

The following screenshot is from David Butler's *Calamity Jane* (1953). In relation to this screenshot, please address the following tasks:

NOTE: You should write full sentences and paragraphs!

Screenshot Analysis

- (1) Describe the mise-en-scène in the given screenshot (visual design and cinematographic design). (40P)
- (2) Based on your findings, analyse Katie's identity construction. (20P)

Comparison and Contrast in the Wider Context

- (3) With respect to Katie's identity construction, identify one other scene that corresponds and/or contrasts with the given shot, and describe the nature and significance of the contrast or correspondence. (30P)
- (4) Lecture (10P)



Visual design (20)

- Set decoration: dressing room of Adelaide Adams; large mirror with golden frame; almost bare walls (one picture) in the background; patterned wallpaper; curtain and lamp in the reflection of the mirror
- Lighting and colour: high key lighting/ in between high key and low key lighting, not particularly pronounced; dark background; dressing room dimly lit; focus on Katie's reflection in the mirror; dress in light pink, rosy and gold; light skin colour; red lipstick
- Costume: Katie is wearing Adelaide Adams' stage dress; short dress with frills and bare arms and shoulders;
- Make up and hairdo: brown pinned-up hairdo, red lipstick and some rouge
- Performance: Katie is posing in front of the mirror, hands in hips ("akimbo") and checking her own performance. Her head is a little tilted to one side, lips pursed, not smiling; rather sceptical view

Cinematographic design (20)

- Frame: Katie's reflection is arranged in the middle of the frame; Katie herself stands to the left and is seen only from behind/the side
- Distance: two-shot (or medium shot)
- Angle: eye level
- Point-of-view: over-the-shoulder shot; zero ocularization (nobody's shot)
- Focus: shallow focus (Katie on the left is not completely in focus, her reflection is.)

(2) Katie's identity construction (20)

- Katie, at the time the maid of Adelaide Adams, is putting on one of AA's stage dresses in the safety of the dressing room and pretending to be a star herself. The dress and akimbo pose suggest a self-assured, hyperfeminine performance, yet tilted head and doubtful look reveal the pose to be a (self-)conscious performance. Gender performance as imitation of cultural role models (which, in turn, are 'only' approximations of an abstract ideal).

(3) Comparison and Contrast (30)

- Performance of Adelaide Adams in Chicago: self-assured, on stage, celebrated, head up high
- Katie's performance in Deadwood
 - as Adelaide Adams
 - as Katie Brown
- Calamity and Katie in the dressing room: performance of masculinity – femininity

(4) Lecture (10)