

Instructions: Choose a feature film from the list provided in the HUM 1020 syllabus. These films have been selected by your instructor for their portrayal of historical and artistic issues explored in the course. Once you have viewed the film, write a 500-word analytical essay which will focus on what you think is the central idea conveyed in the film. **Do not write a report on an artist, a historical period, or an artistic movement or summarize the plot.**

Your analytical response should address the following subjects:

1. What is the central idea conveyed by the film?
2. How is this central idea presented? You might want to address one or several of the following elements:
 - a. Through the use of plot?
 - b. Through characterization?
 - c. Through cinematography?
 - d. Through costumes?
3. Which are the historical/cultural values that the film explores and why?

A

Surrealist *Frida*

Julie Taymor's *Frida* is a rather accurate portrayal of the popular surrealist movement as it leads us through a journey of the life of Frida Kahlo, and introduces us to the new and true thinkers of the time, her friends and colleagues. The movie seeks to convey, through the use of cinematography, that Frida Kahlo's very life was surrealist and it showed in her political activities, social relationships, as well as needless to say her artwork.

Through the use of cinematography, Julie Taymor reinforces the messages of Kahlo's artwork, often pushing us through a window and into the canvass. Breath of life is blown onto Kahlo's works to make us fully understand the emotion it possesses while transitioning between eras in her life. A very lasting impression is left when we see the typical paper mache skeleton used during the day of the dead festivals atop her canopy in Frida Kahlo's *The Dream* set the entire painting on fire when the fire crackers tied to it begin to explode as she, asleep in her bed, floats through the sky.

Although her paintings serve as a voice and an outlet, Taymore took a more direct approach in presenting Kahlo frequently having an active role in the socialist movement. Surrealist artists are famous for having been socialist, and the movie shows Kahlo's life to be true to that infamy. A few of her paintings, for example *Self-Portrait on the Border Line Between Mexico and the United States*, exude her desire of an unspoiled Mexican culture as well as her distaste for the polluted, capitalist and synthetic United States. Her husband, Diego Rivera, comes to share her view as is reflected in the movie after a short stay in New York where his politically driven mural, commissioned by the Rockefellers,

is destroyed for being heavily socialist in nature. Their entire lives were shown to revolve around these ideals through their friendships and relationships within their community and it was reflected in their artwork.

The movie presented many of their friends, most artists, as just as politically savvy as they. Their circle included those such as Tina Modotti, a leftist model/actress, David Alfaro Siqueiros, a Stalinist muralist, and Leon Trotsky who would be one of Frida's most infamous conquests. Their devotion to the cause was such that they harbored Trotsky, an ex-Commissar for the Army and Navy for the former Soviet Union avoiding assassination, while he was in exile in Mexico. Diego Rivera's passion for Marxist ideology and respect for Trotsky, a Marxist icon, is shown as he's honored to hide Trotsky, his wife, and secretary in his home, while Frida's passion and respect for the same are reflected in her affair with Trotsky.

Julie Taymor's *Frida* portrays surrealist ideals that Frida Kahlo and her husband Diego Rivera lived by. Through biographically accurate plot, and cinematic language she shows educates us on the essence of surrealism as shown in their political activities, social relationships, as well as needless to say Frida Kahlo's artwork.

Beauty and the Beast: The Triumph of Love

The film *Beauty and the Beast* depicts the story of a beautiful young lady, *Belle*, who committed her life to an ugly beast to save her father from death. *Belle*, in her simplicity requests a rose from her father on his leaving for a journey; however, this rose as simple as it appears will cost *Belle* her freedom. Inspired by the characteristics of the art movement known as *Surrealism*, the viewer is brought into a world of imagination and dream. Nevertheless, while the movie is pure fantasy, it portrays the insight of the human soul with its heights and depths in terms of virtue, goodness, and ugliness.

Throughout the movie, *Belle* is portrayed as a woman with a great virtue that makes her beautiful as inside than outside. For instance, when her father loses his riches, *Belle* agrees to do household chores with a lot of humility and willingness. She never complains about the situation and doesn't lament on her loss. Also, she is very caring and compassionate. When her father announces that he has to return to the *Beast's* palace to be condemned to death, Beauty can't accept that. As overwhelming as the situation is, she offers herself to live with *Beast* instead, if that can save her father's life. When she gets to *Beast's* magic castle, she tries to repress the repulsion that his hideous appearance inspires. Her kindness allows her to see the goodness in *Beast* rather than the horrible appearance everybody sees. When *Beast* tells her that he is a monster with a good heart, she replies, "There are men far more monstrous than you though they conceal it well." In fact, *Belle* becomes friendly with *Beast* to the point of waiting for the time to be with him. A very poignant scene in the movie is when she offers him her hands to drink water without any disgust. In addition, *Belle* is very honest; when *Beast* offers her the key of his treasure and tells her he would die if he didn't come back to her and that his treasure

would become hers, *Belle* could take advantage of the situation by causing *Beast*'s death and becoming rich. Instead, she kept her word and returned to the castle. She would rather stay poor than causing harm to the poor *Beast*.

In this fashion, the film depicts *Beast* with an ugly appearance, but with a beautiful inside. Since the very beginning, *Beast* has been very kind. When *Belle*'s father stole his rose, he agrees to give him a second chance by accepting that he brings one of his daughters. Being transformed in a beast could bring frustration and make him cruel, yet he shows kindness to people. *Belle* acknowledges his kindness by giving this touching testimony to her father, "He is more cruel to himself than with human beings." Furthermore, he shows a lot of generosity by telling *Belle* everything in the palace belongs to her. A case in point of his generosity is when he offers the key of his treasure to *Belle* without any regret. Also, when *Belle* begs him to let her go spend a week with her father, he consents even if he is afraid that *Belle* might not come back. Moreover, in spite *Belle* keeps telling him she will never accept to be his wife, he is still nice with her and satisfies all her wishes. Indeed, he treats *Belle* like a queen, "It is I who should knee and take orders from you," said *Beast* when *Belle* kneeled in front of him to let her go for a while. In fact, his good heart is what makes *Belle* fall in love for him and breaks the spell which he has been the victim.

Finally, the film focuses on the ugliness side of the human heart. In the movie, *Belle*'s sisters are so cruel they become repulsive even if they are not ugly in appearance. Unlike *Belle*, they are very swollen with pride. They show no understanding when their father lost his riches; they keep complaining about their fate and insist that *Belle* does everything for them. In addition, they are so selfish that they demand that their father

brings them all kinds of gifts on his voyage without thinking his money might not be enough. Also, they are very hypocrite and jealous; when Beauty visits them, they don't show any happiness that *Beast* treats her well, "That little fool is happier than we are. She is rich," utter them spitefully. Therefore, they make her believe that they can't live without her to make her stay longer and lose *Beast's* sympathy. In fact, all they wanted to do is getting the key given to her by *Beast* and go to the castle to steal diamond. Their greediness leads them to plot with Avenant, a handsome man with an ugly heart like them, to kill *Beast* and take his possessions. Ironically, little did they know what the magic castle reserved for them; Avenant paid the price and became a monster.

The movie, although it is pure fantasy reminds the viewer of the beauty and the ugliness side of the human soul. Being humble, kind, and caring are inner qualities that result in the love between *Belle* and *Beast* and allows *Beast* to regain his human form and marries *Belle*. The real and more important beauty is the inside.

Bride of the Wind: Alma's Loss of Independence

Bruce Beresford's *Bride of the Wind* is a captivating story of Alma Mahler who allows her talent and free spirit to be overshadowed by a series of imperious husbands and lovers. Alma was the inspiration for Gustav Mahler's successful compositions, Walter Gropius's architecture, and Oskar Kokoschka's famous painting *Bride of the Wind*. Undoubtedly genius was Alma's aphrodisiac, but it was this same preference of geniuses which caused turmoil and disorder in her life. Alma was the muse of her lovers because she was tolerant, self depriving, and insecure.

In the beginning of the film, Alma is portrayed as a person who does not care what others may think of her, including her own step father. She broke all the rules, from sneaking off to "inappropriate" parties to seducing a man twice her age, Gustav Mahler. The first sign of tolerance was when she gave up her passion for composing when asked to by Gustav before being married. During the marriage she was a very devoted wife but once again was tolerant to him isolating her and basically choosing music above all other things. Instead of Gustav giving Alma the attention of a wife he treated her rather like a secretary, keeping him financially balanced, making copies of his compositions, and accompanying him to events like a sidekick. She was also very tolerant with her other lovers, including Oskar's violent behavior whenever he became frustrated with her or impatient because she would not accept his hand in marriage. Alma also accepted criticism from Walter towards her choice to keep Oskar's paintings. As she was tolerant with the men she chose to be with at the same time, she was being very selfish with herself.

Before marrying Gustav, Alma was a relatively liberated woman who enjoyed composing, playing the piano, and intellectual dinners where she was the most outspoken woman. Musically, she deprived herself from composing because of the agreement she had made and playing her beloved music for the world to hear. She also deprived herself from giving Gustav her opinion towards his music like she used to before she married him. After she returned from the rehabilitation spa, she found herself keeping in touch with Walter, the architect she had fallen in love with. Because she was a devoted wife she kept herself from choosing the person she loved over the person she felt needed her in harsh and sickly moments. Overall, she gave up her happiness by losing her liberty to be with the man she loved or enjoy the simple pleasures of making music.

Alma was a musical genius, but her insecurity drove her to the arms to men who she shielded herself with brilliantly artistic men to conceal her own capabilities. Her insecurity started in the beginning of her career when she was told that her music was too complex and after she stopped composing she would only play when she was alone, as if she was hiding away. She celebrated the accomplishments of Gustav, Walter, and Oskar, yet did not dare to challenge them or at all mention her own musical talents. Instead of referring to herself as "I am a great composer", instead, she refers to herself as "I am the widow of Gustav Mahler, the great composer". She completely discredits herself! She also embraces the creations of her ex lovers, for example, keeping a statue Mahler's head or Kokoschka's old drawings. What about her own productions? She keeps them unexposed.

