**Robert Altman, ‘McCabe and Mrs. Miller’ 1971**

Robert Altman as non-conformist filmmaker who uses the studio system.

‘McCabe and Mrs. Miller’ considered one of his best and most original.

Setting Pacific Northwest in 1890s: forests; rain, snow, new town still under construction with fresh timber (looks new, authentic); raw town – we see mostly saloons and brothels

Characters

McCabe – Warren Beatty: bowler hat and shaggy fur coat; good-hearted, clueless, incompetent, bad bookkeeping, alcohol

Mrs. Miller – Julie Christie: shrewd, competent, practical, sometimes affectionate, opium

 Picturesque mean assassins – Hugh Millais and Manfred Schulz

Relation with the western: highly revisionist; (or perhaps not a Western?)

The heroic lone individual? McCabe; the ending. Also the gentle Keith Carradine character.

 Civilizing the West? The brothel; the church; race (Chinese); the clothes.

Corporate business and capitalism intrude; the (ruthless) mining company from the East; the little guy doesn’t stand a chance! (Relation with Spaghetti Western)

Does end with a great gunfight (but the good guy buried in the snow)

Is ‘McCabe’ a Seventies Film?

 Soundtrack: three songs by Leonard Cohen.

 Themes

Filming techniques – hazy look; subplots; random sound capture.