

part 2 of "THE BASICS OF SCRIPT AND FILM ANALYSIS"

A Donat F. Keusch (dfk) workshop at the Goethe Institute for the Cairo-Film-School

Assisted by Haiman S. Eltohamy. Translation by Dr. Tarik A. Bary.

1st day (Sun, 21st April)

- 10-19 Welcome to everybody but especially to Dr. Tarik A. Bary and Assistant Professor Haiman S. Eltohamy (Cairo Film School).
- (DVD) Screening of "Casablanca" in original version with Arabic subtitles, a film produced by Hal B. Wallis, written by the Epstein brothers and Howard Koch, directed by Michael Curtis (M. Kertesz, H), starring Humphrey Bogart, Ingrid Bergman (S), Paul Henreid (G), Peter Lorre (G), Curt Bois (G) and many other Europeans.
- Discussion of the films/scripts to analyse. Propositions for the analysis of recent films from Egypt (shorts or feature length pictures).
- Presentation and brief explanation of some technical terms used by Frantisek Daniel (and by dfk) during film analysis. (see "List of...")
- (DVD) Analysis of "Casablanca": Structure, Characters, Story, Dialog, Topics, Credibility, Irony, Genre, etc. as well as "plantings and pay offs" in action, visually or dialogwise.
- * HOMEWORK (for the next day): Write in English on 1 page a synopsis of "Casablanca" without any interpretation. Follow strictly the main story line and use subplots only where it is absolutely necessary. Make one photocopy of your homework for yourself.

2nd day (Mon, 22nd April)

- 10-19 Please hand the original of your homework to Haiman.
- Presentation of every participant of the workshop: Name, age, goal.
- Summary of the first day with remarks, also concerning "Casablanca".
- Explanation of the 3-act-structure: The beginning (introduction), the middle (confrontation) and the end (solution) – but it is not necessary for a story told in a cinematic way to have these 3 parts exactly in this order. But you will only be able to work that out if you know all and your producer and the director know some of the basic rules of dramatic structure in cinematic story telling.
- After a break of 1 hour, discussion of the results of your homework.
- (DVD) Screening of Alfred Hitchcock's "North by Northwest" (USA 1959), screenplay by Ernest Lehman.
- * HOMEWORK (for the next day): In English short characterisation of the 4 most important people and 5 topics of "North by Northwest".

3rd day (Tue, 23rd April)

- 10-19 A brief introduction in Outline, Story, Story-Step-Outline and in Screenplay, Acts, Sequences, Scenes, Shots, Step-Outline.
- (DVD) Analysis of "North by Northwest": Structure, Characters, Story, Dialog, Topics, Credibility, Irony, Genre, etc. as well as "plantings and pay offs" in action, visually or dialogwise.
- (DVD) Screening of Sylvester Stallone's "Rocky" (o.v. with English subt., 119').

4th day (Wed, 24th April)

- 10-20 Summary of the first 3 days of the workshop, also concerning the analysis of "Casablanca" and "North by Northwest".
- Analysis of "Rocky", especially the pre-fight scene, the big scene of recognition where the protagonist's goal is definitively fixed. Hand out of 62 pages of the script and its story-step-outline mentioning the act and sequence structure.
- (VHS) Screening of 5 short films, written and directed by participants of the workshop. Each film will be 2 times repeated for the detailed analysis.

5th day (Thu, 25th April)

- 10-20 Final discussion about Hesham Fathy's short film "The Game": What was the goal? Why did he not tell us at the beginning what he wanted to tell us? What did he wanted to tell us and how could he have done it?
- (DVD) Screening of "Erin Brockovich" (A true story!) in original version with Arabic subtitles, a film produced by Danny DeVito a.o., written for the screen by Susannah Grant, directed by Steven Soderbergh, starring Julia Roberts and Albert Finney.
- Distribution of 62 pages of the "Rocky" script in English together with the 2 pages of the story-step-outline in Arabic from these 62 pages. Distribution of 51 pages of the "Erin Brockovich" script.
- (DVD) Analysis of "Erin Brockovich": Structure, Story, Dialog, Credibility, Irony, Genre, etc. as well as "plantings and pay offs" in action, visually or dialogwise. Detailed analysis of some scenes, reconstruction of the way from the story to the scene in the script. How to deal with a real story in a fictional or in a documentary form.
- * **HOMEWORK (for Sat, 28th April):** Write on 1-2 pages the story-step-outline of the 51 pages of "Erin Brockovich", mark where the first act ends and mark the sequences in giving them titles. Short and concrete characterisation of the main and the secondary character. Main and 4 secondary topics in concrete simple words. The geographical setting and the use of time in concrete explanations. Mention the most important scene and outline it in 1-2 sentences without personal inter-pretation. What is the essence of the scene, what is the goal?