In the end, Alma found in Franz Werfel a soul mate. She'd finally met a man who set her spirit free by setting her music free. He believed in her and for a change admired

and encouraged her compositions. For the first time Alma was celebrated and not celebrating. Although Franz was also an amazing author he did not consider Alma an amateur artist like her past lovers did. In fact, now she was being treated with the respect she deserved, not a trophy. She was relieved from her puppet strings and became a freed soul.

A Very Long Engagement: A Courageous Woman

The film *A Very Long Engagement* portrays the story of a young lady, Mathilde, who starts a relentless search of her missing fiancé. The film is set in the year of 1920 with flashbacks at the end of World War I. Mathilde's fiancé, Manech, is among five soldiers who were condemned to death for self-mutilation. Normally when a soldier is condemned to death sentence, there is no hope of finding him alive. However, Mathilde isn't willing to give up easily on her fiancé and never gets discouraged. The movie illustrates the courage of this lady who, despite her physical handicap embarks on a long and perilous journey to discover the truth about her fiancé's death through her hope, persistence, and love.

From the very beginning, Mathilde is courageous by being very confident concerning Manech's future. For instance, when Manech has to leave to go to war, she tries to have something to hold on to when she declares, "If I reach the bend before the car, Manech will come back alive!" Therefore, she starts to run all the way her physical handicap would allow her. Hope gives Mathilde the strength to fight against destiny by believing Manech's fate could be changed by how fast she can run. Unfortunately, she arrives at the bend after the car and Mathilde has a bad presentiment about her fiancé's future. However, this disappointment doesn't keep kill her hope. Indeed, when she hears about the possible death of Manech, she is very doubtful. The narrator comments, "If Manech were dead, Mathilde would know." This suggests that Mathilde refuses to believe without tangible proof. Her heart is actually where she would feel pain if Manech really passed away. Eventually, her aunt and uncle attempt to discourage her and they advise Mathilde to give up on Manech. After many weeks of unsuccessful research,

Sylvain, the uncle tells her, "If I were you Mathilde, I'd forget, why chase pipe dreams?" That comment from the uncle confirms that he and the aunt believe Mathilde is living in an illusion by denying Manech's possible death. Nonetheless, Mathilde ignores this remark and tries to convince them of the opposite. Once she receives information confirming Manech is dead, she goes to his tomb but even there she says, "I am not giving up on you".

Mathilde exasperates everybody by her persistence and wouldn't take no for an answer. To the surprise of her aunt and uncle, she announces her imminent trip to Paris to find a survivor from "Bingo Crepuscule". When she gets to Paris, she solicits help from Pierre-Marie Rouvieres, her parents' lawyer. However, Rouvieres doesn't believe Manech could be alive and tries to discourage Mathilde from pursuing her research. Mathilde as usual rejects his doubts and insists. Without hesitation, she demands to have "access to the army archives". Rouvieres is horrified by her stubborn request and asks Mathilde to be reasonable, "You are already lucky by being here", replies Rouvieres. Getting to the "red files" is not allowable to anybody for it contains precious information. As a matter of fact, Mathilde is told she would need a mandate from a high person to get access to them. Nonetheless, she is not intimidated by this declaration. A memorable scene in the movie is when she uses her wheelchair as a ladder to reach valuable files with no fear for her safety or worse being caught. Eventually, those files were going to be useful in the future. Furthermore, when she finally gets in touch with Elodie Gordon, one of the five men's wives, this one refuses to give her information because the war reminds her of bad memories she would rather forget. But Mathilde insists, "I want to understand,

I want to understand". Ultimately, Elodie Gordon promises her she will write her what she doesn't have the courage to tell her face to face.

Finally, Mathilde's love for Manech is perhaps what makes her so courageous. For instance, Manech and Mathilde have been in love since they were kids and they were planning to get married. Unfortunately, they were living in a world where peace was no longer essential for life. Those who decided to engage the nations in this absurd war destroyed the families by recruiting people very young to go to war. When after many weeks of desperate search, they have no news from those who have seen Manech alive, her aunt tries to persuade her to give up on Manech, find herself a husband, and have children, she doesn't listen to her. Her love for Manech leads her to even use her parent's heritage to look for him. For this reason, she hires a detective to help her find her loved one. She even promises reward to whoever can give her useful information for her investigation. Although in the end they find Manech alive with amnesia, Mathilde's love for him is not changed. In fact, she makes herself beautiful for Manech as if he could recognize her.

Mathilde, in spite of her physical handicap defies everybody in her desperate search of Manech by her great courage. Even when everything seems to prove he is dead, she wouldn't give up. She holds on all the leads she can find and never gets discouraged in front of a refusal. Her hope, her persistence, and her love will have been a great lesson to those who didn't believe her.

Frida: An Analytical Perspective

The film *Frida* is a true account of the life and times of Frida Kahlo and portrays her quite spectacularly. The film is photographed beautifully using vibrant and warm colors just like in Frida's paintings and is probably shot in such a way because it is a film about her life, but more directly aimed at her creative life rather than her political beliefs. *Frida* consistently contains a deep resonance of dark pain depicting the pain in Frida's life. What is the significance of this pain and how does it affect Frida's life? A horrible accident in a metro bus when Frida was a young woman, a painful miscarriage, and an incredibly unsuccessful marriage are all perfect examples of the dreadful events experienced in Frida's life which attribute to her desire to paint. The unfortunate events in Frida's life act like a springboard to her creativity and are the reason why she began painting.

The single most important event for Frida's painting career occurs when she is riding a metro bus with her boyfriend. The bus is involved in a tremendous accident that is horrible but beautiful at the same time and can be considered an analog of Frida's life. The film shoots this scene so beautifully creating a very surreal event by slowing the camera speed and having the many particles of things held by the passengers fly in all directions. Once the bus comes to a resting stop Frida is laying on the bus' floor like an angel covered in gold shavings, broken glass, and blood which is just as strange and surreal as any of the paintings created by Frida later in her life. Subsequently due to the many injuries received through the accident Frida is bedridden for months and cannot walk. During this time she does nothing else but paint herself and her pain. The beginning of Frida's painting career is born.

As time goes on Frida continues to capture the essence of objects and people through her work and marries the famous painter Diego Rivera. "I could never paint like that...I couldn't I'm serious...Me I paint the outside world but you...you paint from here" Diego puts his hand over Frida's heart acknowledging where Frida's work come from. It is this reason why her paintings seem so troubled and painful. Frida eventually becomes pregnant with Diego's child and tries to have the baby knowing that it may be a difficult pregnancy due to the extensive injuries received in the bus accident. Those injuries would plague her the rest of her life. "I'm use to pain" is how Frida responds to Diego's inquiry of whether or not having the baby is a good idea. Of course, Frida miscarriages and again the film presents this horrific event so wonderfully. Frida is laying in her bed of white sheets and there is this distinctive bloody area that stands out so much because of the sharp contrast between the dark red and white. Once Frida realizes she has lost the baby she begins to paint. She begins to cope with her tragic reality by escaping on the canvas. The images Frida creates are so strong and heartfelt that not even Diego can bear not to cry as he quietly sobs out in the hallway of the hospital. A pain so clearly portrayed through her work that perhaps whoever should see it would feel the very pain she experienced at the hospital.

Throughout Frida's marriage she suffered constantly. After seeing Diego and her sister sleeping together Frida tells Diego "there have been two major accidents in my life, Diego...the trolley and you, by far you are the worst." In terms of suffering, Frida's marriage to Diego was a everlasting, but she stayed around and even defended its existence. Once she even defended it while discussing Diego's infidelity with a woman he had slept with while at the same time she was having an affair with the very same

woman. The amount of pain Diego put Frida through is enough creative motivation to last her two lifetimes, and she made good use of it by painting and did so throughout their marriage.

This film depicts the life of a great Mexican artist. It seeks to find the motivation behind Frida Kahlo's work and uses several painful events to give meaning to her works. *Frida* is a beautiful film that uses life and the life carried in artist's work to find meaning and to answer questions of why every artist is so unique to their work. The answer is smothered throughout the film. Every artist lives a completely different life and unfortunately or fortunately for people all over the world Frida's life was filled with pain.

B

Frida Kahlo

Frida Kahlo is one of the world's most famous Latin American painters, also well known as an amazing female artist. This has not always been the case, because until recently, she was only looked at as the wife of the famous painter Diego Rivera. Now, she has become more internationally recognized and has even had a movie made about her, "*Frida*." The movie depicts the artist's life, showing her turbulent marriage and the accident that made her become a painter. The main purpose of the film is to expose the suffering in Frida's life and the way it reflects on her paintings. The movie shows many different eras in her life and how each one of them was related to art. Frida's strength comes from her identity as a woman, a Mexican, and an artist.

In the beginning of the movie, there is a scene where 13-year-old Frida is riding in a trolley car, which crashes into a bus. She survives the accident, but is impaled with a metal pole, which leaves her with injuries she must deal with for the rest of her life. As she is recuperating, she stays in bed all day long. Her father brings her a canvas for her to paint so she can entertain herself. This is where her life as an artist begins. Through out her life, she went through several operations because of her accident. She was often unable to move, so she channeled her pain into self-portraits. One of her most famous paintings, "The Bus" is a picture of all the people who were on the bus the day of her accident. She is able to get through many of her struggles through painting because it is something she loved to do and made her an individual.

