The Undressing Women: The Function of Film Costume in Hollywood Film The Women from the 1930s and the 21 Century

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Abstract
As the representation of people's identity, dress reveals people's characteristics, social status and most importantly, how people want to be "looked like". The same theory can be applied to film costume, which is not only a purely visual spectacle but also an important element to sustain the entire film. Film costume on one hand helps to form the concepts and images of different characters and through the process of changing different costumes film narrative develops simultaneously. On the other hand since the change of dress can reveal social changes, thus film costume can represent the social changes for it is adopted from the daily dress, in this way the audiences can gain further understanding about the film.

In my thesis I will... (More)

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hen The Women opened on Broadway in 1936, audiences were treated to an acerbic commentary on the lives of Manhattan's wealthiest socialites, penned “in venom” by playwright Clare Boothe (Nugent, 32). Filled with feline wit and unbridled malice, the comedy of manners was a smash hit with audiences and played 666 performances in its triumphant run at the Ethel Barrymore Theatre (American Film Institute). The first film adaptation of The Women boasted an all-star cast that could only come from MGM (fig. 21 - “About Color” - Rosalind Russell models her costume from The Women (1939). Photoplay, September 1939. Costume design by Adrian. If a film were made of the life of Vivien Leigh, it would open in India just before World War I, where a successful British businessman could live like a prince. In the mountains above Calcutta, a little princess is born. Because of the outbreak of World War I, she is six years old the first time. Myrna Loy. Marilyn Monroe was an American actress, comedienne, singer, and model. She became one of the world's most enduring iconic figures and is remembered both for her winsome embodiment of the Hollywood sex symbol and her tragic personal and professional struggles within the film industry. Her life and 8. Audrey Hepburn. Actress | Breakfast at Tiffany's. Audrey Hepburn was born on May 4, 1929 in Ixelles, Brussels, Belgium. She was a blue-blood and a cosmopolitan from birth.