

**Introduction Film Studies**  
**Prof. Aysha**  
**Department of Humanities and Social Sciences**  
**Indian Institute of Technology, Madras**

**Lecture No. # 26**  
**Stars as Icons**  
**-Case study: The Stardom of James Dean**  
**-Fandoms**

Good morning. We have been talking about classic Hollywood period, remember. So, if my question remains that what is classic Hollywood period, and what are the major features of that period. What will be your answer be? What is the feature of classic Hollywood period?

You will talk about the studio system, major studio is and also training of stardom, how unite all this stars clock able and James steel, and who came later on but primarily you talk about the studio system and later stars.

Stars system and how stars would be on the contract. It major studios remember that.

So, where do starts figure during the fifties? When we talk about thirties and the forties, and also early part of the fifties, then stars for the huge draw, the a position of directors as a major box office magnet, that took place only during later part of the sixties and the early seventies. The directors, the kid that is what we call the new Hollywood period. But fifties of, and up search in the, in making of as different kind of hero; so what was the forties hero and fifties heroes all about? If you say that the hero in the fifties that the different kind of hero. Still, stardom mattered a lot is still, stars for under contract with studios but the studio hold was slackening, but this time.

And who were these heroes now? So, if you want to think about heroes of the fifties, then we have to look at the heroes of the forties and fifties also in an even before. So, there was the huge boxed box office star during the silent period called Rudolf Velentino. Are you aware of Rudolf Velentino? Are you? No. Take down the name. See, are doing the course like this, you ought to know Hollywood history, motion pictures

history and only then you can understand any other cinema. Sandeep, who was Rudolf Valentino? Super star of the silent period, can you recall any movie?

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The sheik, where he placed, an abundant white boy, who is reached by the air haps. So, the sheik was a major major black buster of Rudolf Velentino; and he was the for mixed race extremely handsome, but however the factor miss that he was the first male super star. And basically, he was known for his looks rather than his history on its. So, those classic regard looks and silent stars. So, naturally did not have to speak any lines. He had a strong ascent. He was his dialogue delivery was not very good and there was nothing, except he you know his classic good looks, there was nothing much to recommend him, but still one of the earlier great stars of the period of holly of Hollywood.

And therefore, his name figures, in the greatest stars, are of greatest you know in pantheon in Hollywood start here. With there was like mass hysteria when Rudolf Velentino prematurely died, he was not well and he died, he was in is early thirteen and fans just broke down and there was a massive hysteria, in outside is house and people when just berserk, because huge star die and that, when told to create something called, you know coin age of the term called fandom. So now, fandom is the very common word, very commonly used.

We in Tamil Nadu, we have great act stars, actors, who have these fan clubs. So, we call them fandom refers stars and there images they have based in milk and what not yes

there waved in gold in extra. We may even in try to commit to suicide, when a major stars dies that kind of (()). But historically Valentino is one of the most well known in the first documented star to have generated that kind of hysteria. After that, of course, we had major actors stars, Glad cable, James Stewart, Carry grand who had in normal fan following specially among ladies. Even, men wanted to be like Carry grand, Carry grand soon sexuality suspect. He was unknown by sexual. Now, it is all out in the open but he nevertheless married six times and so.

We were talking would you know making of Hollywood star Elizabeth Taylor and also many of these links up and romances and marges would be like studio manufacture devices, just to keep the fans happy. And men and women like should warship that was the identity. Now, the hero in the fifty, so that those was the forties and the fifties, can you remember any other major stars of the period, fifties ore symbolized majorly by two of our greatest method actors James den as well as Marley Brando both come from New York school, rather than Allay. So, they were not like manufacture task, but they were trained actor. I will gives briefly another fifties phenomenon, not a star in sense of movie star, but huge huge star in terms of fan following, the beetles as well, where do you have the beetles, close on the heels of we Presley phenomenon. And if you watch a movie called hot days night. Have you, heard of, heard of a there. We will be doing accept from that movie. So, please note of it. Beetles hot days night and help this start in two movies, beautiful movies on and movies, which are still fresh, still very young in approached, so (( )) James dean and Marlin Brando hero in the fifties.

