

*" ... You can fool all the people some of the time, and some of the people all the time, but you cannot fool all the people all the time..."*

Abraham Lincoln ( 1809 – 1865 )

FACTS AND FICTION- ARCHIVAL FOOTAGE

HISTORICAL EVENTS AND TELEVISION AND FILM PRODUCTIONS

Media Archeology

Movies and television productions are released and transmitted each year dealing with historical events or public personalities like politicians , military leaders, revolutionaries, and people with a record of special achievements.

The aim of my presentation is to make you aware of different possibilities in reusing archival footage in movies. It is my intention to inform you about the importance of the audiovisual archives and how to reuse transmitted programmes or real shots of life in new productions.

It is not my intention to evaluate real shots in historical movies and to report about facts and fiction in those films. The subject is dealt with in the book called: PAST IMPERFECT. History According to the Movies. 1995, and my own paper on the same subject: HISTORY AND MOVIES: An evaluation of the information of historical events, of international known personalities and of famous sites and buildings describes in movies. External links:

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Television companies should be proud of their collections of transmitted programmes.

Because I have worked for television archive for about 29 years I have viewed a lot of television programmes and movies. Some years ago I started to question the reuse of transmitted television programmes and also the active reuse of news in new productions.

I was surprised to see that the use of real shots are more common than I was aware of. The use of reconstructions of historical events is a must to make a documentary about actions taken place before the invention of photos, moving images, television and radio and movies. The reconstruction of a well-known event has to be as realistic as possible. I think we all may agree on the demand for a true description of what went on. To my surprise I see that fictions and facts and the use of equipments of the time the event took place are not correct. For those who are interested in old equipments expect to see the correct use of the tool in the film.

## REUSE OF RADIONEWS, STILLS AND EQUIPMENTS- ARCHIVAL FOOTAGE

Let me give you an example: The Norwegian soldiers in 1940 used the Norwegian made rifle called "The Krag-Jørgensen rifle". Let me show you a reconstruction of an important military action in 1940 in Norway to prevent the Germans to capture the Royal Norwegian family and the government. You will see a photo of Vidkun Quisling ( 1887-1945). The voice you are hearing is the real voice of Vidkun Quisling. It is a historical speech given by Vidkun Quisling to the Norwegian people after having occupied the Norwegian radio station situated in Oslo in 1940.

At Midtskogen- a site not far from Oslo , the capital of Norway - a reconstructed battle takes place. You will see that one soldier is using an American rifle called " M1 Garand rifle ". A small detailed to most of you - but an irritation to those who work with military history.

## MOVIES: FACTS, FICTION AND DRAMA – SELECTION POLICY

The issue of using real shots in movies was brought to my attention when I was watching an American movie called " The Hunters " during a short stay in the city of Trondheim on duty. I was watching tv in my hotel room in the evening and I was surprised to discover that an explosion of an aircraft was not the same aircraft shown earlier in the movie. I could not forget the film. Finally I managed to buy a vhs copy of the film in Australia because it was impossible to find the film on the video marked in USA. Viewing of movies in a small room is not what the film is made for. All details are shown and revealed. My intuition was correct. A F-86 Sabre is making an attempt to land at the airfield and it is a F-100 Super Sabre which explodes. The film had used real shots of an accident that took place.

## PRIMARY SOURCES



I made a selection of videos of historical movies of my private collection. The number of titles of my video and DVD collection is about 845. I have viewed a lot of films searching for real shots. Films dealing with wars and political issues were my first target for searching but also drama and fictions were examined.

### THE AIM

My aim for the searching was to find out if the use of real shots in movies was just an isolated action made by some film producers? I was surprised to see that real shots are used in movies often. It is not a strange idea made in secret by some filmmakers.

Let us take look at the titles of the movies and the year of productions where you will find real shots hidden between fiction and drama :

THE TITLE	THE YEAR OF PRODUCTION
Casablanca	1942
Objective, Burma !	1945
Zakazane Piosenski (Polish feature)	1946
The Desert Fox	1951
The Snow on Kilimanjaro	1952
Malta Story	1953
The Glenn Millar Story	1953
Retreat Hell	1954
The Unknown Soldier (Tuntematon Sotilas )	1955
Reach for the Sky	1956
KONTAKT	1956
The Hunters	1958
The Young Lions	1958
The Naked and The Death	1958
The Heroes of Telemark	1965
Un homme et une femme ( A Man and a Woman)	1966
Soylent Green	1973
Coming Home	1978
From Hell to Victory	1979
Robert Kennedy and his Times (part1.part2)	1984
Forbidden	
The movie tells the tale of a wealthy German countness who hid her Jewish boyfriend in World War II	1984
LBJ: The Early Years	1987
Walker	
The life story of William Walker, an American adventurer who invated Mexico in 1850s and made himself President of Nicaragua	1987

