Posudek vedoucí na bakalářskou práci Tetiany Kurtiak

“Hamlet on Screen: William Shakespeare’s Play in Film Adaptation”

The submitted BA thesis works within the brackets of film studies and British literature. As such it is interdisciplinary in nature and in the application of a range of theoretical concepts. I believe the text deals with relevantly selected film adaptations and builds upon an appropriately informed set of methodologies. In structure the text is well-organised and manages to persuasively present its topic. Yet, at least one element of the proposed aim is not met with at all – The introduction claims as one of the aims an understanding of which Renaissance ideals and ideas withstood the test of time and were taken over in the adaptations. Yet the thesis is not clear about this at all.

Otherwise I have a few reservations/questions/perhaps disagreements:

1. Page 9 – film and play are both claimed to be aural? Is film not more visual?
2. In what points exactly does the thesis coincide with or depart from in its readings from the book by Patrick Cook?
3. Both Olivier’s and Zeffirelli’s adaptations rely on an Oedipal reading of the play. Do they differ in any way in their rendering of this? It is not presented clearly in the thesis.
4. The formal and stylistic qualities improve as the thesis progresses. Yet, a more careful proofreading would have been desirable. Olivier is Laurence, not Lawrence (it is strange that in the drafts submitted to me in July the spelling was correct). Jorgens has a typology, not a topology. Not to mention the Czech abstract.

To conclude, the thesis displays a keen enthusiasm for the topic. It has logical organization and develops an argument. Language and style is fluent, in register quite appropriate, yet there are mistakes and typos. The student has moved in her work on the thesis from a popular review style to a much more academically minded discourse and often presents informative readings of the film adaptations. That is to say – in form and content, the text meets the requirements for a BA thesis. I find the submitted thesis fully in keeping with the standards. I recommend it for defence with the preliminary suggested grade of very good (velmi dobře).

V Praze dne 12.8.2015

PhDr. Soňa Nováková, CSc. M.A.