

## Department of Montage

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### Final Thesis Evaluation

Author: Marguerite FARAG

Title: **A Survey of editing methods in Youssef Chahine's Alexandria Trilogy within the Deleuzian Framework of Minor Cinema**

Evaluation by the Thesis Mentor

Author of Evaluation (name, surname, department): Martin Čihák, Montage

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

Appropriate choice of Thesis objective and approach.....A

Relative completeness of the literature search in relation to the topic .....A

Ability to adopt a critical approach and use specialised literature sources .....A

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).....B

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**

*(explanation: A = outstanding performance exceeding the criteria above, B = above-average performance with minimum errors, C = average performance with an acceptable level of error, D = acceptable performance with a higher level of error, E = performance merely satisfying the criteria, F = unacceptable performance)*

#### **Recommendations:**

*The individual verbal evaluation of the theoretical Thesis includes a paragraph summarising the contents and conclusions of the Thesis; presents a more detailed evaluation of the aforementioned criteria, particularly the justification for the D, E, F grades; points out the positive features of the Thesis, particularly if the grade is A, B; formulates the questions for the student to answer during the defence; in conclusion, the evaluation gives a clear statement on whether the author has demonstrated the ability to work creatively and independently in his/her chosen area of research or not, whether the Thesis meets the standard requirements for final theses or not, whether the Supervisor/Opponent recommends the Thesis for defence or not, and the proposed grade. Typically, the verbal evaluation takes 1 standard page; if there are no objections to the Thesis, it may be shorter. With theses where there is nothing to criticise, an additional question should be asked as to where the student should direct his/her subsequent research.*

### Individual verbal evaluation of the theoretical Thesis:

Honestly say, it is the best thesis that I read since the English department of Montage was established. Margo's thesis is outstanding in many aspects. She is extraordinary capable to interconnect her practical experience as an editor with deep immersion into the field of the film theory. Margo is not only a bright observer and exact descriptor (of the work of editor - Rashida Abdel Salam) but even more - the precise analyzer and imaginative synthesizer.

The whole thesis is penetrated by strong triadic principle on different levels. Basic source is a Chahine's Trilogy and further the each chapter includes "three sections dissecting the different conditions of minor cinema and how they are put forth through the editing" (p.42):

- 1) Compositional Mode of Missing People
- 2) Deterritorialization of the Cinematic (in 2nd chapter- Filmic) Language
- 3) Collective Utterances

We could follow this compositional and methodological "conch" of a triadic principle from macro-structure until the basic dialectical triad: thesis - antithesis - synthesis.

Margo made a series of innovative diagrams and charts accompanying the text, that can help us to orient in the complexity of Chahine's characters, motifs and time-threads.

Even after the reading the final version, it came to me, that it would be better to make a precise crossreferences (page "links") between the text and the images (shot by shot breakdowns) in Appendix. It could help the reader to jump easily from the text to the Appendix and vice-versa.

Margo's Thesis meets not only the standard requirements for final theses, but it surpasses them in all of aspects!

I highly recommend this thesis for defence and propose the grade **A**.

Questions for the student to answer during the defence:

Q 1: Can you explain more precisely the term **false continuity**, that occurs in Messaris' quotation (p. 48). Why there is missing the source of this quotation in Bibliography? It is not from Paul Messaris, *Visual Persuasion: The Role of Images in Advertising* (1997), but from which article?

Q 2: Discuss the use of Shklovsky's term "**defamiliarization**" (regarding his article *Art as A Technique*) in the context of Chahine's Trilogy and his way of montage.

Q 3: In one of the scenes of *Alexandria... Why?* we can shortly see the poster of **Hedy Lamarr**. We have spoken about it during our consultation but finally you didn't mention it in your text. Why?

Date: .....12. 09. 2022

Signature: .....