

FILM & TV ANALYSIS

I. INTRODUCTION

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Introduction

2

1. Why Analyze?
2. How to Analyze?
3. Example: *Millennium* main titles analysis
4. Example: *Life on Location*, Plants

3

1. Why Analyze Film & Television?

1. Why Analyze Film & Television?

4

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

1. Why Analyze Film & Television?

5

- 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?

6

- „reality“ is boring --- film is about manipulation

- reality sometimes can only be depicted by making it „unreal“

1. Why Analyze Film & Television?

7

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

1. Why Analyze Film & Television?

8

- 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?

9

□ 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?

10

2. How to Analyze

2. How to Analyze Film & Television

11

- 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

13

□ *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

14

□ *Main Titles*

- ▣ look for the main titles for season 2 on YouTube (or on the DVD):

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

3. Example: *Millennium* Main Titles

15

- 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

16

- 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

17

- 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

4. Example: *Life on Location*

3. Example: *Life on Location*

19

- *Life on Location: Plants* (BBC Earth)
 - ▣ look for it on YouTube (or on the DVD *Life*):
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VrDnCLczYA4>