

blackboard jungle rock around the clock

****Blackboard Jungle Rock Around the Clock: The Birth of Rock 'n' Roll Phenomena****

blackboard jungle rock around the clock is more than just a phrase; it is a portal into the explosive era of early rock 'n' roll that transformed the music industry and youth culture forever. These iconic songs and the movie "Blackboard Jungle" played pivotal roles in launching rock 'n' roll into the mainstream, capturing the rebellious spirit of the 1950s and influencing generations to come. If you've ever wondered how these cultural touchstones interconnect or how they shaped music history, you're in the right place.

The Cultural Impact of "Blackboard Jungle"

When the film "Blackboard Jungle" hit theaters in 1955, it wasn't just another drama about troubled youth—it became a cultural milestone that introduced rock 'n' roll to a wider audience. Based on Evan Hunter's novel, the movie explores the struggles of a teacher in an inner-city school grappling with juvenile delinquency. Yet, what truly set the film apart was its groundbreaking use of Bill Haley & His Comets' hit "Rock Around the Clock" as the opening song.

Why "Rock Around the Clock" Was a Game-Changer

Before "Rock Around the Clock," rock 'n' roll was bubbling under the surface, largely confined to radio stations playing rhythm and blues to niche audiences. The song's inclusion in "Blackboard Jungle" brought this energetic sound into mainstream consciousness overnight. Suddenly, teenagers across America and beyond were drawn to its infectious beat and rebellious vibe, sparking dances, record sales, and a cultural shift.

The song itself, released in 1954, was one of the first rock 'n' roll records to top the Billboard charts. Its catchy rhythm, driving backbeat, and Haley's distinctive vocals made it a perfect anthem for a generation eager to break free from post-war conformity.

Blackboard Jungle and the Rise of Teen Culture

The movie's portrayal of teenage angst, combined with the soundtrack's raw energy, resonated deeply with young audiences. It highlighted the growing divide between generations and emphasized the newfound power of youth.

culture. This era marked the birth of the teenager as a distinct social group with its own tastes and values, heavily influenced by rock 'n' roll music.

Exploring the Music: The Soundtrack That Changed Everything

The "Blackboard Jungle" soundtrack is a fascinating study in early rock 'n' roll and rhythm and blues influences. It wasn't just "Rock Around the Clock" that caught attention; the film's music selections helped set the stage for the rock revolution.

Key Tracks Beyond "Rock Around the Clock"

While Bill Haley's hit stole the spotlight, other songs featured in the movie contributed to its edgy, rebellious atmosphere. These tracks drew from blues, jazz, and swing, blending them into something fresh and electrifying. The soundtrack's eclectic mix helped widen rock 'n' roll's appeal and showcased its roots.

The Sound That Sparked a Movement

The driving rhythms and upbeat tempos of these early rock songs encapsulated the youthful exuberance and defiance of the 1950s. They inspired countless musicians to pick up guitars, drums, and microphones, setting off waves of innovation. The influence of "Blackboard Jungle" and "Rock Around the Clock" can be traced through the careers of legends like Elvis Presley, Chuck Berry, and Little Richard.

Rock Around the Clock: Anatomy of a Hit Song

Understanding why "Rock Around the Clock" became such a monumental hit requires diving into its composition and production.

The Songwriting and Production

Written by Max Freedman and James Myers, "Rock Around the Clock" features a simple yet irresistible 12-bar blues structure. Its lyrics celebrate the joy of dancing and partying from one o'clock in the morning until the break of dawn—a perfect soundtrack for youthful freedom.

Bill Haley & His Comets brought the song to life with energetic guitar riffs, pounding drums, and a driving bass line. The production emphasized a “live” feel, capturing the excitement of a rock 'n' roll performance in the studio.

Why It Resonated With Audiences

The timing of the release, combined with the song's infectious rhythm, made it an anthem for a generation. It symbolized rebellion against the conservative norms of the time and gave teenagers a voice through music. The song's repeated chorus and upbeat tempo made it easy to dance to, fueling its popularity in clubs, school dances, and on the radio.

