

Darsh Thakker

Columbia College Chicago

World Cinema II

10/29/20

Question 1**Economic and cultural events that impacted the Hollywood**

Hollywood and the sound system were greatly affected by two major events during the 1940s and 1950s. The great depression and World War II were some of the major events which have a major impact on the film industry in the United States. The great depression brought a major downfall to the economy of the United States. The rates of unemployment in the nation increased with many people losing their jobs all over the country. The buying power of the dollar was high at the time but the people strived to get necessities and basic goods. This reduced the rates of attendance in the film theatres with many people failing to afford the shows. World War II had major impacts on the American economy. The United States specialized in the manufacture of arms and selling them to their allies involved in the war. This influenced the growth of the manufacturing industry and major employment opportunities were created.

The economy highly expanded in the 1940s as the economy witnessed a quadruple in the number of goods manufactured with sales in other American industries also improved by a great margin. This included the film industry where many people could afford to pay for the tickets to attend movie theatres.

There was a major boom in the film industry with increased attendance in the film theatres. Major film production firms sought to have independence in the production of their films. In 1948, the paramount decision was reached which was a major landmark in the United States film industry. It decided the fate of companies independently owning the movie theatres and exclusive rights to show the movies in the theatres. Major dealing arrangements were rendered illegal which led to the end of the studio system in Hollywood. Many companies such as Warner Bros started to

include musical sounds in their films. Many genres of music were adapted into a film in different scenes including the use of background music or various performances in the films by various singers. By the 1950s, musical films became a major trend in the film industry. Some of the movies which use examples of music include *Girl can't help it*. It includes various performances by a talentless singer who struggled to become famous. Later, the character, played by Jayne Mansfield, ended up becoming a major star in the rock and roll style. There is a wide variety of movies performed in the film by various factors including multiple performances by Jayne. Her performance of *joie de vivre* is considered as one of the most influencing performances in the movie as it helps her express the idea of womanhood and creating self-awareness.

Some of the major songs in the film include "The Girl Can't Help It" "Tempo's Tempo" and "My Idea of Love". The films also sparked major influence in the rock 'n roll music lovers and various musicians with its inclusion of the genre's major stars. The film features various performances from stars such as Little Richard and Eddie Cochran. In the movie's introduction, the use of music has majorly used the background instead of a narrator's voice or dialogues between most of the characters. Most of the parts of the movie include a musical background and the playing of songs in full is also majorly included in the movie. Music in "The Girl Can't Help it is a major inclusion in developing the story.

Question 3

French new wave

Bordwell and Thompson explain differences that can be identified between the new wave of French filmmakers and the preexisting music producers in the 1950s. The new wave of film directors included some of the people involved in film making under the previous directors in various sectors such as film critics, short films, or even making-of documentaries. With the experience the filmmakers had acquired from working under the older directors, the new wave of French filmmakers included and developed various ideas that impacted the new wave. One of the major differences can be identified in movie criticisms. Some of the French movie critics for the journal *Cahiers du Cinema* were involved in major transformations to help in bringing back the influence of movies on human emotions and improving sincerity. Some of the directors involved in the movement include Francois Truffaut and Jean-Luc Godard.

The new wave introduced different techniques in making films different from the previously existing methods. The director of the movie was also involved in the screenplay. In most cases, the new wave introduced the use of actual locations in filming most of the movie scenes. The filming at the locations also underwent major changes as explained by Bordwell and Thompson. The cameras became handheld freeing them from the tripod to increase the amount of energy in the movies. The logic of the shots in the films also highly changed. The ideas developed in one scene of the movie were supposed to be continued in the next scene to help the audience understand the plot of the movies easily. Continuity editing was dropped for the adoption of jump cuts when filming a long movie scene. The characters in the movies were interpreted by people who are non-professional actors to represent the experience of the audience members when

viewing the film. The sound used in the movies was recorded in the time of shooting the scene at the location rather than recording separate sounds and synchronizing them later. This brought a sense of originality in every scene as opposed to the previous filmmakers.

The movie *Cléo from 5 to 7* expresses various examples of the newly adapted styles in movies. One of them is the making of various scenes. The movie creates various simultaneous events at different scenes to improve the reality in the movie. In one of the scenes, Cleo performs one of her songs in a café. At the time of her performance, a lady is seen complaining from her table about the amount of noise playing in the room. Other lovers are breaking up in a nearby café on the other side of the road. Jump cuts and filming at different angles is highly used in this scene rather than the use of continuity editing. The movie in this case uses real scenes and real sounds which help in bringing out a better sense of reality in the movies different from the previous filmmakers.

The filmmakers also used various colors to induce emotions among their audiences. The filmmakers create a fragmented clips frame in Cleo's face which induces emotions. Sounds in the background include an emotional and diegetic piano which gives a sense of the life Cleo was going through. This scene is an example of using live sounds from the scenes rather than synchronizing the sound from an unknown source. The music at the scene is played from the piano right behind Cleo.

Question 4

Defining trends in Czech films

Bordwell and Thompson explain some of the various stylistic trends highly witnessed in new Czech new films. There were major artistic growths in the film industry including the animation sector in the 1960s. Many European countries including the Czech established major schools for animated films. With time, the Czech school became an established player in the production of animated films. It was one of the largest players in the production of animated films. Puppets and cartoon productions were some of the major films by the institution. This influenced the trend of animations within the Czech Republic making it one of the institutions well known for the production of puppet fables for children.

The major ideas portrayed by the filmmakers in most of the films aimed at criticizing the communist regime as explained by Bordwell and Thompson. The new wave expressed various instances criticizing the failing regimes in the Czech Republic. Some of the animations and films majorly expressed humorous satire in criticizing the leaders. This trend was majorly adopted among the various producers in the country. The themes in films majorly changed with major inclusions of gentle satire in the movies which helped in addressing some of the main social and moral issues of the society. Some of the movies also expressed the lives of the working-class including their drive to lead a socialist life. The filmmakers used the movies as a major way of creating awareness among the people about their role and participation in an oppressing and incompetent regime.

Some of the major filmmakers of the time include Milos Forman and Ivan Passer who produced *The Fireman's Ball*. This was one of the movies which highly criticized the communist

regime and some of the leaders. Other major filmmakers as explained by Bordwell and Thompson include Jiri Menzel, Jan Kadar, Jaromil Jires as well as Vera Chytilova. Most of the films produced by these producers were influenced by the prevailing social issues as well as borrowing from works of literature such as Menzel's *Bildungsroman*.

Various movies such as the *Daisies* highly express the trends of the themes in Czechs films. In the first scenes, the film expresses two protagonists who dance close to an apple tree and end up eating the apples from the tree. This scene is used to depict the instances and behaviors of the country's leaders around power. The eating of the fruit expresses gluttony and lust among the characters which represent the leaders in the communist regime. In the last sections of the movie, another scene expresses the need for the people to mind the type of battles that they pick.

As the movie ends, one of the scenes reminds us that the film was dedicated to "Those who get upset only over a stomped-upon bed of lettuce". In this scene, the film is reminding the viewers of the importance of using more of their time to protest the oppression brought by communism instead of focusing on mere societal transgressions which may not have any significance on the quality of lives the people lead. The people are advised to focus on the things that matter more to the society like oppressions by Communist authoritarians. People through the movie are educated on their role in making society a better place when they focus on the right things.