



# SYNOPTIQUE

An Online Journal of Film and Moving Image Studies



**EDITION 12**  
**2008**



## From the Editor

Sensational and extravagant emotional appeal – here comes our first thematic edition on (you know you love it) MELODRAMA. Proof of its undying attraction, SYNOPTIQUE 12's articles each include a discussion of more recent films. The authors of this edition have all brought fresh perspectives as to how we can change our approaches to the study of this genre. It is my biggest hope that the only tears evoked from reading the following pieces will be from basking in their sheer brilliance whose creative existence serves as proof of ongoing personal battles (these authors are heroes really) against seemingly insurmountable obstacles (grad life) only to come out as survivors (where many many many others did fail) based on their own grit, determination, and self-reliance. Bravo!

Extra special thanks for this edition go to Professor Katie Russell (for her moral support and for her suggestions from her Melodrama class), Lindsay Peters (for helping out with last minute editing), Anne-Louise and Sylvain (for actually submitting articles and for not bailing – Lindsay can go here, too), and to Kina de Grasse and Adam Rosadiuk (as always) for all of their pro bono tech advice/ help.

Sincerely,

Amanda D'Aoust

Editor-in-Chief (Edition 12)

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### Reader's Thoughts

*By Colin Burnett on 2008 11 11*

It's great to see Synoptique back! Well done! I have one recommendation: can you include author bios somewhere in the issue?

Congratulations on all the fine work. The horizontal layout is as eye-catching as ever!  
Colin

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28 October 2008

Written by **Amanda D'Aoust**

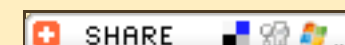
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1. [From the Editor](#)
2. [Private Fears in Public Places: Network Narrative and the Post-'Smart' American Melodrama](#)
3. [Le sacrifice maternel, ou l'inévitable logique d'un mélodrame.](#)
4. [Women with Imaginary Children: Old Gender Stereotypes in New American Thrillers](#)
5. [More, Please](#)

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Synoptique staffers circa 2005 dance around the issue of interpretation while watching Jean Renoir's *French Cancan* (1955)  
<http://www.synoptique.ca/core/en/articles/cancan/>

Lysandra Woods looks at the uproar around the release of *Basic Instinct* (Verhoeven, 1992)  
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Dave Douglas reviews *The Stepford Wives* (Frank Oz, 2004)  
<http://www.synoptique.ca/core/en/articles/stepford/>

In *Offscreen*, James MacDowell gets close to *Far From Heaven* (Todd Haynes, 2002)  
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[http://www.offscreen.com/biblio/phile/essays/dreaming\\_wide\\_awake/](http://www.offscreen.com/biblio/phile/essays/dreaming_wide_awake/)

Louis Goyette offers an overview of the life and work of Ranier Werner Fassbinder  
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28 October 2008

Written by **The Synoptique Staff**

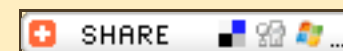
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