

Cabaret, the musical – Summative task 1:

Select and analyse two or more frames from the film:

Rise of the Nazis – Aryan singing in *Cabaret*

One of the most powerful scenes in *Cabaret* is the song '*Tomorrow belongs to me*'. Beginning with a seemingly angelic young man singing innocently and sweetly, gradually the camera pans down from his youthful face to show his swastika and eventually his full uniform. As this happens the tone of the singing becomes more strident and fellow Germans join in until the song becomes a chorus of a mob proclaiming domination. The depiction of a "babe in its cradle closing its eyes" within the song, suggests the baby as a metaphor for the rest of the world and its ignorance of a growing Nazi threat. As the boy continues to sing, the dogma of "the morning will come when the world is mine" shocks the audience as the image of vulnerability in the baby, is contrasted to the tyrannical occupation of the Nazis. This sequence fills the audience with a feeling of utter fear as Fosse portrays the development of Nazis from an image of initial youthful benevolence to one of threat and power.

Other techniques are used concurrently in this scene, such that the initial moments of this scene reflects utmost purity, as the festive atmosphere of a German drinking festival suggests the seemingly benevolent zeitgeist of the time. This is further reinforced when we see the young Aryan man (above) singing blissfully as a close up, eye-level shot sets a welcoming and kindly aura associated with his singing.

As the singing continues the camera slowly drops to waist height until the audience not only sees the swastika, but has transitioned to a low angle, so that we are looking up at him and as such he has assumed power in relation to the viewer. The once almost celestial singing transitions into a military anthem as bass drums initiate the start of an "arising" crowd. Although some