lesser roles. They submit to their husbands who, from time to time, remind

them of their position as wives. Also, Phyllis adopts the Female Fatales role as she plots the murder of her husband to acquire his insurance money. While her plan is

flawed by the fact that Lola will receive everything, the director manages to show the oppression that women underwent during the period as lesser characters in stories

despite the significant role they played during the World War. The initial set of the role of women in film noir was a harmless supplement for the narrative but later came to be

revealed as the dark reality of re-oppressed females after World War II. Before the World Wars, women were constrained to the home. Men were the breadwinners in families, as

most of them had jobs outside the home. Women, on the other hand, took the role of building the family. They performed house chores and rarely had any significant

positions outside the home. The World Wars, especially the second one, changed this

How so?
How does she do this exactly?

Very long paragraph

New Paragraph

Ha! maybe in noir but not always the board

Society see this rebel against the role assigned to her.

New Paragraph

This is before the war ends though

old

because most men had been recruited to join armies. Women became the breadwinners of the family during the period that propagated feminism to some extent.

27/10/17

However, the conclusion of the war implied that more men could stay at home and provide for the family. This led to a shift where

NOT sure how you mean this exactly.

Surname 3 society required women to go back to their traditional posts. These posts

were believed to be oppressive by limiting what women could do. The re-oppression is evident in the film through most of the female characters whose role is constrained

There are only two women in the film - one poor & one rich

inside their homes. However, one can see this through Phyllis, whose role is that of a

Again - they are not married

housewife. She is Walter Neff's second wife and tends to the matters of the home. Her

husband, who does not let her weigh in her opinion on several issues, constantly makes

her role as a housewife clear. Respect for Phyllis as a wife and human being is absent

How so?

in the film based on the actions of Walter and the complaints of the wife. Her lack of

affection for the man is made worse by his inconsiderate nature of her as an equal in the

How does she feel about this though?

marriage. Therefore, the director of the film ensures that the audience can distinguish

New Paragon Female Fatales is

between the role of men and women after the Second World War.

elements

one of the common themes used in film noirs that movie creators used to oppress

The film come out during the war

women. Female Fatales is the stock character of a seductively beautiful woman who

She was always

used her charms to trap her lovers and to lead to their deaths under mysterious

circumstances. She is an archetype in the literature that writers used to advance

In what sense

specific themes of agendas. Assessments of such characters in films show that the

directors want to portray women as devious and individuals who will do anything to

what do they want?

achieve what they want. The portrayal of Phyllis in the film helps to bring forth the

stereotype of the bitter wife. She is attractive, and the director makes it seem that her

Why is she bitter though?

husband was only attracted to her because of her looks. Phyllis plots the murder of her husband in the film to acquire his assets, given that she is the next of kin. Billy Wilder manages to bring out the stereotype of the seductive, sexually attractive woman in this film. The perception that films want to portray is that beautiful women only have their charms to get what they want, and they can go to extremes when needed.

He does

New Paragraph

Sumname 4 The portrayal of normal and deviant in film noirs are dependent on the traditional roles of men and women. Men were believed to be the head of the family. They provided for the family by working in and outside the home. On the other hand, women took care of the children and family by doing house chores and other functions that align with the archetype of a woman. The portrayal of normal follows these traditional guidelines in the films. Deviance in the films is mainly constrained to women. Some of the deviant trends include the use of sexuality to achieve personal goals and to desire more than what the traditional role of a woman has to offer. Sexuality and criminal trends are also interconnected in the film noirs through their plots. The plot developments of most film noirs perceive women as the immoral members of society who will plot the murder of their husbands because they treat them badly. On the other hand, men seem to be the morally upright gender who strives to fend for their families. The directors manage to hide the negative elements of men from the audience while also hiding the challenges that women suffered from the oppression they experience in their marriages. Also, the issue of gender and morality holds a common theme in film noirs. Based on the films, men rarely use their sexuality to advance their agendas. Most of the films will portray the man as the breadwinner with little flaws in his character.

Yes - though you're already stated this

How lower self this exact

But isn't Neff really a compromised?

Doesn't Neff see his desire for Phyllis as to catalyze do do a 4 time?

True - but

However, the portrayal of the female character tends to take a negative portrayal. The low do we see Neff in the film?

plot will have the woman in the home as tradition dictates. They are usually obedient and humble to their husbands. Those who do not conform to traditional expectations are deemed immoral and get plots that will assign roles that can bring that out. Film noirs were important depictions of society after the Second World War. They helped to exhibit social trends during the period while elevating the movie industry. However, the films failed to elevate women and feminism. Most of the films depict the women in a confined role to the home, while women who do not conform to societal expectations are deemed immoral.

Agreed

True - In fact they were part of a movement

do limit women's rights

Surname 5 Themes like female Fatales were common and were used to oppress women through an immoral depiction of beautiful, sexually attractive women.

) thoughtfully interesting but need detail