Frida Kahlo's relationship with Diego Rivera is one of the main themes through out the movie. Although their marriage is full of arguments and infidelities, they continue to stay together. Diego Rivera is one of the reasons why Frida continues to paint, and the movie shows how he is a great influence on her portraits. She paints one of her portraits with her own

tears, describing her feelings on all of Rivera's infidelities. When Rivera cheats on her with her own sister, she cuts off all of her hair while looking at the portrait she painted of herself in a man's suit. Finally, she moves out of Diego's home and continues to paint in order to live. Frida's strength allowed her to make this drastic decision in her life, as she was very much in love with Diego. She portrays her strength as a woman also through the flowers she paints because, they symbolize the reproductive organs signifying that new life comes from women

Frida's Mexican culture is another thing that is prevalent in all her paintings and makes her stronger. Frida comes from a very strong and ethical Mexican culture and this helped her deal with many of the troubles that she underwent in her life. Throughout the movie, Frida is very proud of being a Mexican woman and it truly influences her paintings. She is so passionate about her culture that her main goal in her life was to have an exhibition of her art in Mexico. She had traveled to other countries displaying her art, but it is Mexico when she receives all the gratification for her work and this makes her very happy.

This film was set in a time of revolution, Communism, and an era where women were not taken seriously. The movie *Frida* not only illustrates the difficulty of Frida Kahlo's life; it outlines all of the events and how they reflected on her paintings. This is why Frida is one of history's most important and famous artists. She is constantly proving her strength throughout the movie by all the obstacles she overcomes. She mainly portrays these strengths through her Mexican culture, art, and identity as a woman. Not many women could have the tenacity to deal with the difficulties she experiences in her life.

Swings Kids: The Freedom Through Music

The film *Swing Kids* is a story of how a group of teenagers refuse to join Hitler's Youth organization through the new movement of swing music. It is 1939 in Hamburg, Germany where this movement begins as a rebellious state of mind. These young individuals who were Thomas, Peter and Arvid all refused to end up serving and working under the Nazi regime until the day where Thomas and Peter would end up joining. This turned relationships between friends and the community around as Peter got brain washed by the Nazis and turned against the other swing kids. Swing music was listened and danced to show the teenager's freedom from Hitler's Nazi regime, to show expressive style, and to show freedom from the real world.

Swing music was a way to set free from Hitler's Nazi regime. Since this type of music was banned from Germany, it was a way that many teenagers used it as a rebellious move towards the regime. These young teenagers also used this rebellion to stay of the Hitler's Youth organization, Hitler Jugend. It was an organization where young men would get brainwashed and turn against the community. "We can't let them split is apart," what was these swing kids like Thomas and Peter would say to one another talking about the Hitler Jugend before being forced to join (Thomas Carter).

Swings kids used swing music as a means of expressive style among each other. It was a time where they were able to "shout and feel" the music that could not be heard outside in the real world of Germany (Carter). With this expressive style the swing kids created unique dance routines and even a secret language that would only be understood by those who listened to swing. The passions for swing were shown through the freedom and lose movement of the body taking in this type of music. The secret language would refer back to the lyrics of swing music making it so that only the swing kids were the only ones who could understand. Swing kids used

the whistle as a means of saying "It don't mean a thing" (Carter). Every word and sounds has a different meaning behind it to know if a person was a swing kid or not, outside and hidden club areas.

Freedom and fleeing from the real world was also found through the swing music. Fleeing from the real world was a way to run away from thinking if the Nazi were watching or brainwashing a person to turn against others. It was also a way to get away from making choices about trying to survive in this Nazi regime. "I would rather belong to anyone.. than belong to the Nazis like you" was a strong belief from Arvid who refused to join the youth organization and would rather live free from all the surroundings (Carter). This was a time where the swing kids did not have to listen to any authority and just run away from it all. This was just seen as a means to have fun with friends where a hidden place was located except when a traitor came along and would tell the authorities about the different locations.

This movement of swing music continued and many teenagers continued to rebel. Swing music for these teenagers was freedom and expression from Hitler. There were those who stayed loyal to the community of swing, but others who got trapped in the mind set of the Nazi. Swing music was their Hitler and these teenagers would not give up the style of music because it made them who they were as an individual.

Works Cited

Swing Kids. Dir. Thomas Carter. Perf. Robert Sean Leonard, Christian Bale, Frank Whaley, and Noah Wyle. DVD. Buena Vista Pictures , 1993.

Frida: living pain through art

Julie Taymors "*Frida*" captures the troubled life of a Mexican artist fighting all obstacles. Frida, played by Salma Hayek, lives through one tragedy after another, from a trolley crash to a disloyal husband. Never letting anything keep her down Frida shows the world her visions through art; displaying pain that most will never know. Her artistic expression helped her through any pain whether physical, emotional or the pain from society disapproval.

Frida's first experience of real pain is a trolley crash where a pole impales her from her back through her vagina. Nobody expects her to walk again but her will to live overcomes her pain and she eventually walks. This first incident leads to her outlet, art, as well as to a miscarriage. After the miscarriage she keeps the embryo and displays it to influence her paintings. She uses art to show visions she has while in the worst pain. After painting her first pieces in the hospital bed she requests a critique of the paintings, to see if they are worth selling, from her future love.

Diego, Frida's new husband, only created more pain in her life. He cheated on her constantly affecting her very little, until he sleeps with her sister. Though he helped her with getting her art sold the pain he caused well overcame the happiness. Once again Frida used her art as an outlet for her pain and made it through every affair. Diego also brought on a new kind of pain by bringing her into a new society to be judged by many strangers when she already had her fair share of critics.

Society's first judgment comes from her family because her attitude separates her from the common teenager like dressing like a man for a family photo. She is also judged because of her marriage with Diego due to his reputation of affairs. Because of

the previous affairs she is told not to marry by one of Diegos two ex-wives but she surpasses these wishes and takes a risk with her new love. Frida takes herself with her husband to big art shows that she doesn't enjoy so her new husband and her have a chance at real success outside of Mexico. Her art mentally removes her from the hurt of society and essentially opens her self for the world to see.

The story of Frida's life has inspired me to find my own outlet for stress just like art was for her. "*Frida*" a story of a Mexican painter who finds a cure to all her pain through expression in art. She shows her strength, forgiveness, love and true perseverance through life's obstacles to everyone who cares to watch. Her physical, emotional and mental pain leaves her in a way that seems to be achieved by only her allowing the true artist to show.

From the Bottom Up

The movie *The Harmonists* shows the determination and drive that these young men had in order to make it to the top of the charts. Throughout their journey, these men exercised patience, mental courage and the gift of making one laugh.

All of the men had one goal in common. They wanted to become well known. They were tired of living like paupers in a city with so much promise. There were times when the harmonists were in doubt about their careers. However they did not let their current situation dictate the rest of their lives. They had to exercise patience. When they rushed to perform in front of an agent, they were denied. However, they practiced even harder. Finally their time had come and they became a force to be reckoned with singing all over Berlin, and the United States.

Along with the patience that the harmonists demonstrated, they also exhibited mental courage. During the height of their careers the Harmonists began to get threats from the Nazis. At first they were told not to do songs written by Jews. Even so, they believe their reputation will provide them with protection. First there were restrictions and later cancellations of concerts prevented them from finding an audience in Germany for their work. At the end of a thriving tour in the United States they question themselves about returning to Germany, but they decide to go back where loved ones were. In 1934, the group is banned from performing in public. The Nazis strongly suggest that the Aryan members of the group should reconstruct without the Jewish members. Nevertheless the Harmonists gave a spectacular performance in front of a group of Nazi soldiers.

This movie greatly illustrates the undeniable talent that these young men had; the talent of making one laugh. All across Berlin this sextet were unbelievable. They sold out

concerts due to their harmonious voices and songs of humor. Close to the end of the story the Harmonists received a standing ovation from a crowd which included Nazi members.

In conclusion *The Harmonists* were a group of singers who rose to the top despite their humble beginnings. During their journey to the top they displayed patience, mental courage and the gift of making one laugh.

Swing Kids: Swing Heil

Thomas Carter's film *Swing Kids* is the story of German youth of the late 1930's that use dance and music to escape the harsh realities of Nazi Germany. In this dramatic portrayal of Nazi propaganda three friends face the truth about what their country is becoming during the reign of Hitler and whether to accept the difficult change or conform to what their new world is apparent to be. Taking place in Germany during a time which could be considered the worst genocide ever where discrimination and racism was considered a norm, non-conforming was against all the rules, and the freedom to prevail meant dying for what you believed in.

Hitler's influence and power of Germany during his reign was based on a cleansing of a nation of anyone that was not up to his standard of being. It was his prophecy to have a pure nation, which meant the annihilation of anyone that was against his ideology or was not of pure lineage. Arvid one of three swing Kids ignites the discussion and emotions amongst them when he said "We are murdering Austrians, next will be the Czechs and the Poles not to mention the gypsies and the Jews its unmentionable," Arvid screamed in outrage after refusing to play a German song for a German soldier. He would not contribute to the demise of any person regardless of race or ethnicity. This was his belief that he and his friends lived or died for or so he thought. This is the same belief that eventually lead him to commit suicide.

Through much rebellion and opposing the principles of Nazi Germany the Swing Kid Peter, finds himself in trouble when he is caught stealing by a German officer and is left with the choice of going to a camp or joining the regime of the HJ the Hitler

Youth . To protect his family he reluctantly joins the HJ, however he is still not ready to understand or conform to the ideology of their cult-like ideals and malicious propaganda. His best friend Thomas trying to support him also decided to join so he did not have to face it alone. As they become more familiar with the HJ ideology they start to develop their own impressions of it. Thomas started siding more with the HJ and the Nazi party, while Peter begins to see the real truths behind the HJ and their evil persuasions. In an argument after much distance between their friendship, Peter tells Thomas, "They are evil Thomas. They want us to spy on our own parents. God knows what else they will do." Thomas did not want to hear such opposition to the point of threatening to report his life long friend.

