

Department of Cinematography

Final Thesis Evaluation

Author: Zaher Jraidini

Title: Large Format and Film Language

Evaluation by the Thesis Mentor

Evaluation by the Opponent

Author of Evaluation (name, surname, department): prof. Vladimír Smutný, Cinematography dept.

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 B

Compliance with the bibliography standards (no thesis may be recommended for defence if there are multiple quote sections indicating no source in the text)..... A

Sufficient extent of images, justification for and appropriateness of such images, graphic representation..... B

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)

Individual verbal evaluation of the theoretical Thesis:

The theme of this master's thesis is the comparison of two digital cameras with different sensor sizes.

The student compares the two cameras through a camera test using a method with simultaneous projection and its analysis.

The thesis has two parts.

1. The video recording test with the assumption of preserving and defining each parameter so both cameras will have the same conditions. The used cameras are: Alexa LF: 2x sensor ALEV III, Alexa mini: 1x sensor ALEV III
2. Simultaneous projection of the video test and its analysis. And also final conclusion if the use of the Alexa LF and generally large format cameras influence the film language enough that the headlines like, for example, in the magazine Indie Wire: "Large format cameras are changing film language" is reasonable.

In Indie Wire, the journalists discuss the immersive effect of the movie called the Joker. This impression is credited to the use of the LF format.

This thesis uses the comparison test projection in the modern FAMU cinema. Zaher Jraidini recorded a comparison test, which could be interesting for other students and professionals.

Test in this thesis could help the directors and cinematographers choose if they want to use the large format cameras and what is possible to expect.

Moreover, the authors' thesis practically shows the inaccuracy of the simplified claim that LF sensors contribute to the change of the perspective in the image.

The student also rightly performed the primary considerations. He selected the appropriate focal lengths of lenses, and correct cameras and accurately counted the crop factor from the sensors' diagonal length. Eventually, he formed logically the succession of the video test.

The selection of the individual shots is thoughtful and performed in a way that confirms the authors' hypothesis that the LF sensor alone can be neither the cause of the perspective shift nor the change of the film language where the LF sensor is supposed to immerse the audience more inside the story.

Few words about the perspective: each of the following camera shots in this video test is from the same camera position.

1. Alexa LF - 75mm focal length
2. Alexa mini - 45 focal length

There are almost no perspective changes to be distinguished. There are just differences in the depth of field.

The student also recorded shots where both cameras have the same focal length - 45mm. To achieve the most comparable frames, he changed the camera distance from the figures by multiplying the distance by crop factor 1,67x. In these images, the perspective shift is clearly recognized because of the different distances.

Another interesting phenomenon is the substantial difference in the quality of camera images when recording in low-light situations. The Alexa LF has much more detail with vast grading options against the Alexa mini, where the information in low light conditions is decreasing, and without detail in dark parts of the image. This is explained in detail by Zaher Jradihi in the thesis.

Those characteristics of Alexa LF: detailed image and dynamic range are definitely its advantages.

The master thesis of Zaher Jradihi is original and important for cinematographers. The recorded video test is well performed and well analyzed. It also could be a good foundation for other research. In the second part of this thesis, the author describes the results of his observations.

1. Angle of view
2. Resolution
3. Perspective and space compression

4. Depth of field
5. Noise

Each statement is based on practical testing. The thesis structure and text alone are very comprehensive.

The thesis does not meet the prescribed number of pages, and therefore should be evaluated with a lower grade. But in my honest opinion, the master thesis of Zaher Jradihi is excellent. The practical part of the thesis is a counterbalance to the theoretical part, where the number of pages is not sufficient. However, I believe that given the quality of the video test and its analysis, the master thesis of Zaher Jradihi should be evaluated with an A. Also, the availability of the video test on the internet definitely made a good PR for FAMU.

Here is the link for the video test:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/ljngtem45kycmy/LARGEFORMAT_QT_HD.mov?dl=0

Date:

Signature: