Abstract

The diploma thesis The depiction of the Watergate scandal in the movies: Comparison of feature films and documentaries focuses on portrayal of journalists and the Watergate scandal on film. It illustrates this on examples of specific feature films and documentaries, which have been made about this topic. These particular movies are All the President's Men (1976), Frost/Nixon (2008), Watergate (2018), Our Nixon (2013) a Nixon by Nixon: In His Own Words (2014). In the first part of the thesis summarises the general history of the portrayal of journalists and media on film. It also contains the introduction of the key players in the Watergate scandal, which are Richard Nixon, Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein. Furthermore, this part also describes the history of the newspaper The Washington Post and the Watergate scandal itself. The next part focuses on defining the basic terms used in the thesis, such as for example feature film, documentary, investigative journalist etc. The third and the last part, then concentrates on comparing and analysing the six aforementioned chosen films with the help of comparative method, which should lead to the final results. The primary question, in which this thesis focuses, is how (and if) the portrayal of the Watergate scandal differentiates in feature films and documentaries. All of this six selected movies portrays the same subject and focuses on similar topics, but in different ways, the feature films usually have more creative freedom, whereas the documentaries tend to be more factual and detail oriented. Moreover the thesis also tries to illustrate how the journalists of this particular period, which is important to research, because it was important for the development of this profession, are portrayed on film