Peter tries to conform to this new way of life in Nazi Germany but is later forced to confront his feelings of what he knows is right when he realizes that he is delivering the ashes of "traitors" people killed who opposed the Reich. It is at this point Peter is given a letter his father had written before his death talking about his own belief of what is going terribly wrong with Germany. It is in this letter that Peter realizes his father's true faith for his beliefs and uses this knowledge to forge his own belief just as his father did to stand and fight for a free Germany. "Do you want to end up like him? All of his great principles...what good did they do us? What good did they do anyone including him?" Peter's mother cried to him. Although he loved his mother he recognized that his Integrity and honor did not lie with the beliefs of the German Nazi group and it was more important if even only one person stood out and made a difference.

The movie ends with a dramatic conclusion of Peter by himself getting ready to go and do the unthinkable. He knew that he would be entering the forbidden territory of the Swing club and he was finally ready to accept the consequences, because he was not going to let anyone dictate his moral character. When the Nazi German soldiers go to make arrests at the club ironically it is Thomas, his life long friend that is forced to take him down. After an all out brawl of anger and love between the two friends Thomas begs for him to go trying to protect his friend, because he knew that the other soldiers would soon be coming for him. "Go! Get out of here." Peter replies, "You said they would never tear us apart." "Peter please Go! Go on!" Peter refuses and for him this night was the end of all of the uncertainty, because he knew the only way for him as well as his country to be free was to take a stand when no one else had the courage to stand for what was right.

"Frida Kahlo: a perfect Surrealism Icon."

***Frida*, chronicles the life of Frida Kahlo focusing on her fearless and open relationship with husband Diego Rivera as they both played their noteworthy role in art history. Starting with her devastated and lasting relationship with her tutor and husband to her unfaithful and controversial affair with Leon Trotsky (an exiled communist opposed to the Stalinist bureaucracy in the Soviet Union) to her challenged and passionate affairs with women, Frida Kahlo lived a courageous and adamant life as a political, artistic, and sexual revolutionary.**

Throughout the film, Frida exposes her well founded political opinion. She believed in communism and next to her husband, she participated in several manifestations in favor of the less privileged class. She risks herself and her own family to help an exiled Russian communist and she accepts to protect him from the Stalinist persecution he suffered. Kahlo turned to be an increasingly avid and passionate Communist who never was afraid of repression because her political convictions surpassed the fear.

In this fashion, the film also portrays the exceptional artist Kahlo was; she impregnated her epoch with a unique talent. We can appreciate her innovative work, which is a mural of her life. She started doing self-portraits due to the time she spent in bed after the accident. Her distinctive was her stormy life reflected in paintings. The usage of vivid colors portrayed the happiness and the sadness that surrounded her life. Her painful miscarriages appeared in her canvas perpetuating the soreness and tragic moments of her life revealing her unconscious. She was artistic even in the peculiar way she dressed "*...I paint my*

own reality, The only thing I know is that I paint because I need to, and I paint whatever passes through my head without any consideration..." As a maximum exponent of the Surrealism movement, this incredible artist let us penetrate her unconscious throughout her paintings.

In due course, the film also focused on her revolutionary sex life. She was madly in love with Diego Rivera but her disillusion provoked by his continuous extramarital entanglements made her look into a bisexual world. *"I have suffered two grave accidents in my life, one in which a street car ran me over, the other accident is Diego."* She never cared about others' opinion and it is best revealed in the scene during a party held in Tina Modotti's house. Frida wins a beer contest just to dance with Tina a very erotic tango/flamingo, sealing the piece with a passionate kiss. In more than one occasion she switches between men and women relationship making her more vulnerable to people's comments about her open minded sexual life. Her sexuality was always a point of debate, but her avant-garde spirit did not pay attention to this.

The movie is an excellent evidence of the painful but admirable life that this woman had. Her art is her legacy, she wished to be remembered and her wish has come true. *"I hope the end is joyful - and I hope never to come back"* she said, but she was wrong, she never truly left this world because she had a gutsy life as a political, artist, and sexual revolutionary which is hard to forget.

C

The Movie Max

This movie is about Max Rothman a middle class Jewish Art Dealer who meets up with a soldier who he knew at the Battle of Ypres. The impoverished struggling Artist Adolf Hitler is anxiously trying to make a name for himself in the art world or in politics because he feels that he is getting too old and has no established profession. He sees Max as a mentor and just the right person to get him noticed in the art world.

This movie takes place in the 1920's in Germany sometime after the Battle of Ypres. Max Rothman and Adolf Hitler served in the same battle, they were Comrades. Max returns home from the war minus one arm, to his family, their wealth and his art. While Hitler returns to live in the barracks, working in the army laundry room and poor. They both cross paths again one night outside of Max's Gallery during an exhibit. They exchange words and Max notices Hitler holding a portfolio. Max invites Hitler to show him his work. Max likes his work but feels that Hitler isn't giving a hundred percent of himself to his art. So he sends him to do some soul searching and create more passionate art. Max obtains some of Hitler's work on consignment and offers to show his work in the meantime. Hitler excited goes off to search within and create more meaningful art.

In the meantime, Hitler is approached by his Sergeant in the army to participate in a public speaking class paid for by the army. The Sergeant feels that Hitler would be a great politician because of his passionate way of speaking to an audience. Hitler participates in the class and gives many speeches on the importance of maintaining the German race and their dislike of the Jews. All the while anxiously waiting for his artwork to sell, to be noticed in the art world. He dabbles in politics in a way to buy time

until his art sells. Hitler has faith in Max and believes if anyone can sell his art work he can.

His first passion is art, but a realistic form of art, whereas Max believes that modern art is the way to go. Hitler refuses to paint in a manner where he will be classified. He starts to become frustrated that his art isn't selling and he can not get himself to paint anything new. Hitler then creates some art work of visions that he has about the German army, their uniforms, and futuristic buildings. He shows this work to Max who feels that this is the way to go and he works hard to plan an exhibit for his work. He schedules for Hitler to meet him at 9:30pm at a nearby café to discuss the details but Max never shows up. On his way to meet Hitler he is attacked by a group of German soldiers and beaten to death. The German soldiers had just attended a rally where an arousing speech was given by Hitler. Hitler spoke about the German's need to stick to their race like the Jews, how the Jews were out to defame them and their women.

Before giving this speech Hitler assured his Sergeant that this would be the last time he would speak publicly because he was certain that Max would finally sell his art. He was certain that he would soon exhibit his work, it would sell and he would finally become an accomplished artist. Instead of becoming a world renown artist we know from history what Hitler's future becomes.

A very Long Engagement

Jean Pierre Jeunet's film, A very long Engagement depicts the story of two lovebirds that were separated by war during World War I. This story showcases how two adolescents fall in love from an early age and learn how to challenge all the obstacles that they're faced with from the start.

The passionate love story between Mathilde and Manech began when she was 9 and he was 10 years old thanks to his curious mind. He was one of the few children who approached her and asked her "does it hurt to walk" since she had problems walking and barely had any friends. From that moment, Mathilde and Manech were inseparable until the day he was sent to war. Towards the end of World War II, Manech was court martialed and pushed out into the "no-man's" land between the French and German armies where survival was nearly impossible. This is when Mathilde is informed that he was injured and did not survive the attack taken. Through the remaining of the film, Mathilde fought against anyone and everyone to prove that her fiancé was still alive. She believed that if he were truly dead, she would know it. However, she felt otherwise and found every means to prove that.

After being informed that her fiancé had perished in the war, Mathilde makes it her goal to meet everyone that came across Manech during war and also learn each of their stories. Although no one other than Mathilde questioned whether Manech was dead or alive, she did receive some help in contacting those that came into contact with Manech. She found ways to

sneak into places and get a hold of top secret information that helped prove her state of mind. In addition, Mathilde interviewed many that interacted with Manech and witnessed his so called last minutes of life. What was so beautiful about this film is that it shows how no matter what; Mathilde followed her heart and went against everyone that said otherwise. Unlike anyone else during the times of World War I, Mathilde challenged authorities and books and continued her search for her lost love.

Jean Pierre Jeunet's film, *A very long Engagement*, showcases the truth behind war and brings out how families are truly affected by it. Throughout the history of the world, many wars have been fought, many soldiers have been lost, and in turn, many families have been deeply affected. Although no one believed in her and her faith that Manech was still alive, Mathilde fought and found all the ways to prove herself right.

Frida and Surrealism

The 2002 film Frida is a biography on the artist Frida Kahlo, which conveys greatly the idea of surrealism in many ways, it shows the struggle of woman who paints simply because she enjoys it, who does not care to draw what is considered conventional, and who most importantly express her inner thoughts. It starts off when Frida was a young girl still in school and continues till her death. Most of the film takes place in Mexico and during a time where Surrealism was beginning to emerge.

Frida had a great impact on the Surrealist Revolution, starting off with her paintings as a young girl in Mexico she later on began to look for a career in painting to help out her mom with money. She painted great works of art that caught the eye of not only people in Mexico but of the people in New York when she traveled over there.

Frida was injured badly and was in a body cast for a long time yet that did not stop her from painting. She used to paint all over her cast and start over every time they changed it. Basically she spent most of her days doing nothing other than painting while lying in bed.

The paintings of Frida were very unusual and unconventional. She painted whatever she felt, regardless of whether it was erotic or dark or offensive. I guess what made her paintings so unique is that she did not follow anyone's guidelines or take any lessons. She simply painted as she felt and she, most of the time, did not even think about what others would think of her paintings.