Blackboard Jungle and the Evolution of Rock Music

The influence of "Blackboard Jungle" and "Rock Around the Clock" extends far beyond their initial release. They helped lay the foundation for rock music's evolution over the subsequent decades.

Bridging the Gap Between R&B and Rock

Rock 'n' roll's roots are deeply embedded in rhythm and blues, gospel, and country music. "Rock Around the Clock" served as a bridge, blending these styles into a new sound that appealed to a broader audience. This hybridization opened doors for more diverse sounds in mainstream music.

Inspiring Future Generations

The rebellious energy of the soundtrack and the film inspired not just musicians but also filmmakers, writers, and cultural commentators. Artists like The Beatles and The Rolling Stones cited early rock 'n' roll pioneers as major influences, carrying the genre into new territories and styles.

Tips for Exploring the Blackboard Jungle Rock Around the Clock Legacy

If you're looking to deepen your understanding or appreciation of this pivotal moment in music history, here are some practical tips:

- **Listen to Original Recordings:** Dive into the original Bill Haley & His Comets tracks to get a feel for the raw energy and production style of the era.
- **Watch the Film:** Viewing "Blackboard Jungle" helps contextualize the music within the social issues and youth culture of the 1950s.
- **Explore Related Artists:** Check out contemporaries like Chuck Berry, Little Richard, and Fats Domino to understand the broader scene.
- **Read Music History Books:** Resources on the birth of rock 'n' roll and 1950s America can provide deeper insights into the cultural shifts.
- **Attend Rockabilly or Retro Events:** Experiencing live performances of early rock music can bring the era's spirit alive.

The Lasting Influence of Blackboard Jungle Rock Around the Clock

Even decades later, the cultural and musical ripple effects of "Blackboard Jungle" and "Rock Around the Clock" are undeniable. They represent a pivotal crossroads where music, film, and youth culture intersected to create a powerful new voice. Whether it's through the timeless tunes that still get people dancing or the way rock 'n' roll challenged societal norms, their legacy continues to inspire.

From the rebellious teenagers of the 1950s to today's music lovers, the spirit captured by "blackboard jungle rock around the clock" remains a testament to how art can reflect and influence society. It reminds us that sometimes, a single song or film can ignite a movement and change the world forever.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the connection between 'Blackboard Jungle' and 'Rock Around the Clock'?

The movie 'Blackboard Jungle' (1955) famously featured Bill Haley & His Comets' song 'Rock Around the Clock,' which helped popularize rock and roll music worldwide.

Why was 'Rock Around the Clock' significant in the film 'Blackboard Jungle'?

'Rock Around the Clock' was used in the opening credits of 'Blackboard Jungle,' setting a rebellious tone that resonated with youth culture and helped propel the song to massive popularity.

Who performed 'Rock Around the Clock' featured in 'Blackboard Jungle'?

Bill Haley & His Comets performed 'Rock Around the Clock,' which was featured in 'Blackboard Jungle.' It became one of the first major rock and roll hits.

Did 'Blackboard Jungle' contribute to the success of 'Rock Around the Clock'?

Yes, the exposure from 'Blackboard Jungle' significantly boosted the popularity of 'Rock Around the Clock,' turning it into a chart-topping hit and an anthem for the emerging rock and roll movement.

What themes does 'Blackboard Jungle' explore that relate to the use of 'Rock Around the Clock'?

'Blackboard Jungle' explores themes of juvenile delinquency and rebellion, which align with the energetic and rebellious spirit of 'Rock Around the Clock'.

When was 'Blackboard Jungle' released and how did it impact music culture?

'Blackboard Jungle' was released in 1955 and is credited with bringing rock and roll music into mainstream culture through its use of 'Rock Around the Clock.'

How did audiences react to 'Rock Around the Clock' in 'Blackboard Jungle'?

The song energized young audiences and became an anthem for teenage rebellion, though it also sparked controversy among some adults who saw rock and roll as a negative influence.

Is 'Rock Around the Clock' the first rock and roll song ever?

While not the very first rock and roll song, 'Rock Around the Clock' is considered one of the first major rock and roll hits and gained widespread

fame through 'Blackboard Jungle.'

Who wrote 'Rock Around the Clock' featured in 'Blackboard Jungle'?

'Rock Around the Clock' was written by Max C. Freedman and James E. Myers (under the pseudonym Jimmy DeKnight).

Has 'Blackboard Jungle' influenced other films or media because of its use of 'Rock Around the Clock'?

Yes, 'Blackboard Jungle' set a precedent for integrating rock and roll music into film soundtracks, influencing the portrayal of youth culture in subsequent movies and media.

Additional Resources

Blackboard Jungle Rock Around the Clock: A Cultural and Musical Examination

blackboard jungle rock around the clock stands as a pivotal phrase that connects two landmark phenomena in American music and cinema history. Both the film "Blackboard Jungle" and the song "Rock Around the Clock" played significant roles in shaping the cultural landscape of the 1950s, reflecting post-war youth rebellion and the burgeoning rock and roll movement. This article explores the intertwined legacy of these two cultural touchstones, analyzing their individual impacts and the way they collectively influenced music, film, and societal attitudes.

The Emergence of "Blackboard Jungle" and Its Societal Impact

Released in 1955, the film "Blackboard Jungle" directed by Richard Brooks, was more than just a drama about juvenile delinquency in an urban high school. It was a social commentary that highlighted the tensions between authority figures and rebellious youth amid a rapidly changing American society. The film's portrayal of inner-city school violence and the challenges faced by educators resonated deeply with audiences, serving as a mirror to the anxieties surrounding post-war urbanization and racial integration.

One of the most notable features of "Blackboard Jungle" was its groundbreaking soundtrack, particularly its inclusion of Bill Haley & His Comets' "Rock Around the Clock." This track was not originally composed for the film but became synonymous with it, marking a landmark moment in the popularization of rock and roll music.

“Rock Around the Clock”: The Anthem of a Generation

“Rock Around the Clock” is often credited as one of the first rock and roll records to achieve widespread success on mainstream American radio. Released in 1954, the song rapidly gained popularity and was catapulted to iconic status by its association with “Blackboard Jungle.” The film's opening sequence, featuring teenagers dancing and raucously enjoying the song, amplified the track’s rebellious spirit, symbolizing the youthful defiance of the era.

The song's infectious rhythm and energetic beat made it a favorite among young audiences, promoting a new cultural identity distinct from the conservative norms of previous generations. Its success was measurable: “Rock Around the Clock” topped charts around the world and became a defining moment in the transition from traditional pop to rock and roll.

Interplay Between Film and Music: A Synergistic Relationship

The coupling of “Blackboard Jungle” and “Rock Around the Clock” created a powerful synergy that amplified the reach and cultural resonance of both works. This relationship illustrates how film and music can together drive social change and influence public perceptions.

- **Soundtrack Innovation:** Prior to “Blackboard Jungle,” rock and roll was largely marginalized in mainstream cinema. The film’s use of “Rock Around the Clock” marked one of the earliest instances where rock music was prominently featured, paving the way for future movies to embrace contemporary music genres.
- **Marketing and Commercial Success:** The popularity of the song helped generate additional interest in the film, while the film’s success introduced rock and roll to a broader, more diverse audience beyond the traditional teenage demographic.
- **Cultural Symbolism:** Both the film and the song became symbols of youth rebellion and social unrest, capturing the spirit of the 1950s and influencing subsequent generations of artists and filmmakers.

Challenges and Controversies

Despite its success, the intersection of “Blackboard Jungle” and “Rock Around the Clock” was not without controversy. The film’s depiction of juvenile

delinquency and racial tensions sparked debate regarding the portrayal of youth culture and social problems. Similarly, rock and roll music was often criticized by conservative groups for its perceived promotion of moral decay.

The backlash against the film and the song highlights the broader societal struggle with the rapid cultural shifts of the mid-20th century. These challenges underscore the importance of understanding the historical context in which these works emerged.

