**Hollywood’s Transition to sound, 1927-32**

Crisis of the motion picture palace; running in the red…

Development of new technology

Warner Brothers breaks the ice with “Jazz Singer”, 1927; but Hollywood resists – Thalberg, “It’s just a passing fad”.

“Serious”, artistic filmmakers think it will ruin the art of films.

Expense of equipment

Supposed “perfection” of the silent film style.

But since it is so popular, everyone jumps on bandwagon by 1929.

‘Singin’ in the Rain’ 1952 – Gene Kelly as Don Lockwood; Donald O’Connor, Debbie Reynolds; Jean Hagen as the silent star with no voice.

Elegant direction by Stanley Donen and Gene Kelly

Entertaining MGM musical from 50s based largely on 20s and 30s songs, but dealing with the transition to sound in 1929.

Wonderful song and dance – Title number: Gene Kelly dancing in ‘Singin’ in the Rain’.

Difficulties encountered in transition to sound – the voices of silent stars (Jean Hagen! And the prevalence of the Midatlantic accent); sound recording; synchronization.

How they were overcome – voice lessons; dubbing.