Now, I will give you one minute exercise, to just think over it, who was the major star presiding Brando and Dean. Think about it. Major Hollywood stars presiding (()), but he was not an actor, was say James dean and Marley Brando; great actors phenomenal stars. But who was there before them. Think all your favorite movies, think of the actors staring at, is they are still on heroes and not heroines. Oh god, ham free oh god, good ham free oh god, carry grand, hungry fondant, yes man mantic mantic lift again, New York product, New York acting school product, yes trained by the legendry least stressed work, stella adler, they were the proponents and exponents of method acting in New York. Mantic lift James Dean Brando but mantic lift never generated hysteria Brando and Dean dead, that is the different. So, we agree and free bog ought, carry grand, clock cable, there was a great star during the thirties and the forties, who would invariably star in all this gangster films. You remember his name, he was another major box office drop

James gag nick not James Stewart. James Stewart was a favorite, who hitch cock and also frank capra. But then a hitch cock movie is the hitch cock movie the director before about the title is that kind of star in you so is howard hawks and hitch cocks was two act directors of the classic period, whose name appeared about the title, the name about the title remember, whose auto biography good, frank capra.

So, hero in the fifties, so we will see, how there has been among shift, from the heroes of the thirties forties and the early fifties until Brando and Dean. And what brought about those says, what where those socio cultural changes and the difference acting style and major in and major trends in film making. So, Brando dean and Alwis to when next an change the a way young man could be seen popular culture, so they one not the hypo hypermasculine actor. The projected hypo masculinity, as was the evident in clag cable in James Gag nick, free bog at.

They were more in touch with famine aspect of their personality, not an feminine definitely aspect of the their personality, not of the minute definitely, but more sensitive, more brooding gave and aura of interest sections and often appeared at confuse, then ambiguous about many things include their sexual orientation and this is the feature, which is very common in mantic lift also, that world term that is coin for them is protest masculinity, protesting against the establish norms of hyper masculinity. Therefore, they mark a shift from those hypo masculinity stars to this. Now, see in the, we saw the phenomenon against reoccurring during the eighties.

Now see, seventies was was again all about the method acting remember, Betrino Hoffman Nickerson, the Nehru, who wells have a kettle. So, these was the New York trained actors and new new trained in the method acting style and then cinema was dominated by the directors, who are collectively known as the movie berates, hmm movie. Bratess chorsesy, Paul shedder even lucas and spielberg, the movie brats. So, that was the that was those was the seventy of course, spell berg still services but eighty saw again a shift, now look at you watch these method actors in seventies.

Pet chino in dog they afternoon confused about the sexuality. He is married. He is he has father, children is still wants to give up the family and be with man, right. You remember the movie, dog they afternoon, they need in a taxi driver, these illusion with war. And therefore, all his problem, all this confusion basically, eminent from the factor that his dissolution with the society around him. So, working class man protesting against the

establish socio political system in America. So, there was a protest. Jack Nickerson one flow over the (( )), have a kettle means straight, an a couple of the movie as well. All these trained in method acting but what happens in the eighties, who was the hero, who was the super star on eighties? Stellan Skarsgård and Necker and Stellan and also Necksten Bruwelles to an as Necksten, what's a name Cigoll, steels, Cigoll. So, those was the actors, who mark the eighties, hypo masculinity followed by, so there is always venous cycle, hypo masculinity followed by cycle of sensitive actors extra and now what to be see nineteen onwards, think of all are major actors are they hypo musculant time. No, they don't and body and that kind of masculinity, as was illustrated by that shores and Neckers and Stellan. Do you watch fight club, is a very different kind of hero or heroism or (( )), you are talking about there we will bleed.