Legacy and Influence on Modern Media

The enduring legacy of blackboard jungle rock around the clock is evident in its lasting influence on both music and cinema. The film's gritty realism and socially conscious storytelling set a precedent for future productions addressing youth and urban issues. Meanwhile, "Rock Around the Clock" remains a foundational track in the history of rock and roll, frequently referenced and covered by artists worldwide.

Modern filmmakers and musicians continue to draw inspiration from this era, recognizing the profound impact of the film-song combination as a catalyst for cultural transformation. The fusion of narrative cinema with popular music, pioneered in part by "Blackboard Jungle," has become a staple storytelling device in contemporary media.

Comparative Analysis with Contemporary Works

When compared to other films and songs of the 1950s, the significance of blackboard jungle rock around the clock becomes even more apparent. For example, while other movies also addressed youth themes, few managed to integrate a rock and roll soundtrack as effectively. Similarly, other rock songs achieved popularity, but "Rock Around the Clock" distinguished itself through its association with a major motion picture.

This combination can be contrasted with later films such as "Grease" or "Dirty Dancing," where music and narrative are also closely intertwined, but with a more polished, nostalgic approach rather than the raw, groundbreaking energy of "Blackboard Jungle."

Conclusion: A Defining Moment in Popular Culture

The phrase blackboard jungle rock around the clock encapsulates a defining moment when music and film converged to reflect and shape societal changes. The film "Blackboard Jungle" and the song "Rock Around the Clock" together

captured the essence of a generation in flux, challenging established norms and heralding the rise of rock and roll as a dominant cultural force.

Understanding this intersection provides valuable insights into mid-20th-century American culture and highlights the power of multimedia collaboration in influencing public consciousness. As both a historical artifact and a source of inspiration, blackboard jungle rock around the clock continues to resonate, reminding us of the dynamic relationship between art, society, and change.

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blackboard jungle rock around the clock: Rock 'n' Roll Dances of the 1950s Lisa Jo Sagolla, 2011-09-12 This descriptive and analytic study examines how 1950s rock 'n' roll dancing illuminates the larger cultural context out of which the dancing arose. Rock 'n' Roll Dances of the 1950s provides a fresh, highly animated lens through which to observe and understand the cultural climate of 1950s America, examining, not only the steps and aesthetic qualities of rock 'n' roll dances, but also their emblematic meanings. Exploring dance as a reflection and expression of cultural trends, the book takes a sharply analytical look at rock 'n' roll dances from the birth of the genre in the mid-1950s to the decade's end. Readers will explore the emergence of teen culture in the '50s, rock 'n' roll's association with delinquency, and the controversy ignited by the physical movements of early rock 'n' roll artists. They will learn about the influence of black culture on 1950s dances and about the trendsetting TV show American Bandstand. Particularly telling for those wishing to grasp the underlying tensions of the decade is a discussion of the dance floor as a platform for racial integration.

blackboard jungle rock around the clock: Is Rock Dead? Kevin J.H. Dettmar, 2013-01-11 Rock and roll's death has been forecast nearly since its birth; the country song The Death of Rock and Roll appeared in September 1956, showing that the music had already outraged a more conservative listening audience. Is Rock Dead? sets out to explore the varied and sometimes conflicting ways in which the death of rock has been discussed both within the discourse of popular music and American culture. If rock is dead, when did it die? Who killed it? Why do rock journalists lament its passing? Has its academic acceptance stabbed it in the back or resuscitated an otherwise lifeless corpse? Why is rock music the music that conservatives love to hate? On the other side of the coin, how have rock's biggest fans helped nail shut the coffin? Does rock feed on its own death-and-rebirth? Finally, what signs of life are there showing that rock, in fact, is surviving? Is RockDead? will appeal to all those who take seriously the notion that rock is a serious musical form. It will appeal to students of popular music and culture, and all those who have ever spun a 45, cranked up the radio, or strummed an air guitar.

blackboard jungle rock around the clock: Rock 'n' Film David E. James, 2017-10-23 Rock 'N' Film presents a cultural history of films about US and British rock music during the period when biracial popular music was fundamental to progressive social movements on both sides of the Atlantic.

blackboard jungle rock around the clock: Rock'n'Roll's Strangest Moments Mike Evans, 2014-03-28 Rock music, since its pre-history in blues, country music and 40s and early 50s pop, through to the well-publicised excesses of touring bands of today, has left a legacy of thousands of weird and wonderful stories in its wake. We've all read about the Who's Keith Moon driving a Rolls Royce into a hotel swimming pool, but far more bizarre tales of on-the-road mayhem have never been widely told. Likewise, Svengali-like managers have manipulated starstruck musicians since rock began, though hanging your well-known client from a third floor window was a less usual way of ensuring their loyalty. And just where was the stalled hotel lift in which all four Beatles, according to legend, were turned on to marijuana? There are the unsung heroes of rock – pioneering eccentrics who helped make the music what it is and ended up as mere footnotes in the history books. Men such as UK producer Joe Meek who created seminal classics from a bed-sit above a cleaners on the Holloway Road, and the New York DJ who originally coined the phrase 'rock 'n'roll' and died in alcoholic poverty. Not to mention the stories behind the stars: when Debbie Harry was a 'Playboy' Bunny, Paul Simon wrote 'Homeward Bound' on Widnes railway station in Lancashire, and the Gallagher brothers (so they claim) were petty thieves.

blackboard jungle rock around the clock: Tarnished Gold R. Serge Denisoff, 2021-12-24 The great depression in the popular recording industry that began in 1979 still continues. There are signs, however, that the industry is adjusting to new technologies and may soon revive. R. Serge Denisoff documents the decline and possible revival of this comprehensive study of the recording business, a sequel to his widely acclaimed *Solid Gold: The Popular Record Industry*. Denisoff offers a brief history of popular music and then, in detail, traces the life cycle of a record, beginning with the artist in the studio and following the record until its purchase. He explains the relationships between artist, manager, producer, company, distributor, merchandiser, and media. They all play roles in the scenario of a hit record. He also discusses the new technologies and how they may affect record sales, especially round-the-clock rock and roll on cable television. *Tarnished Gold* joins *Solid Gold* as a staple in the popular culture literature.

blackboard jungle rock around the clock: British Invasion Simon Philo, 2014-11-06 Before The Beatles landed on American shores in February 1964 only two British acts had topped the Billboard singles chart. In the first quarter of 1964, however, the Beatles alone accounted for sixty percent of all recorded music sold in the United States; in 1964 and 1965 British acts occupied the number one position for 52 of the 104 weeks; and from 1964 through to 1970, the Rolling Stones, Herman's Hermits, the Dave Clark Five, the Animals, the Kinks, the Hollies, the Yardbirds and the Who placed more than one hundred and thirty songs on the American Top Forty. In *The British Invasion: The Crosscurrents of Musical Influence*, Simon Philo illustrates how this remarkable event in cultural history disrupted and even reversed pop culture's flow of influence, goods, and ideas—orchestrating a dramatic turn-around in the commercial fortunes of British pop in North America that turned the 1960s into "The Sixties." Focusing on key works and performers, *The British Invasion* tracks the journey of this musical phenomenon from peripheral irrelevance through exotic novelty into the heart of mainstream rock. Throughout, Philo explores how and why British music from the period came to achieve such unprecedented heights of commercial, artistic, and cultural dominance. *The British Invasion: The Crosscurrents of Musical Influence* will appeal to fans, students and scholars of popular music history—indeed anyone interested in understanding the fascinating relationship between popular music and culture.

blackboard jungle rock around the clock: Weapons of Mass Distraction Matthew Fraser, 2014-03-04 In its march to becoming the world's first hyper-power, the United States has been as dependent on its soft power - the allure of American lifestyles and culture - as it has been on the hard power of military might. In *Weapons of Mass Distraction*, Matthew Fraser examines the role of American pop cultural industries in international affairs. Fraser focuses on the major areas of soft power - movies, television, pop music, and fast food - and traces the origins, history and current influence of these on U.S. foreign policy. He describes how the American film, television, and music industries enjoy a ubiquitous global presence that has made them indispensable to the U.S.

