

FALL 2004

Course: THR 200:2W Plays on Film
Times: T/TR 11-12:15pm (ETS 208)
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In this course we shall be exploring the dynamics and elements of translating play texts and successful stage plays into films. Historically the stage has functioned as the avenue in which performers expressed their art and skills in the representation of society, its ills and its manifestations. Consequently, theatre dates as far back as "B.C.". The introduction of film is approximately one hundred years old---post-silent. It is interesting to note that some of the plays that we might consider "masterpieces", begging the forgiveness of Artaud, have found their way into becoming blockbuster or lackluster films. We shall be analyzing the following: Did the film scripts maintain the original stage presentations? The medium of film and that of the stage are clearly different, so what aspect of the original interpretation has been enhanced or compromised? Did the film interpretation of these plays render justice to the message of the plays or intent of the writers? Are the film characters consistent with characters in the original play script? Therein lays our task in this course.

Plays:

Cornielle – Le Cid
Euripedes – The Bacchae
Shakespeare – Macbeth
Mastrosimone – Extremities
Fuller – Soldiers Play
Fuller – Zooman and the Sign
Mamet – Oleanna
Mamet – Spanish Prisoner
Mamet - House of Games
Wilson – The Piano Lesson

Schedule

Aug 19	Introductions
Aug 24	Poetics and Neo Classical Ideals The Cornielle example
Aug 26	Read and discuss El Cid
Aug 31	See El Cid (180 mins)
Sept 2	Summations on El Cid

Sept 7	Read and discuss The Bacchae
Sept 9	See The Beguiled and summations (93mins)
Sept 14	Read and discuss Macbeth
Sept 16	See Men of Respect and summations (118 mins)
Sept 21	Read Extremities
Sept 23	See Extremities and summations (89 mins)
Sept 28	Read A Soldiers Play
Sept 30	See A Soldiers Play and summations (98 mins)
Oct 5	Read Zooman
Oct 7	See Zooman and summations (95 mins)
Oct 12	Review of Midterms
Oct 14	Midterms
Oct 19	Read House of Games
Oct 21	See House of Games and summations (102 mins)
Oct 26	Read Oleana
Oct 28	See Oleana and summations (89 mins)
Nov 2	Read Spanish Prisoner
Nov 4	See Spanish Prisoner and summations (110 mins)
Nov 9	Presentations and analysis
Nov 11	Presentations and analysis
Nov 16	Presentations and analysis
Nov 18	Presentations and analysis
Nov 23	Presentations and analysis

Nov 25	Thanksgiving
Nov 30	Presentations and analysis
Dec 2	Presentations and analysis

GRADING

Attendance	20%
Midterms	30%
Presentation	20%
Finals	30%

**** Attendance Policy: One letter grade drop for more than 5 unexcused absences.

FINAL PRESENTATIONS:

1. Introduce your peers to a play-on-film, not discussed in class
2. Through your presentation, you must illustrate a major difference/departure or enhancement of characters in the film version.
3. Your presentation **MUST** include a film clip, no more than 5 mins in length that makes or illustrates your point.
4. The deadline to sign up for your presentation, with a title, is Oct 16. It shall be on a first come basis—meaning you cannot sign up for a title that has already been selected.

FINAL PAPER:

This is a written version of your presentation. This paper is expected to be thorough and detailed, in your script and character analysis. In this paper you are expected to illustrate in writing the major and significant difference between the play script and film version. You are expected to turn in relevant excerpts from a play script along with your final paper.