

The 1960s



# The New American Cinema

Moder Musical Scores

- Turbulent time in America
- All arts reject tradition
- Film developments
  - New Wave Cinema from France (1959)
  - Emergence of Classical films
  - Result: creative unique films that break with tradition or redefine their genres



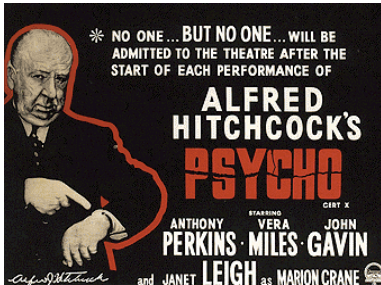
## Film Music

- Continued decline in traditional scores
- Music used more sparingly
- Popular music begins to dominate
- Generally, unique musical sounds heard in films

## To Kill A Mockingbird 1962

- Based on novel by Harper Lee
- Gregory Peck: AFI greatest hero
- Score by Elmer Bernstein: AFI No. 17
  - Economical in cues and ensemble size
  - Employs American Nationalism style
- Climax: Viewer Guide 17.2





## Psycho

- Chose black and white for starkness
- Many visual innovations
- Shower montage shocked nation
  - Violence reflected in violent cutting
  - Throws plot into total confusion
- Hitchcock redefines thriller genre



## Music for Psycho

- Bernard Herrmann with sparse score
  - Modern style, often very dissonant
  - Scored for strings only
  - Amount of music is reduced
  - Music sets mood, does not necessarily reflect action
  - AFI: Greatest Film Scores No. 4
- Famous shower music (murder theme) added at the very end

## *Planet of the Apes* 1968

- ♦ Fascinating Sci-fi plot
- ♦ Jerry Goldsmith score
  - ♦ Modern musical style: avant-garde
  - ♦ Represents upside-down world

