

MEDIA AND DOCUMENTARY 2020

Thursday, October 29

Synopses of Lectures

10:00

Truls Lie / Modern Times Review

Truls will go through the idea behind the magazine; the essay as form (as Adorno tells us); how to write film critique as essays; which films we choose; and why critique or reviews.

Truls Lie is the editor-in-chief of Modern Times Review. He has 25 years of experience as editor/publisher in 5 different newspaper/magazines. The others are Weekly Norwegian Morgenbladet, Le Monde diplomatique (Scandinavia), DOX magazine and NY TID (monthly/quarterly, current). He has also worked as filmmaker of 3-4 documentary films in the Middle East etc.

11:15



Melita Zajc / Film Criticism Today

Film criticism is a professional activity. When dealing with the arts, or with the film, we are often confronted with the idea that the quality is a subjective category, that is, a matter of taste and "In matters of taste, there can be no disputes".

Melita will present the idea that quality is not a subjective category and that there are universal rules that can be used for film analysis. We will discuss some good examples of film criticism such as French film magazine Cahiers du Cinéma, and some key tools for analysing films. They come from the theory of the visual that is studying practices of looking and is based on the concepts from disciplines such as psychoanalysis and semiology. Together, we will try their use and analyse concrete images. The participants are invited to propose images for analysis.

Melita Zajc is a Modern Times Review regular contributor, film critic and media philosopher, associate professor of communication at the AMEU ISH in Ljubljana. Former radio, print and TV journalist and editor. She was a member of the board of directors of the Slovene Film Fund and of Open Society Institute. International Jury member at WSA 2003 and Curator of the Nigerian Video Films at Subversive Film Festival in Zagreb 2011. Author of several articles and books such as Digitalne podobe (2005) and Medijski pojmovnik za mlade (2016).

The project is co-funded by the EEA and Norway Grants.

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13:30

Carmen Gray / Writing & Examples

Carmen will talk you through three specific examples of pieces she has written for Modern Times Review, with regard to important elements and angles for coverage, and various approaches to maximise interest and relevance.

Please read the following texts before the session, and watch the trailers:

1. WELCOME TO CHECHNYA (David France)

<https://www.moderntimes.review/the-true-face-of-chechnyas-invisibles/>

2. THE CAVE (Feras Fayyad)

<https://www.moderntimes.review/under-rubble-vital-signs-persist/>

3 BLOODY NOSE, EMPTY POCKETS (Bill Ross IV, Turner Ross)

<https://www.moderntimes.review/nostalgia-for-public-places/>

They will all be open, and students will get free access to the magazine for a year.

Carmen Gray is a freelance film critic and main critic in Modern Times Review. She is an arts journalist and curator from New Zealand, who now lives in Berlin. She is the Chief Critic for Modern Times Review, and she has written for publications including The New York Times, The Guardian, The Observer, Sight & Sound, The Village Voice, Screen International, The Calvert Journal and ArtReview. She was previously Film Editor of Dazed & Confused magazine in London. She is on the selection committee for the International Short Film Festival Winterthur in Switzerland, and is also involved in the programming of Open City Docs festival in London.

14:45

Steve Rickinson / Digital Practices

Digital practices

Steve will discuss the ins and outs of web editing and digital publishing within the independent media space. Across his lecture, Steve will cover a variety of topics related to best practices when working with, or working as, a web editor. Topics addressed will be:

- What is web editing?
- Copy editing vs. web editing
- Common mistakes by ESL speakers w. examples
- Writing for SEO - What is SEO? Why is it important?
- Peripheral skills to include in your writing arsenal
- Recommendations of writing related apps

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Steve Rickinson is a communications manager, web editor, and a film critic at Modern Times Review. He has over a decade of experience in digital publishing, content curation, journalism, and public relations, having done so for independent music and cinema platforms in New York City, Amsterdam, and Bucharest. While studying media and documentary at The New School for Public Engagement, Steve was the co-founder of Brooklyn based independent film platform Indiewood/Hollywoodn't before continuing his studies at the University of Amsterdam. There, his music related work included the likes of The Wire – Adventures in Sound and Music, Crack Magazine, and Magnetic Magazine, while also curating the monthly short documentary and discussion series, Shifting Scenes. Currently, Steve also acts as editor in chief and primary curator of Amsterdam's IN-EDIT Music Documentary Film Festival Magazine while continuing writing, editing, and production work across the continent.

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