

Department of Cinematography

Final Thesis Evaluation

Author: Bargav Sridhar

Title: The cinematography of Santosh Sivan: An analysis of his camera work and Understanding his approach

Evaluation by the Examiner

Author of Evaluation: Vidu Gunaratna, katedra kamery (Cinematography Department)

Evaluation of the content and resulting form of a theoretical Thesis:

Appropriate choice of Thesis objective and approach

B

Relative completeness of the literature search in relation to the topic

B

Ability to adopt a critical approach and use specialised literature sources

B

Logical structure of the Thesis, continuity and proportionality of chapters

A

Linguistic level and style

A

Compliance with the bibliography standards (no thesis may be recommended for defence if there are multiple quote sections indicating no source in the text)

A

Sufficient extent of images, justification for and appropriateness of such images, graphic representation

A

Originality of the Thesis, contribution to the field of interest

A

Overall Evaluation of the Thesis (A-F)

A

Individual verbal evaluation of the theoretical Thesis

Respect and admiration of Santosh Sivan's work is obvious from the entire thesis. Yet Bargav Sridhar takes a purposeful approach and visually analyses five films lensed by Sivan. Three in collaboration with director Mani Rathnam and three, where Sivan was the director as well as cinematographer.

While contemplating on the visuals, Bargav does not forget to point out cultural differences in perception of film language, colours and acting in Indian films by a western audience. Had they gone a little deeper (while not compromising the object of the research), the thesis would reflect more strongly on the intercultural fact that the work of an Indian cinematographer is being analysed on a European film school. It would most definitely also contribute to the analysis itself.

Bargav demonstrates a methodical approach with clear arguments backed by well chosen frames from Sivan's films. But what would be of highest benefit to the thesis, is missing – an interview with Santhosh Sivan. Given he is a member of the ISC and ASC, which has and „Education and Outreach Committee“, it would have not been impossible to get in touch with him and conduct an Interview at least via E-mail. Not knowing if this was attempted, or if the effort failed due to circumstances beyond the author's reach, I give benefit of the doubt and recommend this thesis for defence and propose it to be graded A.

Vidu Gunaratna
20.9.2019