

American Cinema II

Gender

Cinema is...

- Narcissistic
- Voyeuristic

Gaze theory

- Gaze of the characters
- Gaze of the camera
- Gaze of the audience

Gaze theory

- Male is active
- Female is passive
- Female is (occasionally) a spectacle and stops the action

Gaze theory

- Female is still a threat to the male order
- So female is investigated and/or punished and/or fetishized
- And every time women “look”... they get punished

How are female characters objectified?

- Objects of the male gaze
- Filmed as part of the setting
- Emphasis on their appearance and not their qualities
- Can be bought as a commodity
- Oversexualized
- Close ups on body parts
- Lighting
- Sometimes they are literally used as an object

We watched scenes from the following movies

- *Wings* (1927)
- *Un Chien Andalou* (1929)
- *Gilda* (1946)
- *Cool Hand Luke* (1967)
- *Who Framed Roger Rabbit* (1988)
- *Death Proof* (2007)
- *500 Days of Summer* (2009)
- *High Plains Drifter* (1973)