It is a sub version of hypo masculinity and Patriarchy. Anything else, Paul Thomas and since punch drunk love, Magnolia a Tom Cruise Magnolia again interrogating the contrast of hypo muscularity, so this is the feature. So, if you think every era define certain kind of movie. The same time also the hypo musculant was like Thomsen (( )) hmm but still very confused, not confused about its identity but a man who is not an out an out an anti hero. He is anti hero but still not in the same wean as the burse listen is not taking on the establishment. There are, it is not one man army, against this enemy and for (( )) on the armies very, very clear, the enemies very clear right. Very clearly defined assent them, to they also embody the particular, political ideology America.

Now, we do not lot of ambiguity, in all (( )) Andersen movies, you have that theme. In all David (( )) movies, thus the theme, the recurring theme the enemies lies with the, so James Dean, nineteen year, we are going to analyze phenomenon called James dean and what brought about this phenomenon and then his (( )). So, James dean 1931 to 55, some of you have are already familiar with is two great movies rebel with out of the caution east of (( )). Those of you want, then please to watch them and third major movie is giant, directed by George Stewens walled with regret, only three movies, three great directors Nicolas Roeg. We already discuss the Nicolas grey Roeg, George Stewen and giant and liyacasny east of (( )).

So I think, we have try to covered all these three directors. Dean lost his mother at age nine and he was a (( )) from his father. So, that was his background, a small town boy and then thought acting would be his profession for life and shifted to New York, got trained

methods school. He had this shuffling mumbling style; and therefore, the because of that and often compared to the great brand and was always called mix (( )) the kid. I think and (( )) was the first to name him so. And the story goes that, when he was acting with the likes of stars Elizabeth Taylor and rock huts an who had nothing do with method acting was of them, if giant they could never follow what his same they could (()).

They would never and distance Elizabeth Taylor of course, had of some experience, some brush with method acting because she had accreted in place with son with mantic lift. So, she knew what method acting is all about but rock hasten another people in that crew had no idea of what method acting in the all about, they were very uncomfortable with hmm having James dean around. His characters are often in articulate, what do you understand by in articulacy? Not just not being able to express but also extremely confused about, what they want to express. These are theme that runs to the work of the Daniel Lewis also in articles, yes. People you know characters one not able to come to terms with, what do want to say.

Most of his characters, they are an ridden protagonist almost like precast to the great method actors of the seventies. Misunderstood out cost and in all his three movies, he is desperately craving approval from father figure, just three movies but already. So they is, the theme, there running throw the thread (( )) throw out is the body of work. So, (( )) directed east of (( )) is as you have already talked about it. With rebel without cause and giant, just three movies geo giant is by George stewing. So, east of (( )) based on johns Stenberg novel is set in rural California and was released after dens death. Part of the movies, the movie that we have we see, we get to see is based on the book of genesis and the (( )) was basically consented with the father and son and brother and the conflict between the two brothers, the can and able section, that was another theme, another (( )) body of work also father conflict between fathers and sons. They remember therefore, he director, he collaborated with author millers so well, (( )) son, again the same story.

Giant, 1956, is based on a novel by (( )) and monumental meandering novel based in taxes, where rock hasten placed a ranger, who on some fifty thousand acres of land and James dean is a worker, there form had and who falls in love with rock hasten his masters wife as played by the beautiful Elizabeth Taylor and dens character and he is strikes oil, yeah we are told the during the, have you watch the movie, do watch it do watch it I am sure, it is available one line some were, if you do watch. It is a it is great

study in a particular period in American history. So, **he** we are told that I am James dean has been begged a plot, you know.

In a very small part of the land by rock hastens (( )) sister, who remains and as Windstar and rock the James dean character has a would have very well. So, before dying, she names as small section a plot of land for him and he strikes oil and then becomes a billionaire, richer than rock hasten. And then he age is forty years and then you actually fine all these actors, aging on screen, all the they were not old, they were not yet in their forties and fifties. But they accreted then very elected movie rebel without cause, one of is most defining film and (( )) if you look at is the way, he is clothed in the movie. So, that started attract blue jeans, red jacket, so his famous dialogue.

