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THE IMAGE OF WOMEN IN CINEMA: THE CRAFT OF ACTRESSES AND THE REFLECTION OF SOCIETY

Boqiyeva Shodiya Juma qizi
Student of Journalism and Mass Communication University, Uzbekistan
shodiyaboqiyeva5@gmail.com
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ABSTRACT: This article discusses the formation of the female image in the art of cinema, its role in society, and the craft of actresses. The study examines the aesthetic value of films created across different eras, the skill of the actresses, and the impact of female characters on the audience. The findings demonstrate that the art of cinema serves as a significant creative tool in shaping the representation of women.
KEYWORDS: Cinema, the craft of actresses, society, the art of cinema, film narrative, aesthetic spirit.

INTRODUCTION:

Cinema is a universal language capable of reflecting every facet of the human experience—from our brightest dreams to our darkest fears. Through the art of editing, it transforms raw material into vivid narratives that resonate deeply within the hearts of the audience. By encouraging society toward self-awareness, empathy, and a desire for change, cinema remains an integral part of our cultural heritage. It does more than just tell us about the world, it possesses the power to transform it, enriching our lives, imbuing them with meaning, and making us more profoundly human.

The emergence and development of cinema—a new form of art—are linked to advancements in science and technology, as well as the achievements of preceding art forms. Several key discoveries paved the way for the birth of cinema. In the late 19th century, electricity entered everyday life, and the field of chemistry advanced; these developments played a crucial role in the advent of photography and, subsequently, the invention of film stock (in 1887). In several countries (the USA, Germany, France, and Russia), purposeful research was conducted toward the discovery of cinema, leading to key technical breakthroughs: the creation of cameras and projection equipment, as well as the development of specialized film stock. It was using these very technologies that the inventors Auguste and Louis Lumière—on December 28, 1895, in Paris—filmed and screened some of the earliest motion pictures, including “Arrival of a Train”, “The Sprinkler Sprinkled”, and “Feeding the Baby”. [1]

It is true that in our increasingly digitized lives, some might argue that cinema no longer has a place. Yet, no matter how much time passes, the demand for quality cinema will only grow—it will certainly not disappear. If you observe, you will see fellow citizens on public transport watching movies or TV series on their mobile phones. The availability of notebooks, T-shirts, and pens featuring characters from highly-rated global films is further proof of the incomparable role cinema plays in our lives. Works such as the “Harry Potter” series, “Avatar,” and the “Jurassic Park” franchise continue to hold a special place in the hearts of audiences.

Women, in particular, hold an indispensable position in the art of cinema. Despite the obstacles that once hindered women from working in the television and film industry, they have excelled in various roles—as actresses, journalists, singers, directors, cinematographers, producers, and more.

According to an article in “The New York Times”, in 2013, women held the lead role in only 15 percent of the most successful films. [2] The author of the study notes that “the share of speaking roles for women has not increased significantly since the 1940s—when the figure stood

at 25 to 28 percent." "Since 1998, the participation of women in creative and technical roles behind the camera (excluding directing) has grown by only 1 percent." In 2012, women directed the same percentage of the 250 highest-grossing films—9 percent—as they did in 1998.

Furthermore, there has been a noticeable increase in the presence of women in leading roles within the highest-grossing films of recent years. This leads to the conclusion that the role of women in the art of cinema has grown even further.

It is no exaggeration to say that female performers have been able to fully demonstrate their talent across a variety of films. Through their grace, emotional depth, and strength of will, they have effectively portrayed female resilience—a feat that is, of course, a testament to the exceptional skill of these actresses. A prime example of this is the vibrant Uzbek film "Temir Xotin" ("The Iron Wife"), based on a comedy by Sharof Boshbekov. This film captures the willpower, resilience, and industrious nature of the quintessential Uzbek woman.

Main Plot:

Through the protagonist, Qo'chqorvoy, the film exposes various societal flaws while simultaneously exalting the figure of the woman. The film aesthetically portrays the dynamic between Qo'chqorvoy—who fails to respect his wife—and his wife, who endures all the hardships placed upon her.

Main Theme:

The central idea of the film is to honor and acknowledge the status of women in society. Dissatisfied with his own wife, Qo'chqorvoy begins to treat a new robot—created by Olimtoy—as his wife. He forces this robot, named Alomat, to perform all the tasks his actual wife used to do: field work, laundry, cooking, and other household chores. While the film's conclusion is humorous, it carries a profound underlying meaning: the robot, unable to withstand the physical demands of the tasks, eventually breaks down.

The author, Sharof Boshbekov, suggests that if we fail to value women—disregarding their vulnerabilities, neglecting to help them carry their burdens, and failing to provide them with moral support—then we have no reason to hope for a great future.[4]

The role of Alomat (the robot) is played by the well-known actress Madina Mahmudova. Although the film was shot in 1990, it remains beloved by audiences to this day. This serves as a testament to the actresses' ability to portray their characters exceptionally well.

CONCLUSION: In conclusion, the representation of women in the film industry reflects societal attitudes, advocates for women's rights, and sheds light on various social issues. The presence of women as actresses in society demonstrates that they are not merely homemakers or individuals defined solely by domestic tasks, but rather mature, well-rounded, and accomplished human beings. The resilience and willpower of women—both in the past and today—are vividly brought to life through the performances of skilled actresses.

Thus, our society has a need for actresses; through their craft, the complexity of the female persona and the depth of women's inner experiences can be effectively portrayed on screen.

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