

Code: FLMD-322E.36

Course title: Circus on Screen

Course convenors: Katalin Teller

Class time and place: Thursday 4.00-5.30 pm, room nr. -137

Course type: Seminar

Course content: The course will cover canonical filmic interpretations by Chaplin, Reed and Fellini as well as less known historical and contemporary works. The seminar will focus on the shifts between metaphorical and literal approaches to the phenomenon of the circus and will clarify questions of genre and media traditions as well as ideological settings. In the closing part of the course we will critically assess the way contemporary documentaries use the case of the circus.

Requirements: The evaluation will be based on active seminar participation and on a written assignment. For the first, participants are to present a selected secondary source on the given movie they select from the seminar program and act as the moderator of the in-class discussion. The written assignment should present a case study of a selected circus film, concentrating on a specific problem relevant to the selected material. For formal requirements follow the MLA guidelines.

Learning outcomes: The goal of the course is to give an overview of how the image of the circus developed in movies produced in Europe and the USA in the 20th and 21st centuries. The analytical tools of film interpretation will be combined with information on the institutional and cultural history of the circus.

Indicative Reading: Katherine H. Adams, Michael L. Keene: *Women of the American Circus, 1880-1940*. Jefferson, London 2012, 43-92.
Linda Hutcheon, Siobhan O'Flynn: *A theory of adaptation*. 2nd ed. New York 2013, 1-32, 169-176.
Irina Rajewsky: *Intermediality, Intertextuality, and Remediation: A Literary Perspective on Intermediality*, http://cri.histart.umontreal.ca/cri/fr/intermedialites/p6/pdfs/p6_rajewsky_text.pdf
Helen Stoddart: *Rings of Desire: Circus History and Representation*. Manchester, New York 2000, 147-192.

Feature films:

Max, der Zirkuskönig by Max Linder and E. E. Violet (Austria, 1924)

Circus by Charlie Chaplin (USA, 1928)

Freaks by Tod Browning (USA, 1932)

Cirk by G. V. Aleksandrov (SU, 1936)

La strada by Federico Fellini (Italy, 1954)

Trapeze by Carol Reed (USA, 1956)

Die Artisten in der Zirkuskuppel: ratlos by Alexander Kluge (FRG, 1968)

Der Himmel über Berlin by Wim Wenders (FRG, 1987)

Aglaja by Krisztina Deák (Hungary, Poland, Romania, 2012)

Documentaries:

Circus Baobab by Laurent Chevallier (France, 2001)

Getting into Cirque Du Soleil by 16x9 (USA, 2012)

Flying Kids by Pavel Baydikov (Russian Federation, 2013)