The American Musical Film

1. Numbers
   1927-47: 919 films (48 films each year)
   1949-58: 23 films per year
   1959-80: 7 films per year

2. Themes
   Show business: community: the show goes on
   High culture, popular culture
   Class or position vs. talent, merit
   Convention, restraint vs. spontaneity, energy,
   “the natural”

3. History
   • Revue, Operetta
     *Love Me Tonight* (Rouben Mamoulian, 1932)
   • Busby Berkeley & Warner Brothers
     *42nd Street* (1933)
   • Astaire, Rogers and RKO
     *Top Hat* (1935)
   • MGM and “the integrated musical”
     *Singin’ in the Rain* (Donen and Kelly, 1952)
     Arthur Freed (1894-1973): The Freed Unit