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: Sheida Sheikhha

Název práce / Title of the Thesis:

Narcissism and the cinema of Xavier Dolan

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

Mgr. Erik Binder, PhD.

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 %	A
4	Relativní úplnost zpracované literatury ke zvolenému tématu / Research of the relevant sources and bibliography	10 %	A
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 %	A
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	A

katedry) / Suggested final grade *(will be calculated by the department):*	

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

Doporučený rozsah do 2700 znaků / Recommendation: up to 2700 characters

The student in advance split the thesis to several parts. She started with provision of basic methods of the whole work. The method is the proffesional explanation and definition of the concept of narcissism, from history, through psychology research of the definiton in history and to presence understanding of narcissism in the era of digitalism, which Xavier Dolan is a part of, as well. The thesis work assumes, that the whole work, or almost every film of Xavier Dolan is, partly, self-centered and it is logically joint with the narcissism. Is it a speech of too young author with promising of improving his style into the future, or is Xavier Dolan a author with the concrete, invariable style and many viewers could never understand his specific point of view of our complicated world and non-specific definiton of art? The student continues with connection of narcissism and art (and of course cinema) and then fluently continues with the portrait of Xavier Dolan as a persona, director and actor in his very personal movies consist of, as we assume, narcissism. The student splits his portfolio into two parts; movies only directed by Dolan, and movies directed by Dolan and starring himself in them, and what difference it makes in the question of narcissism. The aim of the thessis is to understand why his movies are dubbed and whether and how the elements that lead to this alleged narcissism have also affected his universality and popularity, as the student writes in the text. And to explain why exactly Dolan is the perfect example for this kind of thesis. The question that now comes to mind is whether celebrities become narcissistic after achieving fame or whether their narcissism is one of the reasons why they achieve fame. As one of the defining traits of narcissists is their belief that they belong to a group of special people and that they are destined for greater things, student writes. Art, it seems, turns towards narcissism and, in a way, embraces narcissistic tendencies and shines a light on them rather than shying away from them, student continues toward to the „main star" of her thesis. By the similar quotes student foreshadowes parallels between general research and concrete analysis of work, in the second part of the thesis, of Xavier Dolan; the work we could call the self-portrait: a portrait of the artist done by the artist. It is another chapter done by student, wich is

directly connected with the main part of the thesis, but it could stands alone as an interesting historic and scientific article in istself, based on some well chosen sources. But finally in the chapter Self-portraits in cinema: Actors/Auteurs student fluently joins the whole detailed first metodological part of the thesis with the work of Xavier Dolan and then continues, for the rest of the work, on focusing on his career, films and self-portraits. Reader could realize due to the text, that Dolan is, in a way of nacissism, some kind of follower of such famous names, as Orson Welles, Woody Allen, Spike Lee or M. Night Shyamalan. But as we read later, Dolan´s movies are some kind of semi-portraits, based on his gay orientation and complicated relationship with mother (film *I Killed My Mother* says everything in the title…). They have something in common especially with the work of Allen, than with the other mentioned artists. Spliting of the next chapters into characterizing Dolan´s work through his personality (personality, his point of view about criticism, actor, director…) and by this method analyzing films is way better way than to split the main part of the thesis into the chapters only dedicated to concrete films. This is the major problem in thesises, or any annual works at the FTF VŠMU and to read more clever structured works (as in this case) is much more interesting and better aproaching the goals.The clever decision was, as well, using some footages from movies and on the close-ups, and another types of shots, finding the marks of narcissism, but not just them, in Dolan´s work. Analyzing through shots, cinematography and finding metaphors, motifs and proximity with protagonists led the student to the right answers to the questions laid at the beginning. The thesis is elaborated with accuracy, passion for the theme, focus on the right aspects of theme of narcissism in the work of Xavier Dolan. It is easy to read and for enthusiastic readers; lovers of cinema, is the thesis perfect example of combination of science text and comprehensible, clear, but not trivial kind of text. It is a result of using the right sources, vast bibliography and student´s own ideas. I reccomend the thesis to be accepted and to evaluate with the mark 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: 26.5.2022

Podpis/Signature: