



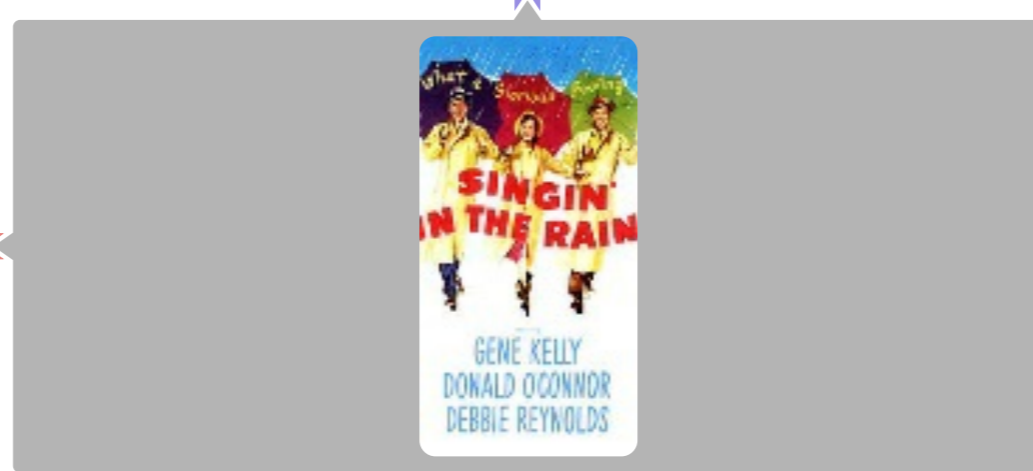
Gene Kelly: 1912- 1996. He was an american film actor and director. He was also a very talented dancer who demonstrated classical ballet techniques. He is mostly remembered for his lead role in Singin' in the Rain in which he also directed and played the role of the choreographer



Nacio Herb Brown: 1896-1964. He was an american writer of popular movie score, songs and Broadway theatre music. His most notable work is his work on Singin' in the rain. After his death, in 1970 he was inducted into the songwriters Hall of Fame.



Debbie Reynolds: 1932- 2016. She is an american actor who got her big break in Singin' in the Rain (1952). She was born in El Paso, Texas and got her start in beauty pageants before being discovered by a film scout from the Warner Bros. From then her acting career began.



Singin' in the Rain, 1952. Director: Gene Kelly and Stanley Doren

Historical- Technological: Singin in the rain is set during the 1927 which is a time period considered by filmmakers as the end of the silent era and the start of the sound-on-film era. From the beginning of cinema, there were multiple attempts made by various filmmakers and inventors to create the very first sound film. A good example of a filmmaker who saw the potential of sound film is Thomas Edison who came up with the idea of merging this visual medium and his phonograph. He with the help of Eadweard Muybridge attempted to create sound on film with the use of the zoopraxiscope and kinoscope but met issues in terms of synchronization, lack of sufficient playback volume and recording fidelity. It was until 1919 that sound film got its break through Lee De Forest's system. The Jazz singer by Alan Crosland is documented as being the first feature-length motion picture with a synchronized recorded music score. The movie is also mentioned during different occasions in the film.

Social-historical: During the 1950s, conformity was a common norm that was valued by Americans during this time period. Men were expected to carry on their roles as the breadwinners of the home and females were expected to take on the role of the obedient housewife. A reason for this need for conformity one may suggest is that conformity was seen as the only way for stability. Stability which was a dream that the Americans wished to experience after the detrimental effects of WW2. This conformity was further seen in American's desire to have children because 'they were confident that the future held nothing but peace and prosperity' (History.com Editors, 2010). However not all Americans liked the idea of conformity and began to rebel 'against conventional values. Stressing spontaneity and spirituality, they asserted intuition over reason, Eastern mysticism over Western institutionalized religion' (American History, 2012). This can be seen in various literary works which had the authors following the modernization movement and musicians such as Elvis Presley who popularised rock and roll and shocked the most conservative Americans in the country.

Costumes: In this scene, the audience can see that the males are wearing the traditional suit and tie while females are wearing sparkling dresses which are pastel/ light in color. The suit is seen as an 'exemplary of masculine sexuality as it is of dreary conformity' for it 'heightens male sexuality in widening shoulders, narrowing hips and aesthetically linking, in Freudian terms, the Adam's apple to the genitals via the tie' (Tim Edwards, 2014). This links with conformity because a female would be looked upon an outfit that broadens her shoulder which is seen as a 'sign of masculinity' instead she has to wear which symbolises love, purity and accentuates her curves and female features.

Genre Codes and Conventions: Musical Singin in the rain as mentioned earlier is a 1952 musical directed by Gene Kelly. When looking at how the film follows the musical codes and conventions, this can be seen in how songs are used to express a character's emotions and thoughts. How songs are used to advance the plot and theme of the movie. How the film seems to be set in a fantasy world in which bursting into songs at random moments is a common thing. This can also be seen in how the film has a male lead and a female lead (who most likely plays the male lead's love interest). The last code and convention that the film follows which can be seen in the explored is how Musicals are normally set in a utopian setting. This utopian features is illustrated in how the protagonist doesn't seem to face any major problems. He is rich, handsome, has friends and family. He isn't faced with any issues such as racism, sexism, poverty. Even when looking at the whole movie, audience can see that the hero doesn't have to leave his home on some self-searching quest which further pushes the idea that the film is set in a utopian setting. This utopian setting links with the economic state of America in the 1950s. In a world where America was prosperous and had no problems in terms of money, luxury and creating a good family. It could be said that the utopian setting used in the film was used to portray how Americans felt about their country during that time period. This portrays how director Gene Kelly used the musical convention of a utopian setting to reflect the lives of Americans during the 1950s.

Economic: The 1950s in which the film takes place in, is also referred to as the Eisenhower era (1953-1961). This era is known specifically for being the most prosperous year for America's economy for their standard of living was far better than that of the previous generations. This can be seen in the United States GDP which 'grew by an astonishing 150% in the period from 1945 to 1960.' (Khan Academy, 2017). With 'only five percent of the world's population the U.S. economy produced almost half of the world's manufactured products' in 1950 (Khan Academy, 2017). The nation's gross national product 'rose from about \$200,000 million in 1940 to \$300,000 million in 1950 and to more than \$500,000 million in 1960' (Mike Moffatt, 2005). This makes it understandable why Americans refer to the 1950s as the decade of prosperity.

Themes: Technological Advancement The main plot of the movie besides the romance is the introduction of sound films to the cinema and its impact on the cinematic industry and world. One of the impacts being the sudden end to many silent film actors careers who couldn't meet the requirements of a sound film. This is illustrated in the chosen scene which shows the various actors, producers, directors etc gathering together to watch a video of what could be perceived as the first video clip of the sound to film movement. After watching this video clip, audience listen into the dialogue of 4 suited men talking about how ridiculous the idea of a talkie was which can be perceived as fear of losing their jobs and creditability in the film business. This is also seen when Don is taunting Kathy after her performance which succeeded her remark about movie actors. The audience could read Don's need to taunt Kathy as a way for him to display that he is superior that movie actors are superior than stage actors and will always. Which was no doubt a common feeling shared by many movie actors during this time period.

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