You are tearing me apart, who does this he say is to his father basically and you say one thing and he say the another, everybody changes back again. So, a typical teen big that is, what we call them today but not teen big in the long a lines of **of** clueless, mesa. Very serious kind of teen big, which gave when to the ants of the teenagers, those days and then title says, it all rebel with out of cause, they do not know against whom their protest in they feel there being very cool when their protest. But it the it is though, this is the background you win (( )) movies, where extremely popular in that furlough, there was a movie called black board jungle, where is student protest against teachers. The very popular film and rebel without a cause a takes its cues from the black board jungle.

So in **in** rebel deans stars and games stack along with nicely wood and (()), who are one another method actors (( )) is the boy, who plays, who dies yeah. The kid who dies in the movie and Brando was initially considered for the roll but then he was thought to be old then to play are teenager and if you watch the movie, I just assume some of you have watch the movie and his performance does should (( )) influence of Brando. So, rebel without of cause was coin in other term, itself was coin in 1944, before the movie came out. By cytologist, sociologist called Robert lender, who had written written in a book nine in 1946 and a Warner brothers at bought the right to the book and I am coating something from the novel from the book, sorry the (( )) is a rebel a religious disobeyer of prevailing coats and standard coated rebel without cause, educated without a Slovene, revolutionary without a program.

So, that is what define a rebel, according to Robert Glider. So, who is a rebel, rebel is the milestone in the creating of new ideas about young people. The novel as well, the book

as well the movie, basically deals with the concept of un focuses rage, these young people full of rage, but they do not know rage is against, whether is that teachers are the authority figures, you know the law maker etcetera at all the period. Presidents in cinematic histories from marlin Brando's role as a motor cycle gang leaders, you know it was one of those, today we call them bike flicks, right. From the biker flicks by one of this marlin Brando played the role, in the wild one in the 1953.

You know influence of Marlon Brando, they are like for reaching you watch a movie like Gulam, Amirkhan's gulam, which movie is it based on? He is, he is boxer, he is ask to throw again, by his brother, and the brother is in league with the, the so called you know, small time goons and (( )). So which movie is it based on? And then the brother is killed, he is the peace maker between various people, he is also lawyer in the movie by right, and there is another activist to gets killed and then are the hero, he turns the in rebel, so for he is a drifter, but then when he watch his brother die, and when he watch is this active is, when he turns into revolutionary of sorts.

The one man army against this army of goons; which movie is it based on? On the Waterfront. So, but if you how many of you have watched Gulam, Amirkhan's gulam? No, do watch it and watch it back to back with on the waterfront, also rebel without cause. Now, why are we talking about gulam at this point, because on the waterfront, there is no by biker at gang, but in gulam there is one. Do you remember, there is a group of biker who always arrives on the scene whenever, there is some problem and there always on bikes, so biker gang and they help the hero out in one of its major moments of crises.

So, that seen total from the while now and also we had phenomenon called (( )) in 1950s and along with Brando and (( )) created kind of role model that alter the way, young man pursuit for the so called enemies. Everyone who is in authority these book called generation of wipers by believe (( )) and the (( )) book coins a term called (( )). So they one to rebel against the concept of (( )), because we have been like the striped of former masculinity by (( )) so (( )) hand begged father bossy mother, and that something that you find and rebel without cause as what can you do? When you have to be a man James asked is the father at one point at the movie, their, because why are you so dominated by my mother. So, the cause nothing really he does not have any cause, it is a story which takes place within 24 hours, yeah very tightly in plan it well tightly plot a structure and



three teenagers from alley. All brimming with undirected rage what is the other guys problem? (( )) is a brought by the governors parents are never at home. He is the one of those upper middle class kind of boy and he lives in very comfortable surrounding but then when you remember, how the movie opens in a police officer's room, all these free have been arrested for some reason are the other for thus causing, some minor disturbance in the neighbor hotel and James dean James dean his parents come to bail him out. For that girl, how parents come and then for the boy, for the other boy, no one comes except is governors.

