

TOO MUCH

A SEASON OF MELODRAMAS

WHAT IS MELODRAMA?

”

**You have to
think with
the heart.**

Douglas Sirk

Stories built on
heightened emotion

Expressive use of music,
production design,
lighting and
performance

Plots led by feelings over
logic, drama focused on
relationships



WOMEN'S PICTURES

Emerged in the 1930s-40s Hollywood studio system, targeting a majority female audience and featuring the major stars of the era

Concerned with social and cultural concerns coded as “female”, explored from a woman’s perspective

Reclaimed by feminist film scholars drawn to the expressive visual style, outrageous plotlines and disregard for realism

Capture the contradictions and logical fallacies inherent to life under patriarchy







OBJECTIVES

Introduce audience to overlooked classics of world cinema, alongside forgotten gems of Hollywood

Reframe a genre dismissed as populist, inviting audiences to cast their cynicism aside and embrace a cathartic, shared outpouring of emotion

Tap into a contemporary perspective on the importance and foregrounding of emotions, as an entry point to cinema and visual storytelling

THEMATIC STRANDS



LOVE



OBSESSION



SCANDAL



REBELLION



FAMILY



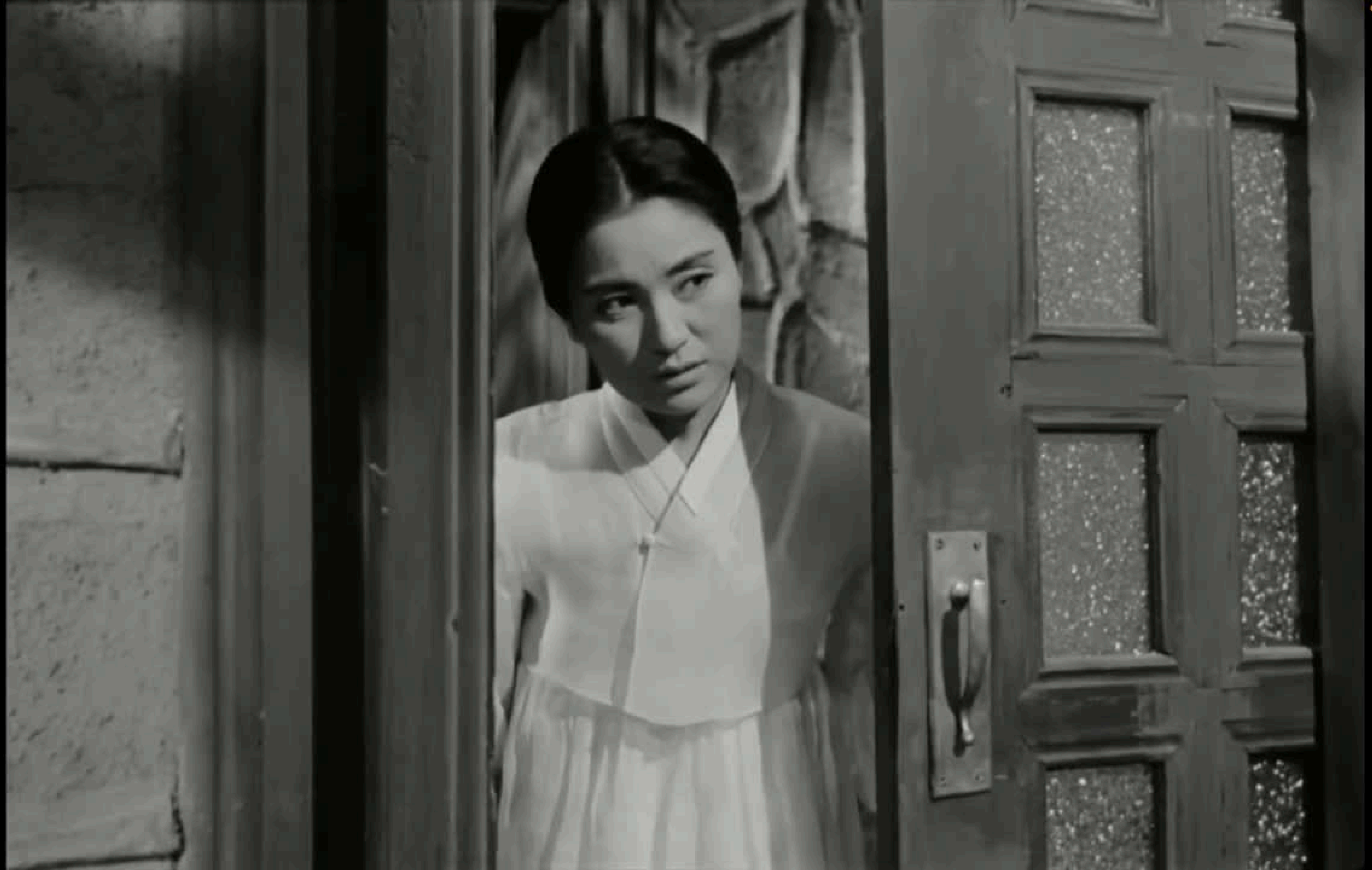


BEYOND HOLLYWOOD AND THE 1950S

Internationally, melodramatic traditions and approaches to filmmaking have flourished in East Asia, Latin America, the Arab world and Europe

National identities and cultures are reflected in the melodrama they produce, each country offering its own angle and style

Filmmakers continue to explore domestic issues, social pressures and interpersonal conflict by drawing from melodrama as a tool of expression





DIRECTORS: THEN AND NOW

Douglas Sirk, Max Ophuls, Frank Borzage, Vincente Minnelli, Nicholas Ray, George Cukor, Rainer Werner Fassbinder, Mikio Naruse, King Vidor, Joseph von Sternberg, Kenji Mizoguchi, John M Stahl and Edmund Goulding

Pedro Almodovar, Todd Haynes, Wong Kar Wai, Ann Hui, Jane Campion, Kenneth Lonergan, Francois Ozon, Christian Petzold, Stanley Kwan, Lars Von Trier, Ang Lee, Guy Maddin, Zhang Yimou, Arturo Ripstein, Lee Chang Dong, James Gray, Fatih Akin

EVENTS AND DISCUSSION IDEAS



**COSTUME AND
SET DESIGN**



**QUEER
MELODRAMA**



**MALE
MELODRAMA**



**GAINSBOROUGH
STUDIOS**



**DISABILITY ON
SCREEN**



CLASS



**TELEVISION AND
SOAPS**



CULT CLASSICS

QUESTIONS

THANK YOU!