

WORKSHOP ON RESEARCH METHODS IN FILM STUDIES WITHIN THE FIELD OF CULTURE STUDIES AND CULTURAL ANALYSIS

Abstract

There is a close relation between Sign Language People's with Silent film. There was a period, before the introduction of talkies, when both hearing and deaf looked at the screen and received the same information. This time is perceived as the Golden Age for the Deaf and the movies. In the research of *Deaftopia: Utopian Representations and Community Dreams by the Deaf* (forthcoming), two movies will be analyzed. *The End* and *Destination Eyeth*.

The End is a docufiction directed by Ted Evans (2011) that takes the viewer to visit five time periods (1987, 1995, 2008, 2031 and 2046). Through the narrative we follow the lives of four individuals. The argument focuses specifically on Arron's life – the main protagonist. The antagonists are the medical, governmental and corporative institutions whose agenda consists in the cure for deafness. In the story, the cure poses a very real threat to eradicate Deaf individuals. This is a dystopian fiction on the threats to extinguish Deaf Culture and Sign Language. The film is not only relevant by itself, but also as a product of a Deaf cast, Deaf director and Deaf-led project.

Destination Eyeth is a reenactment, a revival of the Silent Film atmosphere, which is fully accessible to Deaf audiences, as well as it displays typical Deaf humor features such as physical comedy. As a Deaf Cultural product, *Destination Eyeth* introduces a topic that is common in Deaf literature and Visuature – a quest to reach the visual planet where everyone speaks sign language called Eyeth.

Brief bio

Cristina Gil is a 4th year PhD Student in Culture Studies. She holds a Master on Deaf Communities, Education and Signed Languages from the University of Barcelona (2010) and holds a bachelor degree in Translation and Interpretation of Portuguese Sign Language from the School of Higher Education of Setúbal (2007). Cristina is a FCT fellowship holder and her research line at the Research Centre for Communication and Culture is Cognition and Translatability. Her work intersects Deaf Studies, Utopian Studies and Culture Studies in her research of the utopian concept present in Sign Language Peoples.

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