

# FILM & TV ANALYSIS

## I. INTRODUCTION

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# Introduction

1. Why Analyze?
2. How to Analyze?
3. Example: *Millennium* main titles analysis

# 1. Why Analyze Film & Television?

# 1. Why Analyze Film & Television?

- movies are just „entertainment“
- „movies are supposed to be fun“
- „do not ruin my favorite film“

# 1. Why Analyze Film & Television?

- audiovisual art is made with the same attention to detail that goes into writing novels or poems:  
there are more ways than just one to tell a story
- film is highly manipulative --- audiences take film and the illusion of reality for granted --- thus it is the more important to look at it closely

# 1. Why Analyze Film & Television?

- „reality“ is boring --- film is about manipulation
  
- reality sometimes can only be depicted by making it „unreal“

# 1. Why Analyze Film & Television?

- there are more ways than just one to tell a story or communicate an idea

# 1. Why Analyze Film & Television?

- stories can be told by using several media
- some media are more complex than others
- stories belong to different genres



# 1. Why Analyze Film & Television?

- conscious/active viewing:

what is lost? --- innocence, sense of wonder?

what is gained? --- understanding, sense of wonder  
„higher level“ of seeing?

- what is our function as academics?

## 2. How to Analyze

# 2. How to Analyze Film & Television

- Criticism as a toolbox
  - film studies
  - cultural studies
  - literary studies
  - American studies
  - ...
  
- there are several way to analyze --- they need not be mutually exclusive
  
- theory in cultural studies: opening up new & different ways of seeing

# 3. Example: Millennium Main Titles

# 3. Example: *Millennium* Main Titles

## □ *Millennium*

- 3 seasons, 1996-1999
- quasi-spin-off from *The X-Files* (1993-2002)
- exec. prod.: Chris Carter (1-3),  
James Wong & Glenn Morgan, Chris Carter (2)
- 20th Century Fox Television
  
- themes: serial killers, violence, conspiracies, cults,  
demons, good & evil, family

# 3. Example: *Millennium* Main Titles

- *Main Titles*

- ▣ look for the main titles for season 2 on YouTube:

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T6dwMxDGoXk>

# 3. Example: *Millennium* Main Titles

- Images in the *Main Titles*
  - Ouroboros: Eternity
  - „Millennium“: allusion to 2000 / Millennialism
  - Woman collapsing: breaking, suffering
  - Porcelaine hand: fragility
  - Nuked house (archive footage): destruction
  - Female lap: protect. sacred / threatened / penetration
  - Open windows, wind from outside: letting sth in
  - „Bomb“: destruction
  - Flame / sth burning: destruction or ardor
  - Demon/devil: reality of evil / temptation / supernatural
  - Hands joining: union / collaboration / support / comfort
  - Sparks: hope or „up in flames“
  - →

# 3. Example: *Millennium* Main Titles

- Images in the *Main Titles* (continued)
  - Headlights: night
  - Hands off steering wheel: guidance / loss of control
  - Walking alongside night road: loneliness
  - Razor: Violence?
  - Entering a room: errand / stalking
  - Flame / burning: destruction / danger
  - Pushing open a door to the dark: errand / searching
  - Entering bedroom from stalker perspective: danger
  - Sunrise: hope
  - Putting hands over face: desperation
  - Main Cast lighted messianically & from child's persp.
  - Girl balancing, dead branch, live tree: fine line
  - Yellow House: hope sanctuary | Clouds moving: threat



# 3. Example: *Millennium* Main Titles

- Text in the *Main Titles*

- „*This is Who We Are*“

- Motto of the Millennium Group*

- „*The Time is Near*“:

- reference to a moment of change,  
from Revelations 22, 10*