Parents are separate or divorce something like that very well the, but no affection. What is the girl problem? We are talking about, you know undirected rage. So, what what yields the girl in movie? Yes, yeah she wants, she is very affectionate towards father but he is no more to listen to her and he say the after certain age, girls have to be more reserved, more like, lady like an she is why those kinds right of issue. So rebellion against a (( )) of a the father, who likes divineness and strengthen at one point James dean says, she is him alive and he takes it. Again you know a kind of protest masculinity, man have to be assertive, but then this he is not a very assertive man.

He is not the hypo hypermasculinies identifying a certain problem. That was identified by many people before him that we men are slowly a masculating men in American society. Ann being a man that what his says about is father, if we had guts to knock mom cold ones, then maybe she would be happy and she would starts picking on him. The other issues were like jivani delinquency, and also the conclusion is that grown up also do not have solution to teenagers problems. James dean phenomenon, we were talking about making of James dean phenomenon. So, just three movies and today is marital while, one was the style; the way he was the style in the movie, he is not basically remembered for giant, in giant ages forty years but the end of the movie.

You see him like the fifty year old or late fifty something like that. East of east indies yes, very respectable movie by the great a aliya hazan; hazan got the major junk of credit and also based on classic American novel but rebel made James dean what he was. And his iconic red jacket, the hair style we are talking about start here. And fast car, fast bikes all these since you do not scene giant. The switch plate seen, if you watch the movie please mark it the switch plate seen where he is in involved in knife scene and the sequence scene remember, sequence run scene, where they challenge the rival gang. You

know that is run, lets race cars whoever, gets out fast, gets out before is the chicken is the coward that is the scene replicated in gulam as well, it is not then in the water front.

So, gulam is many movies and the cult world, thus was language the dragon of the teenage. James dean died in his poor, which was called little bastard; rebel without the cause was released after his death and the (( )) run scene (( )) world is own tragic that, is love for fast living in fast cars. If said and its very early co incidental that James dean also participated road safety campaign. Very urged drivers not to drive rashly remember, the next life you save could be mine that was the slogan. Now, who are fans, you are talking about fandoms and James dean.

So, who are fans? That is my question to you, are you a fan of any actor? Yes something (Audio not clear) is major actor he may not be a star, he may not be huge (( )), because see he never cultivated himself that way he did not play the star game. Thus also one thing he could have done, that one thing there are some people to play that image of heroism. Daniel Delewis never repeated himself and never (( )) image for himself. Same can be said about (( )) he never played those games but there are certain people, who do these things. James dean, perhaps we concert that he played it but by default perhaps it of is very premature death. He has come to be come to become, you know all time role model star, so fans who are fans, now we see a picture and actor in change where.

They want to (( )) you this is fan, this is becoming part of fandom, this is what the fandom thus to you (( )) you, how do you institutionalized? We say right he is not an actor institution him, how do you get institutionalized? I am sure all of you know, what are the practice, what do people what do fans do, we have star great actor star Sharuk khan and we see him always surround it by fans fans and also who plays (( )) the media fan scene, fancy popular magazine, media. Nowadays, you also have social network sites. These are the twitter, face book and all though sent of things. So, what do they do they institutionalized songs stalls (( )) followers, yes. Can you give me some examples? Yes, (( )) very built it good. I am sure there are certain stars; there are North Country, who are institutionalized by religious strokes.

Now, what does meant to have to been have to your own fandom, what is fandom? Fandom until the meaning of being of fan people coming together and institutionalizing someone; fandom is studies investigated how fans express their likes and dislikes and nowadays, you have all kinds of things, all kinds of medium to for fans, all kinds of

platform to fans express the likes and dislikes. So, the moment, the movie released, next day would be millions of posts about that actor, about that movie, because you have fan following, fans are following you literally, nowadays on social media. Fans discuss comment and write on films perhaps, they are not qualified to do that but they do that because they fans they have every (( )) do so.

