The Poetics and Sexual Politics of The Shaws’ Huangmeidiao Films

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Abstract

This research consists of a formal analysis and gender reading of the Shaws’ huangmeidiao films. Taking a historical poetics’ approach, it surveys the context, the principals as well as the particular way in which the genre formulates its narrative and musical numbers. It then points out how the cinematic background and presentations of the genre have registered a female address; and examines such address in regard to feminist theories and queer readings along with a general textual analysis of the films and an in-depth reading of The Love Eterne. This thesis aims to show the significance of the Shaws’ huangmeidiao films, especially on their way of becoming an independent genre with a peculiar attraction apart from its operatic origins and its musical counterparts.
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