Caleb Wiegers

Dr. Cilento

COMM 252

04 May 2024

New Hollywood and the new styles and techniques

Hollywood has had a great influence on filmmaking as a whole for a very long time now, and there are arguments about whether or not it has been an innovative influence or just a negative one. There have been so many people that go through this Hollywood system over the many decades that films have been produced there, and there has been even more money that has been pushed through that system as well. To some people they just see the money and popular films that have been generated for years and years now and call that a great success. But to others they see regurgitation of ideas from other filmmakers, which can be a huge turn off to Hollywood films in general. But the general audience doesn't seem to know or care about how the films get made or how the ideas come around to the writers and filmmakers. All they really care about is a story on a screen that they can relate to and have a good time watching in the theaters. But it is still important to consider the effects that Hollywood has actually had over the film industry as a whole, and how positive or negative it has been for filmmakers all around the world. There are so many different parts of the film industry all over the world, and Hollywood seems to have one of the biggest pieces of the pie in the modern age, and there has to be some reason for that. It seems that it comes down to Hollywood being able to take the ideas from other times in film history and make their own stories and ideas based off of those that are extremely consumable for as many people as possible. This way of doing things makes the most amount of money for the filmmakers, and also encourages them to find new ways to please their large

audiences. In the 60s and 70s the New Hollywood system was taking over and filmmakers were trying to find things that capture people's attention instantly, and they found a few things that really did that well. One of them was the representation of violence and other graphic things in the films, but also the glorification of the gangsters and outlaws in the modern day. This is something that people glorify in a strange way to this day and it affects the way that films are made in a very interesting way. The innovation that was being seen during this time in filmmaking seems to show that the American New Wave is a real thing that affects the film industry to this day.

The glorification and representation of violence in the New Hollywood films have a lot of significance to the idea of whether or not there was an American New Wave. The ideas that were being put into these films really revolutionized the way of capturing the attention of as many people as possible. This is especially prevalent in America, and how the film industry boomed after this time period with the first blockbusters like Jaws and Star Wars. The violence being depicted in movies like Bonnie and Clyde is something that was never really seen much in the film industry as a whole, but especially in America with the heavy restrictions on content like that in America in the years leading up to Bonnie and Clyde. Bonnie and Clyde uses a lot of new ways of using the medium of filmmaking to tell a story that audiences can really connect to and be thoroughly entertained. There are so many different shots and styles of cinematography that are being taken from other times in film history, but it is all added into this film that really glorifies violence in a way that is super exciting for the average audience member. There are so many people in America that used to see these types of things happening in the papers, but being able to see it on the screen for the first time must have been something very new for Americans all over. This is also not just something that affects the people, but it also affects filmmakers all

over the world and how film is perceived by audiences all over the world. The use of violence in this film influences the international film industry in a way that affects the culture, aesthetic, and monetary part of filmmaking. *Bonnie and Clyde* was not an immediate success, but people eventually warmed up to the violence being depicted in the film, and came to appreciate the entertainment value of the film as a whole. This has led to the glorification of violence as a whole in filmmaking and in television starting with *Bonnie and Clyde* going all the way to the modern day Tarantino film.

The glorification of violence in *Bonnie and Clyde* isn't the only thing that it did for the film industry. It also started to set a precedent for films about gangsters and criminals in general. Once the general public accepted this style of filmmaking in the late 1960s, films about the crime lords and gangsters in the United States started to become a very popular genre of filmmaking. This led to films like *The Godfather* and *Taxi Driver*, which are both films that still have great effects on the film industry as a whole today. The way these stories are told show the lives of these generally evil people in a way that glorifies it in a way that makes it super entertaining for the average viewer. The blood and intensity of these films show the appeal that Bonnie and Clyde eventually had for people all over. It led to this time period of these films making great strides in the industry from the 70s all the way to the early 2000s and even modern day with recent films like *The Irishman*. This shows the effect of the immediate difference and pushback against the Hays code after it was lifted, and these gangster films really took advantage of the buzz and excitement in the young audiences. Of course this is mostly focused on the violent parts of these films because that's what was being represented when Bonnie and Clyde first kicked off this time in film history. But with the abandonment of the Hays code people had more freedom to

use violence and sexual content in their films, which led to a lot of new ideas and innovation around that.

The directors and creatives in the filmmaking world have always had a lot to do with the ideas that are being put forward by the film as a whole for a very long time, but in America they generally take on a new role as well. They become part of the marketing and other business decisions with the film, which is something that has not been as prevalent in the past for people. This is something that really affects how the directors work with their film themselves, but it also gives them an opportunity to be able to have their hands in pretty much every part of the filmmaking process. Of course this idea originates with the French New Wave where directors were given pretty much complete control over the creative parts of the film as a whole. However in the American New Wave, this is slightly changed. Directors instead have their hands in a lot of different parts of the film and they have a lot of influence, but they don't have complete control. This has its benefits and disadvantages, but as of the 1960s it is a new way of doing things, especially in Hollywood. Directors have people that support their vision, while also giving their own input on what they think should be happening in the film. These are almost like checks and balances in the filmmaking world, which makes sense for the American way of filmmaking to be like this. It is a very capitalist way of making films, which is helpful for people trying to make a lot of films and make a lot of money doing that. But a lot of the time this takes away from the film as a whole because it can limit what the creatives behind the film are trying to do with the story. This makes the time of the American New Wave a weird time in film history, because there were a lot of new innovations and ideas being developed during that time, but at the same time filmmakers were being more pressured to think about the money as well. It seems to be a theme in the modern day and in history in general that the pressure money and creativity don't always

go very well together, and this is something that we have seen in the current film industry. But the film industry had a lot of money going around during this time, and so innovations were encouraged during this time which really influenced filmmakers all over the world.