Popular Music

1950s

A Streetcar Named Desire, 1951

Director: Elia Kazan

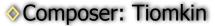
Composer: Alex North

- Story set in New Orleans, the birthplace of jazz
- Jazz is frequent source music, but also used as underscoring
- Famous "Stella" scene with saxophone

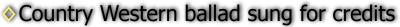
The 1950s

- Jazz new styles are more disturbing
- New types
 - Country Western
 - Rock 'n Roll
- Hollywood discovers financial rewards of using more popular music

High Noon (1952)



♦ AFI Greatest Scores: No. 10



- Created great sensation a number 1 hit
- Soon all films had to have a "hit" song
- Ballad also used during film
- Most of the scoring is still traditional
 - Several leitmotifs derived from the tune
 - Also a motive for the clock (film in real time!)
- High Noon: Viewer Guide 15.1



Rock 'n Roll

- Rock era begins with the movies
- "Rock Around the Clock" becomes a sensation after use in The Blackboard Jungle (1955)
 - Tune meant to depict juvenile delinquents
 - But made tune first no. 1 rock song
- Within a few years, numerous rock films created including Love Me Tender (1956) and Jailhouse Rock (1957) starring Elvis



Singin' in the Rain

- ♦ AFI Greatest Films: No. 7
- Features Gene Kelly, Donald O'Conner, and newcomer Debbie Reynolds
- Set in Hollywood's transition to sound
- Virtually all songs composed in 1920-30s
- Music composers
 - Nacio Herb Brown songs
 - Lennie Hayton underscoring



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