American Movies' "Closest Equivalent to Restoration Comedy"

Oliver Tilley

DOI: https://doi.org/10.15353/kinema.vi.1197

ABSTRACT “IT MAY BE AMERICAN MOVIES’ CLOSEST EQUIVALENT TO RESTORATION COMEDY” (Pauline Kael on Bringing Up Baby) I will attempt to ascertain the accuracy of Pauline Kael’s comment. It is a difficult issue, demanding a telescoping of two distinctive cultures, nations and media as well as an exploration of the concept of genre and intertextuality. In many ways Kael’s assertion - written, as she herself attests ‘hurriedly’, being ‘frequently dependent on [her] old, spotty memories’(1) - is superficial and breaks down after analysis. Her comparison is flawed in its assumptions that genres can contain such diverse works as they denote, over a fifty-year period on the one hand and a 10 year period on the other; while the idea that these genres can then be paralleled with each other is yet further problematic. Despite this, Kael’s perhaps unthinking observation proves a worthwhile area to explore and...
Here is Indiewire's 25 funniest movies of the 21st Century. It's the best mother-daughter relationship comedy since "Terms of Endearment," but the emotional depth that drives the movie forward is never too far away from a well-earned laugh. Gerwig's sense of comic timing is impeccable, from the memorable car-jumping sequence of its opening moments all the way through the rousing finale. The only character who fully recognizes that she's in a farce about rich Americans who think of their wealth as a birthright, Marta delivers the best joke of this unexpectedly hilarious movie by reducing the Thrombey family to a killer punchline. —David Ehrlich


Herman Melville. American novelist, short story writer and poet during the American Renaissance. free verse. an open form of poetry. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. An american poet and educator whose works include Paul Revere's Ride and Evangeline. holophrastic stage. 12 months where kids are able to produce 30-40 words. a regularly repeated line or group of lines in a poem or song. Restoration comedy. a style of English drama that flourished in London in the 17th-18th centuries that satirizes the elite, characterized by wit and cutting edge humor. +45 more terms. Restoration comedies are English plays written and performed between 1660 and 1710, the "Restoration" period. Also known as "comedy of manners" plays, these works are known for their risqué, explicit depictions of sex and extramarital affairs. The Restoration gave rise to the first female playwright of the English stage, Aphra Behn. It also marked the first instances of actresses appearing on stage in female (and sometimes male) roles. William Wycherley, George Etherege, William Congreve, George Farquhar, and Aphra Behn created bawdy works of Restoration comedy with The Country Wife, The Man of Mode, The Way of the World, and The Rover.