The Life of a Surrealist Woman:

Frida

Frida Kahlo, a voice and example of a surrealist. The surrealist movement in the movie is taken place in the year of 1922. Frida as a teenager is free spirited, and express her emotions without regret. She suffered a bus accident where she became paralyzed. Not being able to move from a bed, her only devotion became to paint. Having this vision, she seeks professional critique once recuperated. Diego Rivera, a professional painter and her future husband, admired her painting. Her paintings referred by Diego were unusual and however it did not follow the laws of art. Frida represents the unexpected, a revolution movement, and the new world of the arts.

Frida had a closure with her father that was incredible; she always spoke her mind to him. During a time in the movie the Kahlo family prepared themselves for a family portrait, as usual Frida wanted to be different. She appeared dressed as gentleman and posed as one. It showed the revolution and the rebellion they had at the time. She shows the uniqueness and rebellious woman, one who does not follows tradition. Her sexuality was exposed to the public, not being afraid to be criticized or demoralized. She broke all the rules that have ever been made during the time. Her paintings represent her inner feelings and the pain that she undergoes. The bright colors and different symbols in her paintings represent emotions she only feels. Her paintings come from the hard not from what she sees. Her paintings are thought to be by some to revolutionary.

Diego, being communist is involved it many revolutionary events. His painting represents his political views. Frida being his wife participate along with him, and becomes more involved into this movement. It was influence since she was younger but

now she has become the voice of the communist. The march that was presented in the movie showed the political influenced that it had in the surrealistic. It represents the war of political views, the freedom to express themselves as individuals as well as painters. Their sole purpose was to overthrow the thinkers of socialism, they wanted to educate the poor, and mobilized the workers.

The usual arts, was the one art that earned the respect of the people. Arts such as Diego's and Frida were sometimes rioted. Her works went unnoticed and were criticized as imaginary. However her paintings represent more than just superficial, it represents an emotion that many arts do not achieve to have. It shows pain, and her vision of how she felt life. Her paintings are not done by watching the element, as Diego, but painted from the heart. This new art captivated many of societies attention. She started to become popular and gained the respect she was seeking.

One cannot judge a woman for what she does, but for the results she makes. Frida made a movement that affected many of the civilians. Appreciating are as a child, she later became a well respected painter. Her accident resulting from a horrible accident did not let her motivation come down the drain. She overcame that and became the woman we now know. Frida Kahlo.

Frida spent her whole life painting; she even painted herself on her deathbed. A lot of her paintings were self portraits of how she felt at that moment. Some of her paintings were perhaps vulgar but she had plenty of admirers of her work. Frida was a very courageous woman. She had so many obstacles in her life but she overcame each and every one of them. She was extremely determined. For example, she had an accident as a child in which the doctors said she may never walk again, but to everyone's surprise Frida began to walk as soon as she had the chance to try. There was so much pain that she felt and showed through her works of art. The audience could gain so much perspective of her life and her inner feelings just by looking at one of her paintings. Close to the death of Frida there was a showcase of her works. Although the doctor gave her specific orders to stay in bed she showed up. Well she was clever because she was carried to the showcase while still in her bed. The admiration in the people's reactions to seeing her was amazing. It was obvious that she influenced a lot of people in her life with her paintings.

Frida Kahlo

I decided to watch the movie Frida based on the true life story of Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera. They were two well renowned painters from Mexico. The movie shows how Frida suffered throughout her life, married a known womanizer, and developed into a terrific surrealist painter and her death. She is an amazing person tough, passionate, bi-sexual and determined.

At the age of thirteen Frida was riding on a bus which crashed into a trolley where she was severely injured. She broke many bones in her body from her spine to her legs. She was confined to her bed and wrapped in a body cast for several months. She begins to draw all over her cast, when her father notices she has completely covered her cast in art he surprises her with a canvas and some paint for her to continue her art. She is provided a mirror in the ceiling and she paints her first self portrait. As soon as the cast is removed she is confined to a wheelchair and spends her time painting portraits of her family. Through her hard work and determination she regains her ability to walk again.

Looking for an expert opinion on her art work she takes one of her paintings to Diego Rivero for an honest critique. Diego Rivero is a married, well known womanizer, muralist painter who lives in the same town as Frida. Frida admired him and his work. He tells her she is pretty good and offers to visit her to look at more of her work on his day off. They become friends and soon begin to work together. They begin to party together until they become lovers. Diego Rivero soon leaves his wife and two children to marry Frida. She knows he will never be faithful to her or any one woman but asks him to promise her his loyalty. This is the union of the two most popular painters in Mexico. They soon head off the America or as Frida calls it "*gringolandia*" when Diego is hired to paint a mural in Rockefeller Center.

While in America they both engage in extramarital affairs both with different women. Frida soon becomes pregnant and suffers a miscarriage due to her consistent health problems. After her recovery she returns to Mexico because her mother is ill and passes away. She returns to America to find an angry Diego because his painting is not accepted by the owners of Rockefeller Center due to him painting a communist on it. He refuses to alter the painting, is paid in full for his services and his work is destroyed. They are running out of money and a fed up Frida demands to return home to Mexico. Once in Mexico Diego does the unforgivable he betrays Frida's loyalty by sleeping with her younger sister Cristina. Frida finally leaves Diego only to indulge herself in alcohol and promiscuous sex. She is out of money, barely able to afford her bar tabs when she begins to focus on selling her art. Some time later Diego asks Frida to welcome Leon Trotsky and his wife into her home. The Trotsky's are their friends who are seeking political asylum from the Soviet Union. Frida agrees and shortly after begins a love affair with Leon Trotsky. Once his wife finds out about the affair they move out and Trotsky is assassinated.

Frida goes off to Paris to show off her work and is greatly accepted into the art world. While in Paris, enjoying her success she realizes how much she loves and misses (as Frida would say) "her" Diego. Frida returns back home to Mexico where Diego asks her for a divorce. Diego moves to California because he is being accused of murdering Leon Trotsky. When the authorities can not find Diego they arrest Frida in his place. Diego finds out and calls the President to have Frida freed. She returns home with serious spinal problems and gangrene on her toes. She is ordered to wear a metal back brace and her toes are amputated confining her to a wheelchair once again. Her health continues to deteriorate from here and soon she is once again

confined to her bed. Throughout her pain, suffering and restrictions she continues to paint her emotions.

Diego returns and remarries Frida. They live in her parent's house known as "*La Casa Azul*" where Cristina and Diego care for and nurse Frida. While in bed at home with a pneumonia Frida's work is to be exhibited in Mexico. Her Doctor forbids her to get out of bed forcing her to miss the biggest event in her life. As Diego spoke of Frida's accomplishments at the exhibit Frida is carried in on her bed to part take in this grand event. After twenty-five years of marriage, 143 paintings later (55 which are self portraits), her life of pain and suffering is over. Frida dies on July 13, 1954. Her comment on death "I hope the exit is joyful and I hope never to return".

Cabaret: The Rise of the New German Empire

Cabaret, a musical movie by Bob Fosse and based on Jhon Van Druten's play "I Am a Camera," is set in Berlin, during the decadent 1930s. This film relates the story of American singer and dancer, Sally Bowles, who dreams of becoming a star, but her life is fueled not only by dreams but alcohol, drugs, and one-night stands. She performs at the well-known cabaret The Kit-Kat Club where the social and political problems of outside life are forgotten. When an English professor named Brian Roberts arrives at her home, she invites him into her home. She automatically tries to seduce him, and they fall in love. Soon after, she invites him to see her at the Kit-Kat Club where she introduces him to a wealthy German playboy called Max who takes them into a confusing relationship corrupted by Max's wealth. Then Sally gets pregnant, but she realizes her life style is not a conducive one for raising a child. This film depicts how the wealthy Jewish society of 1930s could not control the dramatic social changes in Berlin where Nazis under Adolf Hitler were rising to power and racism as well as anti-Semitism was growing up.

At the Kit-Kat Club people used to forget and avoid the reality of the world waiting outside. Politicians, wealthy Jewish, and Nazis are part of the audience who want to believe that the day after today is not going to come until it is too late. The patrons create their own little world inside the club, a world that does not acknowledge the horrors that are occurring in the larger world. Pleasure, fun, rest, and so on are offered at the cabaret. Everybody is invited to come, but what happens when an old man, who belongs to the highest social classes, kicks out of the club a Nazi soldier? What happened when the same wealthy old man is beaten by a group of Nazis? We see the Nazis gaining power day by day. At the entrance of The Kit-Kat Club, the hands of the Nazis had spilled

wealthy Jewish blood. This is an example of what will happen diplomatically and the wealth of that moment. However, the show has to continue, and the crazy performances at the cabaret have to keep going.

Economic and social problems such as inflation, Communism, and Nazism are part of the life of Fritz Wendel, a secondary actor, who wants to enter in the highest diplomatic circles no matter what the cost. Therefore, he changes his identity, his religious beliefs and his life in order to be part of the new aristocracy that was growing up. He is a gigolo who tries to seduce everyone. When he becomes English professor Brian Roberts' pupil, he falls in love with his classmate, Natalia Landauer, a Jewish girl who belongs to one of the richest families in Berlin. She saw in him what another girl never saw before. She changed him, but sometimes changes can be difficult. At this period in time, Jews and Nazis are not allowed to be together, but love goes beyond those distinctions. Fritz Wendel is desperate about his situation and conscious about the risk of losing everything he worked for. He decided to step up and confess to his loved one that he was originally a Jew who came to Berlin and changed his identity. After that, the Jewish couple marries, but they cannot escape the fact that Jewish people are being persecuted.

