The Portrayal of Women in Movie Musicals from the 1960's to Present Day

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Purpose:
To examine the ways in which featured women (N = 11) are characterized in movie musicals.

Method:
• The researcher created a list of criteria to examine various characteristics of women portrayed in movie musicals.
• She then used this list to examine women in four films spanning several decades.

Research Questions:
1. Does the character have a specified romantic interest? If so, are they male or female? n = 8 Yes  n = 3 No
2. What is the race of the actress in the featured role? White (73%) Hispanic (18%) Native American (9%)
3. What colors are primarily worn by the featured female characters?
   - White 36%
   - Blue 28%
   - Red 12%
   - Purple 8%
   - Orange 8%
   - Pink 4%
   - Grey 4%

Results:
1. Does the character have a specified romantic interest? If so, is that interest character male or female?
2. What is the race of the actress in a featured role?
3. What colors are primarily worn by the featured female characters?

Conclusions/ Future Research:
• The women in these four musicals are predominantly white, heterosexual, and wear white costumes.
• Other findings suggest that song topic and activities of women fit stereotypes.
• A larger sampling of films could provide better representation.
• What changes can be made to reflect societal makeup and values?