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Themenhefte

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"Books such as 'The Cinema of Max Ophuls: Magisterial Vision and the Figure of Woman,' 'Melodrama and Meaning: History, Culture, and the Films of Douglas Sirk,' 'Contesting Tears: The Holywood Melodrama of the Unknown Woman' and 'Max Ophuls in the Hollywood Studios' represent the significance of Hollywood melodramas. The genre provides a means for criticism which is important to social formations. These books brings to focus that as long as attention is given to Hollywood films, the genre will remain." [Expanded Academic Index]

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Fischer, Lucy: Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous: Imitation of Life. In: Post Script 9,2, Winter 1991, pp. 5-13.

The public image of US stars, esp. female, is contrasted with the reality of their private life; focuses on the example of Lana Turner and her role in "Imitation of life".

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Douglas Sirk's film "All I Desire" portrays the duality of the female character. Situated at the turn of the century, the film follows a woman's desire to become an actress at the price of abandoning her husband and children. Although she is reunited with her family in the end, her absence has created intensified love or hatred in her children and meekness in her husband.

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Gallagher, Tag: Tag Gallagher Responds to Tania Modleski's "Time and Desire in the Woman's Films" ("Cinema Journal," Spring 1984) and Linda Williams's "'Something Else besides a Mother": "Stella Dallas" and the Maternal Melodrama" ("Cinema

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Filmmaker Douglas Sirk thought that movies should function for society, playing on the audience's emotions. Good and evil, lightness and darkness were accentuated with music. Motion and light were used to create the necessary melodramatic moments. Two major Sirk themes are characters who impose their will despite pain (white melodrama), and characters who are dominated by their will, giving in to lust (black melodrama).

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Kennedy, Harlan: The melodramatists. In: American Film 17,1, Jan. Feb. 1992, pp. 54-56. Über Douglas Sirk und Nicholas Ray.

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Filmmakers Max Ophuls and Douglas Sirk depict the gradual decay of the family unit in their films. Both focus on the rise of youth culture during the 1950s, coupled with the open floor plans of that era. Boundaries are therefore transgressed physically, mentally and emotionally, leading family members to seek means of escape and make irrational decisions.

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the Broadway star is inappropriate. Sirk's protagonist cannot trade suffering for glamour because she is not sufficiently real to suffer; literally, then, there is nothing to envy. Like other domestic melodramas of the day, Imitation of Life explores the possibilities of female rebellion and escape, variously offering its audience validation, socialization, and emotional release through tearsbut it accomplishes this task in a way that criticizes female aspirations and audience gullibility considerably less that it criticizes theatricality in gene-

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