The situation had changed in Berlin. Acts of violence, chaos, and crisis are surrounded the big city in Germany. Nobody can escape of the new German Empire that is taking actions against the mayor and minor social classes who disagree with their ideas. No matter where you go, or who you are, they cannot be controlled anymore. Even in the wealthy places where only highest classes can be, even in the highest social circles, Germans rise in song to rally around Nazism. The musical scene of "Tomorrow Belongs

to Me” is explicit evidence of what has happened in Germany during the 1930s. Opinions and words against the Nazis’ political campaign are not allowed. For example, when the English professor Brian Roberts expresses his opinion against the Nazi campaign, two Nazi soldiers decide to pick a fight and beat the professor, sending him to the hospital.

Throughout this film, you are able to see and experience how the drastic social changes occurred during the 1930s where the Jewish aristocracy and the highest social classes could not control the devastated Nazi forces. Also, you will notice how Nazis obtained absolute power through violent actions and political campaigns against the highest classes of that period of time. I completely recommend this film because it has a spectacular cast of amazing actors who make this musical movie really interesting and give an accurate picture of the German life during the 1930s.

Swing Kids: Freedom Swingers

Swing Kids is about a new society along with teenagers of Hamburg (St. Pauli) and Berlin. It's a group of friends enjoy dancing to jazz and swing. However, Nazis come in the picture and tear apart this group. It shows how these young adults take hold of their availability and build up a culture of resistance. It took place during Germany's dark ages. Swing Kids demonstrated the sad image of an alliance tangled into enmity. The film illustrates the true meaning of friendship and encourages people to fight for what you believe in.

"It don't mean a thing if you don't have swing" The lyrics of one of the Swing songs. This phrase was said a couple of times when the rivals met. It means that without the music from America, (Swing) they did not have anything to fight for.

The movie shows how true friends always stay together till the end. Unfortunately, destiny was in the role and split the friendship into a disaster. It all seems nice and smooth till Peter (Robert Sean Leonard) gets caught stealing a radio, which had been taken from a Jewish household, by the authority. Peter was then forced to join the Hitler Jugend (Know as H.J.). However, throughout his day, he spent his time at the camp. At night, he swings. Unfortunately, many of Peter's peers were being accepted into the influence of "hate and prejudice", which is overwhelming cultures of proud nation. Peter's friend Thomas (Christian Bale) also, joins the H.J. to show Peter that he's with him. Nevertheless, Thomas gets slowly brainwashed with the Nazis. The last friend, Arvid (Frank Whaley) is disabled and didn't approve in to the Nazis. They all struggle and fight on through in choosing where they'll stand.

The battle for what you believe is tough; especially, when it's against the Nazi. Swing dancing was a way to fight back. The music inspired them to dance and fight their power.

Powerfully but slowly, they captured their attention. Swing dancing became a problem for the Nazi which caused aggression. Slowly, they began to detain the German fathers whom later murder them. That way, they can eliminate the Jews and the Nazis can take over. After a few months, they burned their bodies into ashes and deliver them to their wife.

At the end, hundreds of Swing Kids were shipped to work base camp. Thousands more were obligated into the military. Regrettably, they all died. According to the movie the movement continued and grew. Therefore, a new generation of "Swing kids" survived and witnessed the defeat of the Nazis.

The movie is unique and remarkable. It shows the meaning of a true friendship and the importance of fighting for what you believe in. It's powerful moving and encourages people to not let others run them over. Swing Kids shows the meaning of dedication and the passion for the beauty of dance. Swing dance can show you originality and jazzy way of what dancing should be.

Always remember, It don't mean a thing if you don't have swing!

Adrian Garcia

HUM1020

Prof. Rodriguez

December 11, 2007

Swing Kids: Freedom Swingers

Swing Kids is about a new society along with teenagers of Hamburg (St. Pauli) and Berlin. It's a group of friends enjoy dancing to jazz and swing. However, Nazis come in the picture and tear apart this group. It shows how these young adults take hold of their availability and build up a culture of resistance. It took place during Germany's dark ages. Swing Kids demonstrated the sad image of an alliance tangled into enmity. The film illustrates the true meaning of friendship and encourages people to fight for what you believe in.

"It don't mean a thing if you don't have swing" The lyrics of one of the Swing songs. This phrase was said a couple of times when the rivals met. It means that without the music from America, (Swing) they did not have anything to fight for.

The movie shows how true friends always stay together till the end. Unfortunately, destiny was in the role and split the friendship into a disaster. It all seems nice and smooth till Peter (Robert Sean Leonard) gets caught stealing a radio, which had been taken from a Jewish household, by the authority. Peter was then forced to join the Hitler Jugend (Known as H.J.). However, throughout his day, he spent his time at the camp. At night, he swings. Unfortunately, many of Peter's peers were being accepted into the influence of "hate and prejudice", which is overwhelming cultures of proud nation. Peter's friend Thomas (Christian Bale) also, joins the

H.J. to show Peter that he's with him. Nevertheless, Thomas gets slowly brainwashed with the Nazis. The last friend, Arvid (Frank Whaley) is disabled and didn't approve in to the Nazis. They all struggle and fight on through in choosing where they'll stand.

The battle for what you believe is tough; especially, when it's against the Nazi. Swing dancing was a way to fight back. The music inspired them to dance and fight their power. Powerfully but slowly, they captured their attention. Swing dancing became a problem for the Nazi which caused aggression. Slowly, they began to detain the German fathers whom later murder them. That way, they can eliminate the Jews and the Nazis can take over. After a few months, they burned their bodies into ashes and deliver them to their wife.

At the end, hundreds of Swing Kids were shipped to work base camp. Thousands more were obligated into the military. Regrettably, they all died. According to the movie the movement continued and grew. Therefore, a new generation of "Swing kids" survived and witnessed the defeat of the Nazis.

The movie is unique and remarkable. It shows the meaning of a true friendship and the importance of fighting for what you believe in. It's powerful moving and encourages people to not let others run them over. Swing Kids shows the meaning of dedication and the passion for the beauty of dance. Swing dance can show you originality and jazzy way of what dancing should be.

Always remember, It don't mean a thing if you don't have swing!

D

Belle and Troubles

The movie Beauty and The Beast by Jean Cocteau is about three sisters and one was unlike the other, her name was Belle and indeed she was. Belle was very dedicated to her father, she was very humble and she always kept her promises. Beauty and the Beast rely on magic and fantasies to come across a great ending.

Belle out of her two sisters and her brother, she was the one that worked the hardest. She cared about her father very much and was always on the lookout for him. The tale unfolds as her father comes back telling his story about a Beast he ran into when he was lost in the forest, and was asked to come back in three days to die or to sacrifice one of his daughters. Belle runs back to the forest to take his fathers penalty and the Beast immediately falls in love with her and asks her to marry him, every night she refuses, every night he insist. Belle chooses to take this to hand only because she refuses anything bad to happen to her father.

Belle was a very good daughter, if anything she was favored by her brother, his friend and her father, because unlike them two she was very humble and never tried to be something she wasn't. They weren't a rich family or good wealth but they managed day by day and her two sisters always longed to marry princes and become queens. In the meantime she stayed at the palace with Beast, she had to dine everyday at 7 and she mustn't look at him, Beast fears that she finds him repulsive and on the contrary she finds him very warmhearted, but still refuses to marry him. Although he tried many times buying her with jewelry and diamonds, she never once took the treatment for granted, and was as nice to him.

Belle always manage to keep her promises, she had saved her father from misery at the castle with Beast, and he had granted her 13 days at the house with her father, and decided to stay once her sisters pleaded her too. She couldn't help but visit him in his time of need, and saw that he was dying without her around; she immediately tried to bring him back to a normal state and accomplished her goal. In the meantime while she was grieving for him, Belles brother and his friend had come to the place to steal his riches, but his friend turned into Beast and Beast into a charming Prince. The new prince explained to her that the only way he would ever be changed back is if a pair of kind eyes looked his direction and Belles most certainly did.

In conclusion, this movie was full of magic and a little bit of spite from the wicked sisters. Belle, saved her father from trouble and sickness, she stayed true to herself and Beast and she managed to keep all her promises that contained something good in the end.

The Cabinet of Mysteries

The movie "The Cabinet of Dr. Caligary" was an entertaining piece of artwork.

It was filled with true horror, darkness and many artistic styles. It tells the story of a

Man named Dr. Caligary who had come to the town of Hostenwall to be in a vendor in the local fair. With Dr. Caligary was his trustee somnambulist who has slept for 25 years named Cesare, Dr. Caligary and his somnambulist quickly became the carnival's favorite attraction. Also, there were rumors that they were connected to a string of murders that occurred. Caligary claimed that Cesare, the somnambulist, can predict the future, so it caught many peoples' attention.

The movie is a great example of expressionism. It is kind of spooky and everything is distorted.

In this movie you would most likely notice some crooked doors, slanted walls and walls with dark paintings on them. Also, there were trees had weird shapes and doors that bend to show creepiness of the production. Obviously, the themes of the expressionism were being emphasized in this movie, because the mood and tone of it was enhanced by the scenery, light, and some shadows. The dark moody atmosphere played a huge part in this film.

In the beginning of this spooky movie, there were two best friends named Francis and Alan. They had planned to attend Dr. Caligari popular attraction at the local fair.

It was very unusual in this part of the movie when the somnambulist started answering questions about the future of human kind. He even told Alan that he would be dead by dawn.

And to everyone amazement that same day Alan was murdered and no one knows who committed his assassination. The somnambulist in this movie is a symbol for darkness and death, he hardly said a word. He was known as Caligari's faithful sleepwalking friend. Basically, Caligari took care of him. He feeds him and care for him. They were like the two duo of evil.

