

## Michal Sičák's M.A. thesis – report written by the opponent

Mr. Sičák's M.A. thesis revolves around myth, ritual and identity of the postmodern man in selected plays by Sam Shepard and David Mamet. This being the case, his argument is primarily based on the so-called performance theory, and occasionally touches upon anthropology as well. Such a clearly defined focus is then extremely beneficial for the actual detailed analysis.

Having said that, what I lack is a persuasive justification as to the choice of primary texts. From time to time, other dramas are mentioned as well (e.g. *Fool for Love* and *True West* on p. 46, or *Oleanna* on p. 20), and it seems to me that they could be easily analysed here as well. So, the question arises: why exactly *La Turista* and *The Tooth of the Crime*, and *Edmond* and *Glengarry Glen Ross*?

Then, I have some minor questions. On p. 27, Mr. Sičák says „at one point or another“ – since he is producing an academic text, could he be more precise and specify those points at least in the form of examples? 2. On p. 21, he says „referring to Shoshana Felman“, which is not satisfying either – what exactly is the reference to? 3. On p.8, he is talking about Albee in the inter-war period and in the 1950s on Broadway – while the inter-war period is clearly nonsense, I would question even the 1950s, and would want Mr. Sičák to do a detailed research here, and present the results during the actual exam.

Finally, I feel obliged to comment on Mr. Sičák's writing skills. In my opinion, he should get rid of the excessive use of „however“ and „nevertheless“ (see e.g. p. 13) – it is certainly possible to establish closer, e.i. more persuasive connections between the individual sentences and thoughts, and thus to improve the whole argument. And one additional question, clearly not relevant to Mr. Sičák's focus (and I admit that I am asking just out of interest): since Mamet is clearly also a Jewish writer, would it be possible to see the relationship between teacher and student (or mentor and disciple) in that light (see p. 54, dealing with the relationship between Edmond and Glenna)?

Depending on the report written by the supervisor and Mr. Sičák's performance during the oral defense, I am suggesting the following grade: velmi dobře/very good/B.

Dr. Hana Ulmanová

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