

Sport in Film as a Cultural Phenomenon

Abstract:

The relationship between sport and the media has undergone rapid development in recent decades. The combination of television and top sport has created a specific and very influential genre of popular culture. Creating sporting stories, which is typical of the current media, is also an attempt to impress these stories in a more permanent and cohesive form. Sport therefore also features in the most varied of forms in the film media. This work presents a culturological, thus holistically and interdisciplinary-oriented, view of the phenomenon of sport in film.

Firstly, sport as a part of popular culture is investigated. This includes the philosophical concept of the cultural phenomenon of games. The question is considered of the universal themes which typify the sport film genre. In order to explain the continuing popularity of sport film, a study of film is then undertaken with regard to the cultural dynamics to which research in the field of film genres also belongs. Thereafter, sport film is examined in terms of the cultural-anthropological categories of myth and ritual. In conclusion, this study concentrates on the ability of fictional and documentary films with a sporting theme to become representative of various ideologies. The same methodology is applied for the description and characteristics of the ideological patterns of narration in sport film.

Keywords: popular culture, sport, film, myth, rite, film genre, ideology