

ABSTRACT

HISTORICAL-CULTURAL CONTEXTS OF AMERICAN FILM NOIR IN THE 1970S

This study examines the distinct historical-cultural period of the 1970s in the United States and how that distinctiveness contributed to the development of the film noir genre in twelve specific films noir of that period. Representing an important historical-cultural niche and characterized as a period of change in America, "the seventies" (1968-1981) and the production of seventies-era neo-films noir contributed to the manner in which film noir was reworked and to the critical views of America that were expressed in neo-films noir. Based on an historical-cultural reading of the twelve seventies-era neo-films noir in this study, these twelve films are more graphic in terms of violence and sexuality, have less complex narrativity, have less mannered visual styles, and explore bleaker, more hopeless views of American economic, governmental, societal institutions, and people than earlier films noir.

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