OPPONENT'S ASSESSMENT OF A WRITTEN THESIS

Thesis title: Mark Travis' Interrogation Process
Thesis author: Vasco Viana
Programme of study: CDM / Directing
Programme type: Master's

Definition of objectives and their fulfilment: 10/10

Topicality of the thesis topic (and relevance of the selected methodology in the case of a Master's thesis): 10/10

Scholarly contribution, originality of the thesis, and its utilisation in practice: 5/5

Logical construction and structuring of the thesis: 10/10

Formal requirements and requisite contents of the thesis, including its length: 20/20

Work with information sources: 5/5

Level of language, style and terminology: 14/15

Evaluator's overall summary: 33/35

Vasco's thesis is a stimulating discussion of a technique for working with actors to create authentic performances. He delves into the Interrogation process that Mark Travis has refined and which has only been available for study through webinars or YouTube demonstrations. Even Mark Travis' own books on directing feature films do not go so much into depth on this particular technique. The Travis Technique has been introduced to directing students at FAMU and has nearly always intrigued the students because of its effectiveness. Vasco's work in dissecting the technique will be valuable for current and future FAMU students and others interested in using this tool. Putting the technique into the context of other approaches to working with actors gives the thesis an academic weight and moves the discussion beyond mere description toward analysis. He makes interesting

and perceptive comparisons between the work of Travis and Hagen, Adler, Strasberg, Spolin and Meisner. (In contrast, I found the discussion related to Michael Chekhov -page 39 - confusing in speaking about mask as invisible and an external artifact. I think I would have left this section out because the point was not very clear. Another small note is that the technique of 'Yes...and...' should be credited to Keith Johnstone.)

Vasco writes very clearly. One more edit to reduce redundancies/repetition in the work may still improve it further, as would clear indentations of paragraphs. He makes use of a variety of sources, including his own practical experience with the technique. I am genuinely grateful for his work and the contribution it makes to scholarship on directing techniques.

Questions and topics for discussion at the oral defence:

- **You said your use of the Travis Technique was not effective on one trained actor that you were working with who had his own set way of working on character. Can you clarify his reaction to your work and why you thought it was not working so well?**
- **You mention that it might be more effective to use affective memory on student actors and the Interrogation technique on trained actors. Would you elaborate on that? (It seems to me affective memory would require more training than responding to the Interrogator.)**
- **How is the Travis Technique used when working on a scene with three or more people?**

Recommendation of the thesis for the oral defence:	Yes
Recommended grade:	A
Date of elaboration of this assessment:	May 26, 2023

Mary Angiolillo   May 26, '23   *Mary Angiolillo*

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Name of the thesis opponent   (date and signature)