government, which has often gone so far as to fund them directly, including the White House-sponsored radio station in the Middle East launched with the hopes of winning over Muslim youths with American pop songs. A Coca-Cola lobbyist once famously declared that The best barometer of the relationship of the U.S. and any other country is the way Coca-Cola is treated. Fraser proves this claim isn't to be taken lightly. He charts the global spread of the fast food industry, the role of Coca-Cola and McDonald's in American foreign policy and the recent rise of their opponents: the anti-globalization movement. Do things really go better with Coca-Cola? Fraser's answer is a resounding yes. While American soft power remains a contentious issue, he believes it promotes values and beliefs that are ultimately good for the rest of the world. Still, what are the future implications of American soft power? Will national identities decline as the world order is transformed into a state of electronic feudalism where there is no central power? Weapons of Mass Distraction provides an engaging, enlightening, and provocative look at the future of American foreign policy and popular culture in the 21st century.

blackboard jungle rock around the clock: The Cinematography of Roger Corman Pawel Aleksandrowicz, 2016-09-23 Roger Corman is an ambiguous artistic figure. On the one hand, he is notorious for shooting and producing his films quickly, cheaply and with blatant disregard for safety measures, which, together with his ability to issue a dozen new films every year and his impressive filmography, have earned him the titles of "shlockmeister" and "the King of the B's" among film journalists. On the other hand, he became the youngest American director to be given a film retrospective at the prestigious Cinématèque Française in Paris, one of his directorial efforts - House of Usher - was selected for preservation in the National Film Registry by the Library of Congress, and the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences awarded him with an Academy Honorary Award "for his rich engendering of films and filmmakers." This book investigates this duality and explores whether Corman is indeed a shlockmeister or an artist whose works are worthy of the highest cinema awards. The scope of analysis is limited to his directorial efforts "only" - still encompassing 50 features - excluding the 400 films he produced. The methodology adopted here is based on the auteur theory in its structuralist version by Geoffrey Nowell-Smith and Peter Wollen, and focuses on three areas of interest: work ethic - personal elements in the films, personal control over and commitment to the production process outside direction; themes - topics and concerns common for many of the films regardless of the genre; and style - recurring stylistic motifs and elements in the camerawork, editing, and framing.

blackboard jungle rock around the clock: Rock Obituaries: Knocking On Heaven's Door Nick Talevski, 2010-04-07 The fascination with tragedy and the subsequent theatre of voyeurism are part of human nature, especially when it involves our icons, celebrities and musicians. Knocking On Heaven's Door is the definitive book of rock 'n' roll, pop, R&B and blues deaths. Often, only the biggest selling artists are written about and sometimes it is the death of a personality that cements their iconic status. Knocking On Heaven's Door not only covers the rock legends who lived hard and died young, this detailed reference contains over 1,000 obituaries of music industry personalities, famous and obscure from mid-fifties to the present day. Alphabetical entries of all the important individuals, including: noteworthy producers, managers, songwriters, record company founders A&R men and even critics, puts all the information at your finger tips. Nick Talevski has spent a decade researching this comprehensive and authoritative reference book and it will be an indispensable and practical addition to every music library, full of irresistible and intriguing information.

blackboard jungle rock around the clock: American Culture in the 1950s Martin Halliwell, 2007-03-13 This book provides a stimulating account of the dominant cultural forms of 1950s America: fiction and poetry; theatre and performance; film and television; music and radio; and the visual arts. Through detailed commentary and focused case studies of influential texts and events - from Invisible Man to West Side Story, from Disneyland to the Seattle World's Fair, from Rear Window to The Americans - the book examines the way in which modernism and the cold war offer two frames of reference for understanding the trajectory of postwar culture. The two core aims of this volume are to chart the changing complexion of American culture in the years following World

War II and to provide readers with a critical investigation of 'the 1950s'. The book provides an intellectual context for approaching 1950s American culture and considers the historical impact of the decade on recent social and cultural developments.