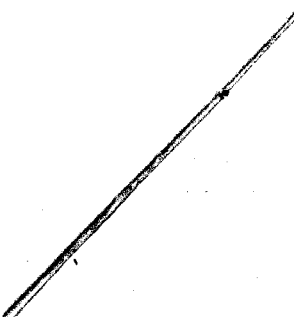
That's the main reason why some citizen of the town wanted his house fully examine by the police. The somnambulist owner, Dr. Caligari also portrays evilness and darkness. Throughout the movie, he tried to seduce townsfolk and they will eventually become victim to his somnambulist. This movie was impressive and most of the lighting was dark colored which was fine for a creepy movie.

There were several aspects of this movie links it to the movement of expressionism. As you can see, expressionism artists' tries to sometime focus on the light and shadows to increase a mood of a painting. They will try to distort reality for the emotional effect. They are very subjective in their art forms. It can sometimes express some intense emotion to it. But most of all, they will try to express themselves.

In this movie, you can see that everything was mostly distorted and complex. For examples, the houses look like they were made from pieces of cardboard boxes painted in black. It was one of those silent movies to see though. It has a strange blackening in each of the scenes. The color that was used is a huge factor in the sets of this movie.

Some would say that this movie had a little on-set camera tricks to it.

That is how the expressionists work; they focus greatly on the vivid emotional reactions through powerful colors and dynamic compositions.



As the movie continues, Francis is sort of distracted and worried for his life and a girl named Jane. The somnambulist was now a prime suspect. Being on the run, he was chased by the police and later fell to his death. That scene was very captivating and musically alive. He didn't really say anything and he looked so innocent. But, he really wasn't. At the end, Francis fought Dr. Caligari in hope of getting him locked away by the police. A very unlikely twist occurs, when Francis realizes that he was having a flashback and this whole thing that just happened was actually his fantasy. Then, he was at an insane asylum. But he's real doctor was Dr. Caligari who tried to cure him of his delusions. This silent film was really spooky due to many factors, and it also carries the qualities to the expressionism.

Swing Kids

Swing Kids is a film produced in 1993 and directed by Thomas Carter. Set in the World War Two era in the 1930's, this film explores Swing music becomes the underground movement of young people. Two high school students attempt to be Swing Kids by night and Hitler Youth by day. After Peter and Thomas join the Nazi, their friendship deteriorate. This film also depicts swing music, friendship, and Nazi's atrocity.

During the World War Two, swing music is the most popular dance music for young people in German, but it was prohibited by the Nazi Government. Swing music is very flaming and delightful; it just likes young people in German. Those young kids are tried control by the Nazi Government, and swing can let them relax and forget everything. The Swing dance scenes in the movie were much too spectacular, and I think that will let people forget that they are live in the dark. Plus, swing kids hate Hitler very much, that's main reason that it was by the Nazi Government.

Peter, Thomas, and Aarvid are swing kids and best friend in the film. They also hate Nazi Government. Peter is almost the head of their little group, and the choices he makes determine what everyone else thinks and does. Peter is sent into the HJ's (Hitler youth) because of his bad behavior and not because he wants to join, and Thomas also joins the HJ because of him. Peter did not discriminate against Aarvid even though his fellow HJ's and friends did. He is a good friend and would rather be loyal to his friends rather than to his fellow HJ's. Even when his friends in the HJ try to do something against his friends he will try to stop them instead of just letting them do it. No matter how or what everyone says is wrong with his friends he stays true to his real friends no matter what anyone says. In the end of film, Peter still trusts his friend Thomas, who was brainwashed by Nazi Government. That's the most impressive part in this film.

Nazi Government's atrocity is also shown in the film. Education played a very important part in Nazi Germany in trying to cultivate a loyal following for Hitler and the Nazis. Enforcing a Nazi curriculum on schools depended on the teachers delivering it. All teachers were blackmailed by local Nazi officials, and they had to teach young people to join and be loyal. Peter's

mother enforce him to join the Nazi, even though his father was killed by the Nazi because that's the only way to live in German. Nazi Government also brainwashed young people, let them to spy their parents and to report each other who are disloyal the Nazi Government.

As you can see, by Nazi Government's control everything would change such as friendship, future, and relationship. Because Nazi Government's too atrocity, that's the main reason thy Hitler failure.

Bride of the Wind: A Life of Heartache

Bride of the Wind is a film based on the days Alma Mahler spent living in the 1900s as a musician who can't seem to find love. Though she thought that she found love, Alma marries a famous composer of the 1900s, Gustav Mahler. Throughout the years Alma overcomes many adversities where she buries her oldest child, has an affair, and can't seem to find Mr. Right.

To begin with, Alma Mahler was just a teenager when she first met Gustav Mahler the 1900s composer. From there they became close and had a short courtship where Gustav asks Alma if she would be his wife. Alma didn't know what will happen once she marries Gustav but she knew she was in love with him. The Mahlers have two children, Maria and Anna. Maria died of pneumonia and Alma and Gustav were heart broken. Therefore Alma went to a treatment center so she can get well.

Secondly, while at the treatment center, Alma met and fell in love with Walter the architect and had an affair. Heartbroken, Gustav found out about the affair when Walter sent Alma a letter saying how much he missed her and that he loved her. Gustav had pneumonia and he was also dying so Alma decided to stay by his bedside then to go find her love, Walter. When Gustav died Alma briefly dated Walter but the romance did not last.

Furthermore, Alma seems to have trouble finding Mr. Right. For example, after Gustav passed away Alma briefly dated Walter and later Oscar the painter. Oscar was abusive to Alma and very jealous towards Alma's late husband Gustav. Everything was about Oscar. Alma realizes she was not in love with Oscar and suggests to him that he should go to the army and fight for their country. While Oscar in the army, Alma marries her fling Walter and had a baby with him. While all of her relationships come and go the only true one was with Franz the novelist that courtship last for ten years before finally married.

In conclusion, *Bride of the Wind* is basically a story about Alma and her relationships and how she overcame much heartache. From losing her first child, husband, and finding true love, Alma is really hurting herself without realizing it or caring about it.

Frida: Life through her paintings

We all live unforgettable lives, we all go through things that are life lessons to us. Frida was an exceptional woman who lived an unforgettable life. Her work as an artist became what she envisioned. Her pains is what causes her to be even stronger.

Frida went through a lot, from an accident which broke her in to two, to marrying someone who was addicted to every model he painted and ended up having sex with her sister. All this caused her to drink and paint. Through her paintings you seen pain from everything she experienced, her paintings told a story about her life.

From beginning to end Frida is face challenges that continues to bring her down, she would pick herself up but some things stops her. every time she would go through something she would drink until one day she ends up with kidney problems. But that does not stop her from her vision and from painting what she feels. In my opinion her vision was to live her life and paint what people felt and wanted to express what they could not express.

Towards the end of the movie frida starts giving up, she is still strong but her

conditions becomes worst where she loses her leg and starts to become more depressed and shows it in her painting. At the end she paints her self dead but on a bed on fire. This is the way she told her husband she wanted to die, burn the rest of what is left of Frida.

This movie was great, it showed what many obstacles a person can go through but how you can overcome them no matter... Frida was an example of that, she went through a lot of pain in her life but still kept her vision and still knew that she was going to get her paintings across and be able to inspire many people that was around her. She spoke for many people not only herself.

The Illusion of Life

An illusion is something that deceives by producing a false or misleading impression of reality and in *The Illusionist*, the mind is often left to wonder what the “truth” or the “lies” are. The Illusions portrayed dealt with the modernist acts of Eisenheim, the Crowned Prince as the bourgeoisie and the duchess as the socialite looking for clarity. The Illusionist Eisenheim reveals many aspects of modernism, betrayal, and skepticism between himself the Crowned Prince and The Duchess.

One of the first illusions explored was modernism. Eisenheim went against the traditional views of the people in Vienna. He challenged the princes' authority on more than one occasion. The most important opposition was when Eisenheim gave his version of the King Arthur story. He performs a trick that astounds all participants because they are unable to remove a sword standing in mid air with no support. Therefore, when the crowned prince comes over to reclaim the sword, he “the rightful owner” is unable to reclaim his own sword. It was Eisenheim's way of saying he wasn't fit to lead a country. The prince found this deeply disturbing, non-traditional use of technology was used to make a bold statement without saying two words.

Another illusion portrayed was faithfulness that was truly betrayal. It was suppose to be the Duchess and the Prince versus Eisenheim and his magic. The Duchess was to marry the Crowned Prince but once she was reunited with her childhood friend and love, it was impossible to deny the feelings she once had in her youth. The Duchess made her choice very clear, she

wanted Eisenheim to be her life partner and was willing to betray the Prince. She plotted against him to fake her death and to have the Prince held responsible. That betrayal caused the Prince his life and his plan to overtake the throne.

The major illusion exposed was the skepticism. It was felt immediately after the death of the Duchess. The inspector, the enforcer of all things good was left to wonder did the prince actually murder his fiancée. The betrayal of the Duchess lead to the towns people wondering why he did it? How could he have? Is he capable of doing such a thing? His word was no longer trustworthy and he was no longer honorable all because he might have murdered his fiancée.

The Illusionist had many illusions. For each section of an illusion was lead to a discovery. Eisenheims' modernism lead him to make a bold statement using technology, the betrayal of the duchess strengthened Eisenheim and weekend the Prince, and the major illusion was the lack of faith from the towns people, their skepticism.

VAN GOGH

Van Gogh is a film played in the country side of Paris. A country side name Oovers Sur Foie. The movie is bringing a periodic life style they used to live before in Paris. Men and women are dressed like covers from head to toes. Women dressing with a long dresses and compare to men they're always dressing in suit. How their life styles is free and different from here today.

