

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 opponent: Mgr. Lucia Kajánková

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 %	B
2	Práce naplňuje zadání / Thesis covers the chosen subject	5 %	B
3	Stanovení metodologie a její adekvátnost / Choice of an adequate methodology	10 %	C
4	Relativní úplnost zpracované literatury ke zvolenému tématu / Research of the relevant sources and bibliography	10 %	C
5	Schopnost kriticky vyhodnotit a použít odbornou literaturu / Ability to critically process and use the relevant sources and literature	10 %	C
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 %	B
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 %	B

**) Pokud se v textu vyskytují přejeté 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):	B
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Slovní hodnocení práce (V případě přílohy, prosíme, připojte datum a podpis) /
Verbal evaluation of thesis (in case of separate attachment please add your signature and date):

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

Doporučený rozsah do 500 znaků / Recommendation: up to 500 characters

Cathal McCall's thesis "Maniacal Hijinks" is built on the rather extravagant, while engaging, premise that the Coen brothers' poetics can be traced to and interpreted via analogies to cartoons, specifically *Looney Tunes* and *Tom and Jerry*.

From the opponent's perspective, I have appreciated the energy and passion the thesis takes to explore this perspective on the Coens' *oeuvre* and the subversive playfulness appropriate to the subject matter. The thesis also demonstrates a commendable depth of research in the area of the primary sources, both the Coens' films and the titular cartoons, as well as adequate work with secondary sources (literature, interviews etc.).

The thesis presents interesting and inspiring partial micro-analyses using its chosen approach, for example comparing the setup of the central trio in *Big Lebowski* with the *Looney Tunes* triad Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck and Porky the Pig. The structure of the thesis, dividing the narrative and stylistic segments into chapters focused on characters, overall style and specifically violence, is functional and counters the generally eclectic nature of the thesis.

This eclectic approach represents the key flaw of the thesis, once we accept its hypothesis as viable. A note on the premise: the thesis states repeatedly that there is no explicit evidence that the Coen brothers actually draw from the cartoons and that the venture is an exercise in interpretation by the author. Still, this decision at times leads to the impression that the author is loosely picking and choosing examples to support the thesis' central argument while neglecting the possible patterns which would serve to subvert this interpretation. This is especially apparent as the thesis aims to cover the poetics of the Coens' films as a whole. In the same vein, I did not find the decision to choose specifically *Looney Tunes* and *Tom and Jerry*, while rejecting for example Disney productions, sufficiently elucidated.

The thesis touches on the concept of archetypes and thus my question for the defense connects directly to that: Is it possible to argue that both Coens' films and cartoons are rooted in the same archetypes in terms of character, tension and source of humour that they draw from - independently of each other?

In conclusion, I consider the thesis original, pleasantly bold and well executed.

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 14, Prague

Podpis/Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Lucia Fojanová". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'L' and 'F'.