blackboard jungle rock around the clock: Screening the Hollywood rebels in 1950s Britain Anna Ariadne Knight, 2021-09-28 This book examines issues of censorship, publicity and teenage fandom in 1950s Britain surrounding a series of controversial Hollywood films: *The Wild One*, *Blackboard Jungle*, *Rebel Without a Cause*, *Rock Around the Clock* and *Jailhouse Rock*. It also explores British cinema's commentary on juvenile delinquency through a re-examination of such British films as *The Blue Lamp*, *Spare the Rod* and *Serious Charge*. Taking a multi-dimensional approach, the book intersects with star studies and social history while reappraising the stardom of Marlon Brando, James Dean and Elvis Presley. By looking at the specific meanings, pleasures and uses British fans derived from these films, it provides a logical and sustained narrative for how Hollywood star images fed into and disrupted British cultural life during a period of unprecedented teenage consumerism.

blackboard jungle rock around the clock: Dissonant Divas in Chicana Music Deborah R. Vargas, 2012 Explores the resounding musical performances of Mexican American women such as Chelo Silva, Eva Ybarra, Eva Garza, and Selena within Tejano/Chicano music

blackboard jungle rock around the clock: Race and the Subject of Masculinities Harry Stecopoulos, Michael Uebel, 1997 Although in recent years scholars have explored the cultural construction of masculinity, they have largely ignored the ways in which masculinity intersects with other categories of identity, particularly those of race and ethnicity. The essays in *Race and the Subject of Masculinities* address this concern and focus on the social construction of masculinity--black, white, ethnic, gay, and straight--in terms of the often complex and dynamic relationships among these inseparable categories. Discussing a wide range of subjects including the inherent homoeroticism of martial-arts cinema, the relationship between working-class ideologies and Elvis impersonators, the emergence of a gay, black masculine aesthetic in the works of James Van der Zee and Robert Mapplethorpe, and the comedy of Richard Pryor, *Race and the Subject of Masculinities* provides a variety of opportunities for thinking about how race, sexuality, and manhood are reinforced and reconstituted in today's society. Editors Harry Stecopoulos and Michael Uebel have gathered together essays that make clear how the formation of masculine identity is never as obvious as it might seem to be. Examining personas as varied as Eddie Murphy, Bruce Lee, Tarzan, Malcolm X, and Andre Gidé, these essays draw on feminist critique and queer theory to demonstrate how cross-identification through performance and spectatorship among men of different races and cultural backgrounds has served to redefine masculinity in contemporary culture. By taking seriously the role of race in the making of men, *Race and the Subject of Masculinities* offers an important challenge to the new studies of masculinity. Contributors. Herman Beavers, Jonathan Dollimore, Richard Dyer, Robin D. G. Kelly, Christopher Looby, Leerom Medovoi, Eric Lott, Deborah E. McDowell, José E. Muñoz, Harry Stecopoulos, Yvonne Tasker, Michael Uebel, Gayle Wald, Robyn Wiegman

blackboard jungle rock around the clock: The Golden Age of Rock 'N' Roll Richard Havers, Richard Evans, 2010-04 Chronicles the history of blues music from its emergence in the early 1900s through the twentieth century, and describes the musical accomplishments of Leadbelly, Bessie Smith, Howlin' Wolf, Robert Johnson, Muddy Waters, Jimmy Reed, B.B. King, and others. Includes an audio CD.

blackboard jungle rock around the clock: Rock 'n' Roll Movies David Sterritt, 2017-12-18 *Rock 'n' Roll Movies* presents an eclectic look at the many manifestations of rock in motion pictures, from teen-oriented B-movies to Hollywood blockbusters to avant-garde meditations to reverent biopics to animated shorts to performance documentaries. Acclaimed film critic David Sterritt considers the diverse ways that filmmakers have regarded rock 'n' roll, some cynically cashing in on its popularity and others responding to the music as sincere fans, some depicting rock as harmless fun and others representing it as an open challenge to mainstream norms.

