

**Filmová a televizní fakulta AMU v Praze / Film and TV School of Academy of Performing Arts, Prague**  
**FAMU International**

**Posudek magisterské diplomové práce / Thesis Evaluation Form**

Student: CATHAL MCCALL

Název práce / Title of the Thesis: Maniacal Hijinks: The Coen Brothers & Cartoon Humour

Jméno autora/ky posudku / Name of the thesis advisor: Mary Angiolillo, Ph.D.

Hodnocení obsahu a výsledné podoby diplomové práce / Evaluation scale:

A – výborně / excellent

B – velmi dobře / very good

C – dobře / good

D – dobře s výhradami / good with minor mistakes

E – dostatečně / suitable for defense

F – nedostatečně / fail – not recommended for defense

Hodnotící kritéria a podíl na známce / Evaluated parameters and weight:

*Vyplňte u každé položky evaluaci dle výše uvedené škály. / Please fill in the evaluation for each parameter according to the scale above.*

	Hodnotící kritéria / Evaluated parameters	Váha/Weight	Grade (A-F)
1	Vhodnost zvoleného cíle / Relevance of the chosen subject	5 %	A-
2	Práce naplňuje zadání / Thesis covers the chosen subject	5 %	A-
3	Stanovení metodologie a její adekvátnost / Choice of an adequate methodology	10 %	B+
4	Relativní úplnost zpracované literatury ke zvolenému tématu / Research of the relevant sources and bibliography	10 %	B+
5	Schopnost kriticky vyhodnotit a použít odbornou literaturu / Ability to critically process and use the relevant sources and literature	10 %	A-
6	Logičnost struktury práce, souvislost jejích kapitol, užití stanovené metodologie / Structure of the work and chapters, use of the chosen methodology	20 %	B+
7	Dosažení cíle práce, původnost, přínos / Was the goal of the work achieved, quality and originality of the result	20 %	A
8	Jazyková a stylistická úroveň práce / Language and style	10 %	A
9	Dodržení citační etiky a kvalita poznámkového aparátu / Citation ethics and quality of citations*)	10 %	A

*\*) Pokud se v textu vyskytují přejaté pasáže bez udání zdroje, hodnocení této kategorie je F. / If the work uses parts of the other texts without citing them properly, the evaluation of this parameter is F.*

Navrhované hodnocení diplomové práce (kalkulace bude doplněna pracovníkem katedry) / Suggested final grade (will be calculated by the department):	
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Slovní hodnocení práce (V případě přílohy, prosíme, připojte datum a podpis) /

Verbal evaluation of the thesis (in case of separate attachment please put your signature and date on the attached text):

*Prosíme, zdůvodněte zejména případné hodnocení „Nedostatečně“ / Please provide reasoning particularly in case of „Fail“ evaluation*

While he couldn't use this information in his thesis, Cathal's professor, Ronald Bergan, author of a book on the Coen Brothers, had mentioned in class that when he interviewed the mother of Joel and Ethan, she remarked how her boys had loved watching cartoons. Being an aficionado of cartoons himself, this information sparked a curiosity in Cathal and he set out to examine parallels between certain Coen Brother films and the maniacal antics of *Looney Tune* characters. His expertise in cartoon lore and in-depth analysis of Coen comedies resulted in many interesting observations on similarities between between Coen comedies and cartoons regarding characters and situational elements.

He organizes these observations into chapters related to character, tropes, and violence. These are prefaced with a history of *Looney Tunes* and *Tom and Jerry*, plus some background on the Coen brothers. The information regarding the historical development of cartoon explains the darkness and violence that can be present alongside the humor; something familiar in Coen features as well. He returns to the phenomenon of violence in a later chapter, addressing both similarities and differences. More could be said in this respect, for the Coens certainly employ violence that is far from humorous in certain films, and it is known how their style changes from film to film depending on the subject. Cathal acknowledges their use of beyond cartoonish violence in explaining that he chose only comedies to analyze, but the explanation on why certain films are chosen over others is not completely satisfying.

Formally, the thesis is without problems. Another draft could reduce the occasional repetitiveness, but Cathal writes with enthusiasm for the subject, using colorful language welcome in this creative writer's thesis, which is likewise adorned with stills from a myriad of cartoons and shots from the Coen films, displaying many comparisons, such as the dog surviving the lonesome valley flood from *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* with Tomcat Tom managing to survive under water, all of which support his central argument vividly. The accumulation of many examples makes Cathal's hypothesis that the Coens were influenced or inspired by cartoons likely to be true, as Cathal concludes.

Cathal's specific angle of cartoon characteristics in their work has not been addressed in any depth by academics, making Cathal's work a significant contribution to scholarship in that area. I recommend the thesis for defense, suggesting a grade somewhere between a B and an A.

**Byla práce dostatečně konzultována? / Thesis was relevantly consulted:**  
(Zakroužkujte odpověď / Please circle the answer)

**ANO/YES** – NE/NO

**Práci doporučuji k obhajobě / Thesis is recommended for the defense:**  
(Zakroužkujte odpověď / Please circle the answer)

**ANO/YES** – NE/NO

*Pokud je hodnocení jakéhokoliv kritéria uvedeného výše F, práce nemůže být doporučena k obhajobě. / If the evaluation of any parameter above is F, thesis cannot be recommended for defense.*

Datum/Date: September 8, 2020

Podpis/Signature:  
*Mary Angiolillo*