6th day (Fri, 26th April)

- 10-18 Do the homework (story-step-outline, 2 characters, 5 topics, geography and time, outline 1 important scene and mention the goal of the scene) seriously alone or in groups and write your names on it!!!

7th day (Sat, 27th April)

- 11-15 Do the rewriting of the homework!
- 14-16 For fans who already finished the homework we screen "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" in original version with Arabic subtitles. (DVD)
- 16-22 Everybody get a copy of the story-step-outline "Erin Brockovich" made by dfk. Evaluation of the 1st act and its 3 sequences.
- (DVD) Screening of David Lean's "Lawrence of Arabia" (director's cut, 218') in original version with Arabic subtitles.
- * HOMEWORK (for the 9th day): Rewrite on 1-2 pages the story-step-outline of the 51 pages of "Erin Brockovich", mark where the first act ends and mark the sequences in giving them titles. Short and concrete characterisation of the main and the secondary character. Main and 4 secondary topics in concrete simple words. The geographical setting and the use of time in concrete explanations. Mention the most important scene and outline it in 1-2 sentences without personal interpretation. What is the essence of the scene, what is the goal? Look for mistakes in the dfk-story-step-outline and mention at least one scene of the script which is absolutely not necessary.

8th day (Sun, 28th April)

- 11-17 Analysis and discussion (3 hours) of Sherif Habibi's short story "Portrait" from which everybody got a copy.
- (DVD) Screening of Roman Polanski's "Chinatown" (125', USA 1974) in original version with English subtitles.
- * HOMEWORK (for the next day): Write a short story on one page in groups of 2-3 people. Think about the protagonist's background story in "Chinatown" and about what this film is about.

9th day (Mon, 29th April)

- 10-17 Haiman Eltohamy collects the homeworks from the 7th and the 8th day, make copies for everybody and returns the original.
- Analysis and discussion about Marwa Ali-Eddin's story "Do you dance with me?" and discussion about the Erin-Brockovich-homework.
- (DVD) Analysis and discussion of some aspects of Roman Polanski/Robert Towne/Robert Evans' "Chinatown" during the re-screening of the film in original version with English subtitles.

10th day (Tue, 30th April)

- 10-18 Discussion of new short stories.
- (DVD) Analysis (structure and terms like genre, irony, credibility, realism, universality, the creation of an universe, etc.) during the screening of David Lean's "Lawrence of Arabia" (o.v. with Arabic subtitles).
- (VHS) Screening of a new Egyptian popular movie with English subtitles. (eventually with a 35mm print)
- * HOMEWORK (for the next day): What are the Arabic people standing for in this film? What is this film about? What is the main topic? What is the main genre? What are the different meanings of sand/desert?

11th day (Wed, 1st May)

- 10-18 Analysis of either the new Egyptian film or of "... " and discussion of your homework.
- DVD Screening of John Schlesinger's "Marathon Man" (o.v. with Arabic subt., 120'), a story by William Goldman, a screenplay by William Goldman and Robert Towne, or of Stanley Kubrick's "Dr. Strangelove" (o.v. with Arabic subtitles, 90').
- * HOMEWORK (for the next day): Either something related to the new Egyptian movie or to "Marathon Man" or to "Dr. Strangelove".

12th day (Thu, 2nd May)

- 10-18 The complete summary of the workshop in steps and answering of all questions but especially the ones about the writing and the analysis of stories and scripts.
- Pre-announcement of a one-year-workshop "The Making of Short Films" about different Egyptian themes and topics. Application only for hard working and experienced students of all the departments (production, screenwriting, directing, ...). This workshop is in a planning status.

GOOD BYE with MY BEST WISHES FOR YOUR FUTURE! Donat Keusch

Cairo, April 20, 2002