

RUSSIA HAUNTS OUR MOVIES: HOW SOCIETY INFLUENCES THE MEDIA



**Big Events Occur like COVID-19,
War with Russia, or Everyday
Worries**

Image taken from Canva



Creates Media Which Informs Our Wants, Fears, and Heartbreaks

Photo by [Omid Armin](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Society affects film, theatre, and music in different ways

Film uses predictable narratives and responds more slowly to change in society

For example, Russians continued to be portrayed as villains in film long after the Russian-American cold war ended (Brook, 2013). Carr (2013) shows that companies like Netflix gather large amounts of data from consumers to recreate tv series like *House of Cards* (2013), stripping away viewer's privacy but giving them exactly what they want (Carr, 2013).

Theatre uses new productions to focus on social change

Montgomery (2020) says that Irish-Jewish theatre in the 19th century didn't mean to promote nationalism, but both actors and the community drew connections between the two (Montgomery, 2020). The entire focus of small theatre troupes like Pintig are to advocate for social change in society (Mascarenas, 2010).

Music uses universal life experiences and focuses on emotions to appeal to listeners

Taylor Swift makes music which resonates with us, whether that be the heartbreak of a breakup or the small town rhythms of her country music (Pazzanese, 2023). Sabatella's (n.d.) description of the emotional appeal and relatability of jazzy blues queens in the 1920's resurfaced with Pazzanese's (2023) description of breakup songs by Taylor Swift (Pazzanese, 2023; Sabatella, n.d.).

Implications of uplifting/degenerate extremes and our power to starve the media

The media creates a feedback loop which amplifies trends in public opinion, leading to extremes. For example, society continued to see Russians as villains because they were portrayed as such. But we control the media. Russian villains which do not sell will be discontinued if society itself changes, so when we avoid films sporting evil 'Ivan Drago', Hollywood stops of its own accord. Media acts as an early warning system for wickedness.

- Brook, T. (2014). Hollywood stereotypes: Why are russians the bad guys? . <https://www.bbc.com/culture/article/20141106-why-are-russians-always-bad-guys>
 - Carr, D. (2013). For ‘House of cards,’ using big data to guarantee its popularity - the new york times. <https://www.nytimes.com/2013/02/25/business/media/for-house-of-cards-using-big-data-to-guarantee-its-popularity.html>
 - García-Vizcaíno, M. J. (2021). ERIC - EJ1342677 - audio description for all: Serving the low vision spanish-speaking community in the united states, journal of higher education outreach and engagement, 2021. <https://eric.ed.gov/?id=EJ1342677>
 - Mascarenas, A. A. (2010). Theater of transgression staging collective identity and action among immigrant communities (Ph.D.). Available from Ethnic NewsWatch, ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Global. (748248280). <https://www.proquest.com/dissertations-theses/theater-transgression-staging-collective-identity/docview/748248280/se-2?accountid=4488> http://www.lib.byu.edu/jfinder.pl??url_ver=Z39.88-2004&rft_val_fmt=info:ofi/fmt:kev:mtx:dissertation&genre=dissertations&sid=ProQ:ProQuest+Dissertations+%2526+Theses+Global&atitle=Mental+health+fears+over+Hungarian+anti-LGBTQI+laws&title=The+Lancet&issn=01406736&date=2021-06-01&volume=397&issue=10293&spage=2452&au=Holt%252C+Ed&isbn=&jtitle=The+Lancet&btitle=&rft_id=info:eric/2021-62476-012&rft_id=info:doi/10.1016%252FS0140-6736%252821%252901434-3
 - Montgomery, B. (2020). Jewish drama on the irish stage: The socio-political and cultural milieu of the dublin jewish amateur operatic society (1908-1910) and the dublin jewish dramatic society (1924-1954). Studi Irlandesi, 10(10), 133-152. <https://doi.org/10.13128/SIJS-2239-3978-11757>
 - Pazzanese Christina. (2023). So what exactly makes taylor swift so great? <https://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2023/08/so-what-exactly-makes-taylor-swift-so-great/>
 - Sabatella, M. (n.d.). Blues queens and race records in the 1920s. <https://balladofamerica.org/blues-queens-and-race-records-in-the-1920s/>
 - Solomon, D. (2021). A new genre of film is already here: COVID movies. <https://www.texasmonthly.com/arts-entertainment/pandemic-movies-just-getting-started/>