Vincent is a common artist who's a painter. He paints different factors like nature and human body. Their life style is country way, they danced on the sunny daylight by the lake and, them washing their clothes in a different way by damping them. Marguerite is a young lady who's her mother passed away, her father is wealthy man who's a doctor who's been giving aids to Vincent since arrived to his house. The actor is telling about the country side of early time of Paris. The way they were cleaning themselves was with a towel, at this time they weren't using a tub. Van Gogh is a film of modernization where they never use a phone or neither have a television.

Vincent is a good paint who never took his life in serious matter and on the other side his brother Theo is married man with a newborn baby who's conducting his pretty nice in Paris. Marguerite is gifted like playing piano. This film is bringing the audience different point of view where people didn't invented any new technology they didn't have any radio to listen to the news. The costumes of the characters was a style of the modern age in Paris, the characters was wearing long shirt up to their feet with barets in their hair. Marguerite is falling in love with Vincent but, her father was opposed to that because of the low class is Vincent but Marguerite is stubborn of what her father is saying. This movie was cinemagraghs in early 1850s and, took place in the eastern country village of Paris where people were only traveling in train a mile from each other.

Vincent was shouted by the lake the ambulance was the cart that the horse is attached to, the author is giving us the some details about how transportation is circulates from place to another how they were communicating with people. In this periodic time the French people were very educating concerning education it was just different style of way how they were living, wealthy men was bringing the teachers to their home for the kids to be taught. Servants were treating the right way they were also accompanied at the diner table with others. And the that catches my attention is that their very creative with their selves means that they sings to each others saying poems and also, take form of other characters.

In over all, the author was presented to us the way people from this time was converted how the way they're dress how they were living without apparel like radio television cars etc... and over all from my point of view the French living style was much more better compare to what we are having right now. Because the artificial is killing the nature what we have right is more technology everything is by machine so however, the author is taking us where the country life is better without all those technology that we are carrying this days.

Frida: Life of a Painter

Frida is the story of a Mexican woman, with all it means to be, and her marriage with Diego Rivera. Later they would become the attraction of the art world. The central idea of the film is demonstrate how the Frida's life experiences influenced her work. Some important topics in the film are the representation of a relationship amongst individuals conflicts and their creativeness, the good and bad consequences of celebrity and how the social and political surroundings could affects her/his professional work.

Marriage is the union of two people in which they will live and grow together, and this was what Frida and Diego did. Besides their wild marriage and external affairs, they work out these problems and develop new ways to express themselves. They married, divorced and remarried again. They had a girl, Elizabeth. Frida

It is well known that the life of a celebrity is hard, and there is no reason to think that at the Frida lived it was somehow different. She met and married and famous painter. He was so famous that by the time she met him (She asked him for an opinion of her work), he was already in his second marriage. They used to travel because Diego was a important artist. Once they traveled to New York for painting for mural. He ended up having affairs with women. "It meant nothing, it had all the emotion of a handshake," he says. That led to Frida having affairs too.

The last central issue of the film, which is the picture of Frida's social and political era. From this, we can say that the affairs she had, political opinions and creative work would not have been so controversial if she would not have been a woman. Certainly, this affects her, and her work. At the time the film is set, the role of a woman was different from nowadays .It shaped her and her art. For example, the miscarriage of

the baby, how she met Diego, and the affair between her husband and sister. All the feelings she get from this she expresses in her painting.

Not many married woman would say that her worst mistake in life was marring her husband, but Frida did. That was Frida, she needed to vent her feelings, and for our benefit, she did painting.

Mrs. Dalloway: Accepting her way.

In *Mrs. Dalloway* is shown that, even for the upper class of society, their life have as many complications as from anyone. Set in the summer of 1923, this story has as the main character Mrs. Clarissa Dalloway. As secondary characters are Septimus Smith, Peter Walsh, Sally Seton and Richard Dalloway. Their roles develop whether in Clarissa's memory or in her party. The film takes a whole day in which every feature of the characters is released by flashes. Mrs. Dalloway is an elderly woman who has a complex, but semi-balance internal and external life. This is what the film is all about. It displays how her actual life could be affected and makes her doubt about her current life.

Clarissa and Septimus experience confusion when they remember past episodes, sometimes of themselves or with other characters. Mrs. Dalloway is married with Richard. At times Clarissa overlays her past and present. Memories come out in many situations. There is also her uncomfortable situation in which there are the unconditional love of Richard, the remembrance of her past lifestyle the years previous the WWI and her deep hidden love for Peter. Septimus, a veteran of War World I, live in his internal world. He wanders in the external world sometimes talking with his dead friend Evans.

As a consequence, both characters reveal their emptiness of their lives. The decisions Clarissa made had shaped her, thus she got used to not let go her doubts and feeling. One of them is the marriage with Richard instead of Peter. This is a good example of the sacrifice of passion for safety and calm from Peter and Richard respectively. Similarly, Mr. Smith affronted one difficult situation. On one hand, the order of the doctor to send him to a mental institution because of him fails attempts of suicide. On the other, Septimus and Clarissa share many characteristics. Both of them

have beak noses, likeness for Shakespeare and in some way they fear oppression from the external world. Their thoughts are alike and this decreases the line between what is sanity and madness.

In the end, the news of the death of Septimus made Clarissa a bit uncomfortable. Septimus decided to get away from his problems by simple suicide. Her friend Sally was always a more of a free spirit and she showed confusion for the way of life Clarissa has taken. Mr. Peter was very unpredictable and his critical behavior distanced him from the people, he values himself though. Richard is a very comprehensible husband who loves her wife and daughter. Mrs. Dalloway finally accepts the way her life is, partly because of the reflection of the death of Septimus.

F

The Illusionist

Illusionist is someone who performs magic tricks to amuse an audience. It also focuses on mind and body, where it also carries to being patience and concentration.

According to the movie Illusionist, the four main characters are Eisenheim, Sophie, Leopold, and Inspector Uhl. The origin of Eisenheim character is that he adopts magic tricks from an old man while he was walking down a road. Immediately, he began practicing these tricks everywhere he would go. In the main time while conducting one his tricks such as balancing an egg on a wood material, a young girl name Sophie got attracted from his actions and stopped her entourage before she would enter the gates of her home. Her being so interested, the next day they spent some time together teaching her tricks. For example, he makes her pick out a card from a set of deck. During this time they are in love with each other. Their origin of love began in a cave where they could not be seen where he also gave her a necklace which holds a picture of him.

Fifteen years later without Sophie because her family took her away from him inside the cave, where she was hanging with Eisenhem. At that time he decided to leave to Vienna to continue his illusion tricks. His shows were taken place in a theater which is where his love shall return. One of the nights as Eisenheim begin a show, inspector Uhl invited the prince Leopold and his fiancée Sophia to a show. The illusionist Eisenheim request for someone who wasn't afraid to die and the prince volunteered Sophia to go on stage. As she approach him on stage he realizes that she looks familiar by asking her, "Do I know you?" she then replied "no". After conducting his trick, he continued to think about her, knowing that he recognizes her as his childhood friend. There was a night

when Sophie went to Eisenheim home to talk about things that's was going on.

Immediately she states to him, "I came here to help you". To cease this argument he kisses her and got intimate and she told your secret is safe with me. This proves even though two lovers that haven't seen each other for years, which their love for each other still exist. For example, the necklace Eisenheim gave her during the beginning of their relationship; she never took it away after fifteen years even though she later lives with Leopold as her fiancé. This shows you the love someone has for their first lover never fails no matter what the situation was. Due to the affection that she has for him, she is willing to leave the prince to be with Eisenheim. For example, during a discussion between Eisenheim and Sophie he ask her if she wants to go live with him, then she agrees by telling prince Leopold that she doesn't want to marry him anymore.

After all, loving someone is a very strong action that no one can take away.

Situations often come in different ways which makes you discontinue a relationship, but as for Sophie even if her family is wealthy that didn't bother her to be with a poor guy the illusionist Eisenheim.

The illusionist: searching for reality behind the image

The illusionist a movie full of surprises, takes you back to kind of what la belle époque was, which was a time of harmony where the rich rule, and pretended to have an image of what was not. But this movie apart from having magic tricks, it also tells a love story which makes it romantic. It is so ironic how the illusionist resembles la belle époque in the use of power by the higher classes. It shows how the appearance of the high society is not always what it seems to be. But the illusionist tells how the poor have more fun, and winning is an option for those who seek it.

This story takes place in a society where the rich had the power over the poor, poor people could not marry high class aristocracy. But for Eisenstein all his money problems changed when he was taught by a magician in the streets. He was then separated from his beloved duchess, but this love story didn't end there. Magicians as they were famous in la belle époque, were emerging too in this movie where Eisenstein the illusionist was becoming famous in Vienna for his magic tricks, and his illusions. Not until Prince Leopold came with his new fiancée he saw his beloved duchess, this is where all the plot of being together started.

It is so ironic how love makes you do things that you can't explain, and how this movie emphasizes when Eisenstein plans an escape with the duchess. Even though when Prince Leopold tried to stop her she had the courage to face him. But he killed because she loved Eisenstein the illusionist, he fell into a deeply dark hole of depression. After losing his job at the theater where he started a new job with dark stuff. He did a show about ghosts that appear in stage and was to be from the dead, lots of people

attended to the show wondering if is another illusion. Not until prince Leopold came and was accused by the ghost of the Dutch, until one day the officer came and try to arrested him, but this time he was one of the ghosts and then disappear.

This is the lie behind the truth where not everything is not what it seems just in like belle époque . Even though the appearance may seem one thing is not what always seem, just like in the illusionist . When the Dutch was found dead indeed she wasn't because she had taken a potion to be dead, and the part of the theater where he disappear it was just an illusion. But the most important part was when they get to meet at the end living everything behind. This is just like the story of Romeo and Juliet where everything was risk for their love.