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: Emir Zyalar

Název práce / Title of the Thesis:

Expressionism in 21st Century Cinema

Jméno autora/ky posudku / Name of the thesis advisor:

Jan Bernard

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 %	B
6	Logičnost struktury práce, souvislost jejích kapitol, užití stanovené metodologie / Structure of the work and chapters, use of the chosen methodology	20 %	A
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 %	B
9	Dodržení citační etiky a kvalita poznámkového aparátu / Citation ethics and quality of citations*)	10 %	B

) 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):*	B

Slovní hodnocení práce (V případě přílohy, prosíme, připojte datum a podpis) /
Verbal evaluation of the thesis (in case of separate attachement please put your signature
and date on the atached text):

The student chose quite an unusual topic. The objective of the thesis was to trace the influence of German expressionism of the 1920s on certain post-2010 American films of the author's own subjective selection. In the first third of the thesis, the author characterises the principal means of expression of this stylistic period using a similarly selected sample of classic expressionist films. He builds on his own viewer experience, newer literature and, in part, Lotte Eisner's classic *Dämonische Leinwand*. For a deeper insight into these films' themes and the authors' motivations in this section, the author omitted Siegfried Kracauer's classic *From Caligari to Hitler*. The result is that, in the main section of the text, the student does not ask the question why American filmmakers turn to expressionist stylistic elements and themes and whether their potential motivation could be the situation and atmosphere in the American society following the terrorist attack on the WTC, and possibly certain other events in modern history.

Other than that, this section of the thesis is written very well; the author did not omit the expressionist influence on the work of Alfred Hitchcock, thanks to which this styling reached modern American films. However, the author does not mention Alfred Hitchcock's *Spellbound* where this influence is the strongest. Also, it would be possible to discuss the direct influence of expressionist filmmakers on American cinema of the turn of the 1920s and the 1930s. While the author mentions Paul Leni's *The Cat and the Canary*, an American film, he ranks it directly among the German expressionist films and he does not mention Murnau's *The Sunrise*, which was even more influential in this respect. The author could also mention the American horror films of the era. Admittedly, the global concept of the thesis is not oriented on history in depth, which is in quite acceptable.

In the body of the thesis, the author discusses four films from 2013–2017: *Under the Skin*, *Babadook*, *Enemy* and *Mother*. He points out primarily the influence of expressionism on the styling of the cinematography, costumes, editing, space, visual effects and also on the topics and the narrative structure. Wherever the author can, he supports his point by the filmmakers' own statements. He studies the topics of estrangement, doppelganger and introspection as well as symbolist moments. He also correctly points out how such elements have newly been used on an entirely different level; *Mother* would be best illustration of this notion although, in other respects, this film's relation to classic expressionism is probably the least demonstrable considering the selected viewpoints.

Overall, the thesis is very well and logically structured. In the Conclusion, the author summarises his principal findings. His illustrations of the text using snapshots from the film are excellent, as they support the mentioned context convincingly and clearly. The author also regularly consulted his supervisor on the text of the thesis; unfortunately, his latest comments are not reflected in the thesis, probably due to a lack of time. In particular, it is problematic that the author did not structure his literary sources in the customary manner into books, articles and Internet resources. Filmography is lacking as well.

In other respects, I rate the thesis as very good and recommend it for defence.

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

YES

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

ANO/YES

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: 28. 8. 2020   Podpis/Signature: