

“AMERICA ON STAGE AND SCREEN: THE FIFTIES”

For further reading and viewing (I have not listed publication details, but books and most videos should be readily available through familiar sources, including online giants such as Amazon, YouTube, and Netflix):

Books

The two best single volume cultural histories of the decade are:

David Halberstam, *The Fifties*.

Louis Menand, *The Free World: Art and Thought in the Cold War*.

Four less rigorous cultural surveys (with good pictures) are:

Stuart Kallen, *A Cultural History of the United States Through the Decades: The 1950s*.

Karal Ann Marling, *As Seen on TV: The Visual Culture of Everyday Life in the 1950s*.

The Editors of Time-Life Books, *The American Dream: The 50s*.

William H. & Nancy K. Young, *The 1950s: American Popular Culture Through History*.

Two anthologies of plays to complement single titles:

John Gassner, ed., *Best American Plays (3rd, 4th, and 5th Series.)*

Lee Strasberg, ed., *Famous American Plays of the 1950s*.

And, of course, there are huge bibliographies attached to our various subjects from McCarthyism to Marlon Brando to Absurdism, et. al....

Videos (a complete list of video clips screened in class)

The “Checkers” Speech; Quiz Show; A Streetcar Named Desire; Some Like It Hot; I Love Lucy (Vitameatavegemin); All My Sons; Mr. Roberts; The Caine Mutiny; Sayonara; The Diary of Anne Frank; The Phil Silvers Show (Bilko); From Here to Eternity; The Bridge on the River Kwai; Silk Stockings; Good Night and Good Luck; Point of Order; On the Waterfront; The Crucible; The Rose Tattoo; Cat on a Hot Tin Roof; Come Back Little Sheba; Picnic; Bus Stop; Tea and Sympathy; The Rainmaker; Touch of Evil; The Lone Ranger (TV opening); The Searchers; Giant; Quo Vadis; Ben Hur; The George Burns and Gracie Allen Show; The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet; The Member of the Wedding; The Beulah Show; A Raisin in the Sun(1961 film); Finian’s Rainbow; Amos ‘n’ Andy; The Matchmaker; The Pajama Game; The Red Skelton Show; New York in the Fifties; Hatful of Rain; Texaco Star Theatre with Milton Berle; Your Show of

Shows (Sid Caesar); The Ernie Kovacs Show; Elvis Presley on Ed Sullivan; Marty; Death of a Salesman; The Three Faces of Eve; An American in Paris; You Bet Your Life (Groucho Marx); High Noon; The Defiant Ones; West Side Story.