Fans, of course, they can be manipulative and they can be manipulated as well by marketing forces. Can you give me some instance, how fans can be manipulated? Well every time, there is a new movie coming coming up you just have to generate certain kind of is story about star, then you look at the hysteria that follows among the fans. Net leads to I am I am there are numerous example, and if you watch it very carefully, you we find in anywhere in one and specially north countries whenever, there is the major movie upon release, there is always some kind of controversy.

Because that generates interest, thus the way media stars manipulate fans fans will be there but then is another thing is, another art to manipulate the emotion, that will of course, result in more would false. Sometimes, fans influence also control the product. Can you give me some example (( )) movie, which in Kerala bought ten years back. Just starring both Mohanlal and (( )). So, thing is, she has to choose between either are them we actually came out two endings of movie one is choose an Mohan lal and the other one chose is (( )). You cannot (( )) of fans. So, yeah these (( )) different the so depending on whoever had more fan. Manirathnam Selpathy is based on which a pic? Mahabharatham and which role is Rajinikhanth, superstar right Rajinikhanth is sing karna is right. What happensto Karna in Mahabharatham? Does in dying thalapathi?

No

No

No, no mam.

No, he does not, why?

(Audio not clear)

How can you show Rajinikhanth the dying on you seen. So, some fans control the way films as a product. As at the father that. So, it does not matter, do the authenticity are being faithful to the a big fans control, the way think certain.

We were just talking about Koley; Koley original screenplay had Bachchan dying at the end but because he had just come out near death experience, how many of you are not familiar with Koli accident. Mr. Bachchan almost died during the fight scene, during fight scene during an action scene, during the shooting of the movie and he was hospitalized many months, following that accident and it first sometimes rumors would have the that is already dead and those we are talking about 1982 when we did not have all these media channels and extra television channels and so many newspapers and magazines. But fans would strongly oppose the hospital throw out and some **some** occasionally to the rumor would be floating in the air, that Mr. Bachchan is no longer alive whatever. But the movie came out it and the movie was eventually completed, and was released in 1983, the original screenplay dying at the end, because he has come out of this, yeah near death experience, the director had to change of movie. Now, you can show, Bachchan dying on screen.

And interestingly, after (( )), he is the he is carrier start going down because see, you have been the fight that extent. After the anything, anything whatever you do, cannot measure up to that level and the other movie followed by the just not there, am in there just in the capture the phenomenon. They were media product etcetera and now, he has been the fight to the extent a of being, almost like god, he can even defeat death. The only movie as far as I can remember, which had Bachchan dying, after the coolly incident was (( )) path on it was miserable flop, it was flop for variety of reasons. But one of the reasons was flopping was, it people were not thus not interest in see him as hero one year and also the fact that he dies on screen. Because people were no long interest in watching him. They was another lesser known movie called me mayan hazzard based on Frank Capra's meet John Dow, which again had dying on screen and the movie was even release properly, Bachchan movie not finding a release.

So, the legend continues, we have a numerous James Dean appreciation society. Wanna brother even, made a movie a short documentary called the James Dean story in 1957. There are several biography and he is also gay icon, his bio graphics the mutant king and James Dean Bole Award Broken Dreams, there another biography called, that is called James Dean and then silver screen (( )) and the cover, you can see James Dean, Marlon Brando, (( )). He also represented cult of youth, it earned young, it learnedly alight and the only two deaths, that can match up to his legendry and death that phenomenon, that

on suit. One is death of Rudolph Valentino, we were just talking about in silent movie star actor and then marlin Brando.

And how these stars have been institutionalized? James Franco did movie called James dean. How closely resembles in do and then the legacy continue, you have you have john vogel, doing a James dean in these; in that is... Any question on making of fan, of phenomenon. These are the things; we have been talking about stars also occasional in this cost. We have been talking about stars occasionally in the cost method, and we talked about method actor and now we talked about great star and the phenomenon. So, thank you very much. We will continue tomorrow.