

Hollywood Cinema in the Studio-Era (TERM YR)
Information Sheet for Forum Posts #1 and #2

You have 2 weeks to complete these first posts, and you should try to watch your assigned film as soon as possible. Don't leave this until too late! When you have watched the films, please compose the posts outlined below and post them to the discussion forum.

Post #1: Film Response & Review (about 250 words)

Due: [End Wk.03 DATE] by midnight; comments by [DATE] and replies by [DATE]

Value: 10 points

Instructions: For Post #1, offer your review of the group's film. What were you expecting before seeing the film? Did you like it? What about it? What didn't you like? What were your favorite/ least favorite scenes, characters, other aspects of the film? Be specific! Did anything strike you as 'odd,' confusing, upsetting, or just unfamiliar?

Post #2: Studio-Era Cinema as Group Style (about 500-750 words)

Due: [End Wk.05 DATE] by midnight; comments by [DATE] and replies by [DATE]

Value: 10 points

Option A: Trade-Press Review: Provide a link to or image of, and detailed citation of, a trade press review from the film's initial release. Discuss how the author's way of seeing the film differed from yours. You can start with whether you agree/disagree with the content of his/her opinion, but you should then move on to be more empathetic (how is he/she seeing things differently and why?) and analytical (what aspects of the film are important to the review?). What narrative and/or stylistic standards or ideals does the film hold up or fall short of? Does this review reinforce the standards of the classical style as discussed in BST?

Option B: Scene Analysis: Select a scene or sequence from your film and examine its classical tendencies in terms of style and narration. What are the salient techniques the film relies on to control and shape time and space in order to support the narrative? What features of *mise-en-scène*, cinematographic properties, editing, and sound are enlisted to ensure ease of viewer comprehension and increased spectatorial involvement? How are the general characteristics of classicism realized in the specifics of your scene's stylistic features (reference to pertinent passages from Bordwell is probably advisable). You may want to support your discussion with screenshots (consult Google for how to obtain these).

Locating Film Review Tips

You can access industry trade press reviews through the very valuable, and yet *free*, Media History Digital Library (mediahistory.org), but a keyword search of the film's title will likely return thousands of hits, many of them advertising material, box office reports, and so on. Indexes and other resources that compile source citations are very helpful here:

- AFI Catalogue of Feature Films: available online, this will tell you the date your film premiered and will give you a list of primary sources (bottom of entry on film). Those sources nearest the premiere date are likely to be the reviews.
- Patrica King Hanson and Stephen Hanson, eds. Film Review Index. 2 vols. (Phoenix, AZ: Oryx Press, 1986). == PN1995 .F464 1986 V.2.