

Transition to Sound



Sound Crisis



- Studios need sound proofing
- "Quiet on the set" - directors can't talk
- Someone has to write screenplay
- Silent actors may not have good voices
- No sound mixing
- Most popular movies in early sound era: musicals

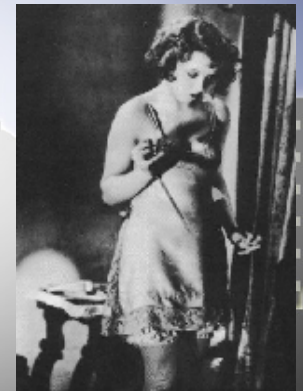
Blackmail 1928

- » Director: Alfred Hitchcock
- » Began as a silent film; sound added mid-production
 - » Silent portions with underscoring
 - » Sound portions, no underscoring
 - » Had to dub lead actress



Artist Apartment

- » Live Sound
 - » No scoring
 - » Live music
- » "Miss Up-To-Date"
 - » Verse - Chorus
 - » Chorus: aaba



The Artist 2011



- French Film; first to win Best Picture
- Silent film shot in black-and-white
- Story of Hollywood and transition to sound
- Rise of a young actress; fall of star; similar to A Star is Born
- Best Score by Ludovic Bource
- Romance: Viewer Guide 32.2

Final Scene



- Cross-cutting
 - George contemplates suicide
 - Peppy drives to the rescue
- Scoring
 - In the style of Gustav Mahler
 - But borrowed from Herrmann's Vertigo

Singin' in the Rain

- ◇ AFI Greatest Films: No. 7
- ◇ Features Gene Kelly, Donald O'Connor, and newcomer Debbie Reynolds
- ◇ Set in Hollywood's transition to sound
- ◇ Virtually all songs composed in 1920-30s



Typical Musical Qualities



- ◇ One or more characters are entertainers
- ◇ Songs
 - Can be part of entertainment
 - Can be expression of personal emotions
 - Generally, plot is put on hold
 - Text should relate to the plot
 - Sometimes, a song can forward the plot