

Supervisor's Report on B.A. thesis by

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PORTRAYAL OF THE INDIAN IN AMERICAN CINEMATOGRAPHY

The present thesis delineates the problem of the portrayal of the Native American in the cultural form of US film with special emphasis on the issue of stereotyping; Walter Lippman offers an important analytical instrument in this foregoing regard.

The thesis contains sixty-three pages across several individual sections of composition. "Chapter 2, General Stereotypes, concentrates on showing [...] above all the Bloodthirsty Savage and Noble Savage" (8). Chapter three focuses several films directed by John Ford. Chapter four discusses the cultural output of the 1960s. Chapter five surveys American Indians "as a symbol of mysticism" (9) and how the "Noble Savage stereotype is often shown in full bloom." (9) Chapter six, "Who is the True Indian, shows new ways of portraying Native American life, especially independent productions in which Native Americans are actively involved" (9).

All in all, the thesis is well researched and well argued though sometimes the use of definite and indefinite articles could be more exact; never the less, this is a rather minor point for such a weighty piece of research work for a BA-level thesis that polemicizes well against the miserable usage of stereotypes and of their complexity reducing repressive function. Also, in another small glitch, the print out of the page numbers is slightly flawed.

Would the candidate be able to problematize some aspect of her thesis that she feels has not been given interpretive justice? Second, the concept of "singularity" per se could have been addressed in a conceptual-philosophical way; what would the candidate say to this subject and its relevance to her thesis? This foregoing item is a hard topic and yet essential for thinking about subjectivity, community and other related concerns.

In light of the foregoing mentions, I hereby recommend the pre thesis defense mark of 1 (výborně) for the thesis work.

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