Response 2: Cultural/ Social or Political Reflection

# Reflection Paper on Judy Garland: A Star is born (1954)

When people talk about Hollywood and the classic movies it produced, Judy Garland remains one of the first names which pops up in the mind. Garland has been timeless who will be remembered for her celebrated career. Along with making her name in the movies, she created an illusion of a “perfect woman” living a “perfect life” (A Star Is Born n.d.). This perfectionist approach introduced by Garland still mesmerizes her followers. For the modern-day actresses, this perfectionist approach is an unattainable image that Garland achieved in her career. The unfortunate fact remains that this image of her was the reason to bring her career to an end. Born in 1922, Garland first appeared in front of the audience when she was just two years old. Her parents run a local theatre and this was how she came into the performing arts in very early years of her life and remained successful in leaving a lasting image over her viewers (A Star Is Born n.d.).

Garland’s acting soon attracted the attention of many Americans. Many women started admiring her and were inspired by the way she carried herself in the start and top of her career. With the release of her film, *A Star is born,* she experienced a new come back. For her illustrious acting skills, she was nominated for Academy Awards for Best Actress but unfortunately lost to Grace Kelly. From this time onwards, Garland was known as a woman who had inspired many lives. Her movie left a lasting impact over the social, cultural and political settings of those times.

# A star is born- The movie

A star is born marked the return of Garland in movies. George Cukor who was the director of the film showcased Harold Gershwin's songs on the stereo. After the initial release, this movie proved one of the most beloved business stories of all time. This movie was important since it included the career peak of many involved in its making (A Star Is Born (1954) - Rotten Tomatoes n.d.). Garland who performed the role of a singer gets the attention of an alcoholic actor who is facing a decline in his career. As they both fell in love, this relationship helps them to transform. Both characters reflects each other for their success. It is apparent in the movie that love remains transformational for both of them with her extraordinary acting skills, Garland proves that love is an unmatchable natural feeling which keeps on igniting warmth in each other’s hearts. For those, who believe that love remains insignificant this movie provides a new attraction. Many later film producers, re-filmed the entire movie since it provided them the opportunity to reignite the concept of love among people.

# Cultural impacts

The American culture has remained profuse to many aspects. There have been many cultural aspects that remained influenced by what has been portrayed in the movies throughout the history of the US. Both characters in the movie are stellar, they have depicted the best of their acting skills (A Star Is Born (1954) - Rotten Tomatoes n.d.). In the public eyes, this movie remained successful in garnering swings and an image which it should have held. The cultural impact of the movie goes beyond the best acting the characters have implied and the soundtracks it includes. It talks about the aspects of how culture and human emotions can make to work together. For example, Garland’s love story don’t tales place outside of a culture or a society. Both characters are part of a culture who extends support towards them. The secondary characters have remained supportive which shows that American culture of that time had such acceptance. From a cultural perspective, Garland’s role remains acquainted.

# Social impacts

Movies remain significant when it comes to leaving a social impact. There is no second opinion in the fact that social attributes remain influenced by the perception displayed in the movie. The characters of ‘A Star is born’ are strong cold had left a lasting impact on the society of that time. The positive aspect attached to this character is the way how they influence society. The struggle these characters had been through and the story truly reflects the image of society. Such aspects could have been a little different in the real world but hold significant importance (“A Star Is Born” Review: 1954 Movie | Hollywood Reporter n.d.). Garland’s acting and the way she indulged herself into the role shows how strong a real-life character should be. For the social class, the film depicts many lessons that are a reflection of how things work in society. Struggle, affection, class balance and love are what this movie leaves behind for a society.

# Political impacts

There is no doubt in the fact that politics have remained influential over the film making. There had been concerns on how politics can affect the film making, but it certainly remains over the political clout from those times. For example, the political culture which attracts the attention of masses and portrays things in a broader manner remains not workable in movies as it can invite controversy. Similarly, there are stories which remain unfit in political clout, *A Star is born* is that same movie. The plot, story, and characterization of *A Star is born* does not relate purely to the political realm (“A Star Is Born” Review: 1954 Movie | Hollywood Reporter n.d.). The political impact is of a definite nature that could be accumulated in certain ways. Garland’s depiction of her characterization and the manner, his companion carries the role leaves a negligible impact over politics.

# References:

*A Star Is Born*. http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0047522/ (October 9, 2019).

“A Star Is Born (1954) - Rotten Tomatoes.” https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/1019829\_star\_is\_born (October 9, 2019).

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