blackboard jungle rock around the clock: Risky Business William D. Romanowski, 2017-07-28 The role of motion pictures in the popularity of rock music became increasingly significant in the latter twentieth century. Rock music and its interaction with film is the subject of this significant book that re-examines and extends Serge Denisoff's pioneering observations of this relationship. Prior to Saturday Night Fever rock music had a limited role in the motion picture business. That movie's success, and the success of its soundtrack, began to change the silver screen. In 1983, with Flashdance, the situation drastically evolved and by 1984, ten soundtracks, many in the pop/rock genre, were certified platinum. Choosing which rock scores to discuss in this book was a challenging task. The authors made selections from seminal films such as The Graduate, Easy Rider, American Graffiti, Saturday Night Fever, Help!, and Dirty Dancing. However, many productions of the period are significant not because of their success, but because of their box office and record store failures. Risky Business chronicles the interaction of two major mediums of mass culture in the latter twentieth century. This book is essential for those interested in communications, popular culture, and social change.

blackboard jungle rock around the clock: All Shook Up Glenn C. Altschuler, 2003-08-07 The birth of rock 'n roll ignited a firestorm of controversy--one critic called it musical riots put to a switchblade beat--but if it generated much sound and fury, what, if anything, did it signify? As Glenn Altschuler reveals in All Shook Up, the rise of rock 'n roll--and the outraged reception to it--in fact can tell us a lot about the values of the United States in the 1950s, a decade that saw a great struggle for the control of popular culture. Altschuler shows, in particular, how rock's switchblade beat opened up wide fissures in American society along the fault-lines of family, sexuality, and race. For instance, the birth of rock coincided with the Civil Rights movement and brought race music into many white homes for the first time. Elvis freely credited blacks with originating the music he sang and some of the great early rockers were African American, most notably, Little Richard and Chuck Berry. In addition, rock celebrated romance and sex, rattled the reticent by pushing sexuality into the public arena, and mocked deferred gratification and the obsession with work of men in gray flannel suits. And it delighted in the separate world of the teenager and deepened the divide between the generations, helping teenagers differentiate themselves from others. Altschuler includes vivid biographical sketches of the great rock 'n rollers, including Elvis Presley, Fats Domino, Chuck Berry, Little Richard, Jerry Lee Lewis, and Buddy Holly--plus their white-bread doppelgangers such as Pat Boone. Rock 'n roll seemed to be everywhere during the decade, exhilarating, influential, and an outrage to those Americans intent on wishing away all forms of dissent and conflict. As vibrant as the music itself, All Shook Up reveals how rock 'n roll challenged and changed American culture and laid the foundation for the social upheaval of the sixties.

blackboard jungle rock around the clock: Let's Rock! Richard Aquila, 2016-10-28 Rock & roll was one of the most important cultural developments in post-World War II America, yet its origins are shrouded in myth and legend. Let's Rock! reclaims the lost history of rock & roll. Based on years of research, as well as interviews with Bo Diddley, Pat Boone, and other rock & roll pioneers, the book offers new information and fresh perspectives about Elvis, the rise of rock & roll, and 1950s America. Rock & roll is intertwined with the rise of a post-World War II youth culture, the emergence of African Americans in society, the growth of consumer culture, technological change, the expansion of mass media, and the rise of a Cold War culture that endorsed traditional values to guard against communism. Richard Aquila's book demonstrates that early rock & roll was not as rebellious as common wisdom has it. The new sound reflected the conservatism and conformity of the 1950s as much as it did the era's conflict. Rock & roll supported centrist politics, traditional values, and mainstream attitudes toward race, gender, class, and ethnicity. The musical evidence proves that most teenagers of the 1950s were not that different from their parents and grandparents when it came to basic beliefs, interests, and pastimes. Young and old alike were preoccupied by the same concerns, tensions, and insecurities. Rock & roll continues to permeate the fabric of modern life, and understanding the music's origins reminds us of the common history we all share. Music lovers who grew up during rock & roll's early years as well as those who have come to it more

recently will find Let's Rock an exciting historical and musical adventure.

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