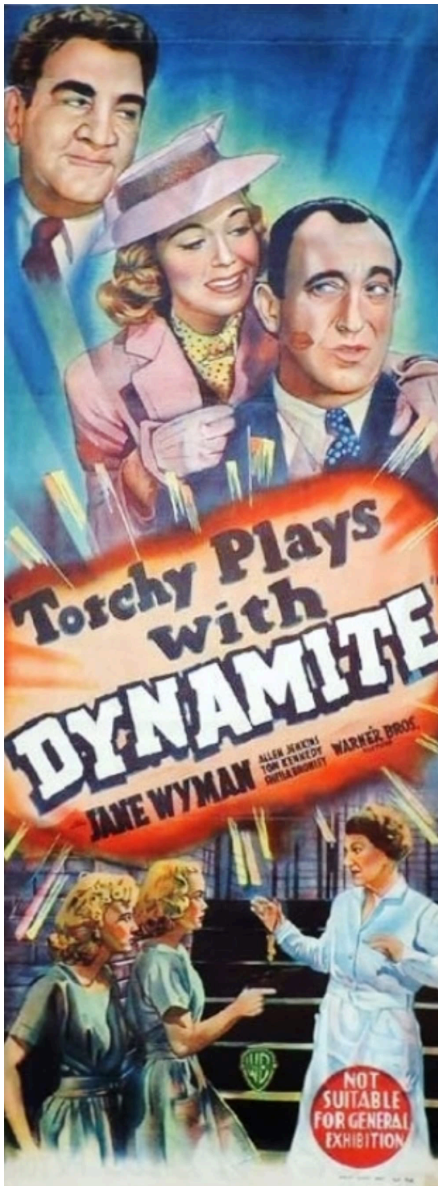


Chapter 7.12: Women Reporters in the Movies

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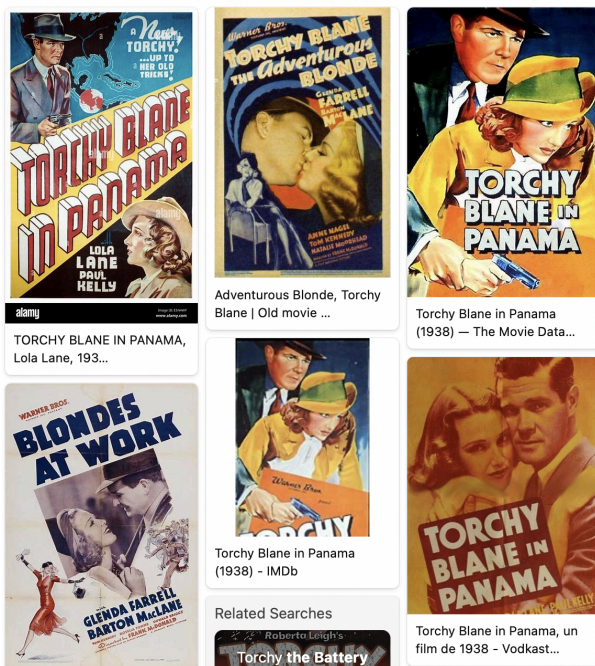
Activity: Design a Poster for a Movie, TV Show, Podcast, or Streaming Series about a Woman Journalist

Analyzing Torchy Blane Posters



In this poster of [Torchy Blane Playing with Dynamite](#) from the 1930s pasted on the left, there are various design elements being used. These vintage pops of colors were made through the traditional method of hand-drawing illustrations which were then printed on paper. Older Torchy Blane movie posters were not as colorful as the ones printed later on, however, in posters similar to the one on the left, I have noticed a very vivid color palette. There are often more “feminine” muted colors used for the girls like the pink and yellow on Torchy herself or the baby blue and dusty greens used on the women on the bottom of the poster. Men typically were portrayed in strong, clean, bold colors like blue and red. It can be analyzed that the three characters portrayed on the top of the poster are of importance and are probably the main characters while the ones on the bottom are more minor characters. The title of the film is bold and stands out. The title text itself also seems to tie in with the design as it seems like a dynamite explosion.

Through looking at the man with the kiss mark on his cheek and Torchy putting her arm over him, the audience can infer that these two characters have some sort of romantic relationship. I feel that there are two ways you can infer the positioning of Torchy and the man she has her arm around. With Torchy looking down at the man, you can infer that she, a female, is in charge and in control of the man or you can infer that since she is placing her arm on him that females still need to rely/lean on men. However it seems as though she is being portrayed as more independent and bold. In other Torchy Blane posters (image



shown on the left), it is noticeable that the female characters are always placed below/lower than the male characters. However it seems to be almost the opposite in this newer poster which could be a sign that gender stereotypes in movie posters could be changing.

My Own TV Show (by Elva Zheng) - “Students Left Unheard- The Finale”

- Who would be the characters?
 - The main character is Janne G., a fellow UMass Amherst Student who seeks to write the truth behind student lives
- What would be the setting?
 - This TV Show mainly takes place at the campus of UMass Amherst located in Amherst, Massachusetts.
- What would be the storyline?
 - Each episode features Janne as a journalist-detective seeking to write about the unheard student voices at UMass Amherst. She wants the world to know about the amount of stress students are under, racial inequality, financial burdens, and sometimes...even suicide. Each episode features Janne following the footsteps of a different student.
- What are the main tensions/conflicts facing the characters?
 - In this last episode, Janne is horrified as she finds out through tears and obstacles, the truth behind the suicide of her own roommate. She never thought the day would come where she would have to tell the devastating story of her friend.
- How would the main character balance the demands of presenting news as objective and truthful at a time when entertainment and fake news spread faster than truthful news?
 - Janne G. balances the demands of presenting news as objective and truthful through relatability between students, school faculty, and parents worldwide. She tries to

keep everything under control and her own emotions minimalized but in this final episode we see her struggle to keep her usual calm composure. She also tracks down fake rumors and news throughout the school to provide people with a better insight to the truth.