Onassis: The Richest Man in the World (TV) (2 episodes)	1988
Mississippi Burning Two FBI agents arrive in Mississippi to investigate the disappearance of civil rights activists. The year is 1964	1988
Pancho Barnes Movie portray of the pioneering female aviator Florence "Pancho" Lowe Barnes(1901-1975)	1988
Hemingway (Part 2)	1988
Scandal	1989
The Legendary Life of Ernest Hemingway	1989
Margaret Bourke-White	1989
The Kennedys of Massachusetts (Part I,II,III)	1989
Patton The story of General George Patton's commands during the World War II	1989
Bethune: The making of a Hero Based on the true story of the Canadian doctor Norman Bethune (1890-1939)	1990
One against the Wind (I ørnens skugga) The story of Countess Mary Lindell who helped allies in occupied France during World War II	1991
L' Accompagnatrice	1992
Citizen Cohn	1992
Ruby	1992
Marilyn & Bobby: Her Final Affair A fictional account of the alleged romantic relationship between Marilyn Monroe and Robert Kennedy	1993

Nixon	1995
Lust och Fagring stor	1995
Hamsun	1995
Alfred	
The life of the Swedish engineer Aldred Nobel (1833-1896). How he invented dynamite and founded the Nobel Prize	1995
Michael Collins	1996
Raputin	
The story of the Russian mystic Grigori Rasputin and his work for the last Tsar of Russia, Tsar NicholslII	1996
Winchell	1998
The Rat Pack	1998
Holy Smoke	1999
RKO 281 (The Battle Over Citizen Kane)	1999
Thirteen Days	2000
ENIGMA	2000
Pearl Harbor	2001
The Gathering Storm	2002
Live from Bagdad	
The Golf War 1991. About the work of a group od CNN reporters	2002
The Pentagon Papers	2003
IKE – Countdown to D-Day	2004
Head in the Clouds (Juegos de Mujer )	2004
Good Night, And, Good Luck	
A film enacting broadcast journalist Edward R. Murrow’s televised criticisms of the Joseph McCarthy hearings of 1953 –54	2005

## THE REAL SHOTS: THE SUBJECTS SELECTED

Real life document – dramas

It is not my intention to give you a detailed description of the reuse of real shots used in all the movies listed above. But let us evaluate some of the films.

The Norwegian movie called: "KONTAKT" was produced in year 1956. The film is based on the story of the Norwegian pilot and agent Oluf Reed Olsen. He went to Canada for pilot education and later on he was trained for secret agent work in Norway. The film starts with German news. Hitler is speaking and we watch real shots from the Second World War. The real shots and fiction is mixed together. Nils R. Muller made the film. I asked him about the use of fiction and real shots two weeks before he died in 2007. It was no philosophy about the use of real shot. The audience accepted the use and so we did it – that is all.

The movie called: "Holy Smoke" was produced in 1999. It is a film about the meaning of life. Religion is a topic in the movie. A young lady is searching for the meaning of life. Her family makes an attempt to get her out of the influence of the religion of a certain group in India. Real shots about different societies of religions are shown as tv programme to tell the girl about the danger of the religion. A list of filmarchives is published at the end of the film. The producer has made no secret about using archival materials.

Events selected to be described by using real shots are mostly news. When Paris is occupied by the Germans in 1940, the information about the fall of Paris is told by using radio news and excerpts from news reels. In movies about wars, you find real shots from the battlefields like the movie called "The Desert Fox" and in "The Naked and The Death".

The filmmaker Oliver Stone is even making a further use of the real shots: He makes a mixture of facts and fiction within the real film in his movie about the late American president Richard M. Nixon.

In some movies the news – archive footage - are used to give you a correct and realistic picture of the time and of the events described in the movie. Take a look at the film about the late American president Lyndon B. Johnson. In LBJ: The Early Years American newsreels are used to tell you about the political situation in USA when Johnson was fighting for his political life. The killing of president John F. Kennedy is presented by using the real shots from Dallas where he was killed and then later the scene is gradually changing into drama and fiction.

The making of a mixture of fiction and real shots is also used in the movie called "IKE – Countdown to D-Day". The story is about the allied invasion of Europe in 1944 and about general Dwight D. Eisenhower.

In the film called "The Hunters" excellent shots of the fighter plane Sabre is used and also a real shot of an accident called "Sabre dance".

In the film called "Soylent Green" archival footage of the fjords of Norway and Norwegian classical music are used to describe how life used to be. The American actor Edward G. Robinson is playing a death scene and the archival footage is used to describe a better life.

The famous shots of the forty-fifth birthday of President John F. Kennedy at Madison Square Garden, May 19, 1962 where Marilyn Monroe sings "Happy Birthday, Mr. President" is used in the movie called "Marilyn & Bobby: Her Final Affair". (1993).

President John F. Kennedy gave a speech on television to the American people after the conflict between USA and Cuba in 1961. Excerpts of the television news of Kennedy is used in the movie about Ernest Hemingway released in 1988. The archival footage is spliced into the film to tell you some of the reasons why Hemingway left Cuba after having lived on the island for many years.

Some filmmakers have edited the film in a way so that you cannot say when the real shots are used and when fiction is used. This takes place also by presenting the events with the use of historical photos. In the movie: "The Big Brass Ring", 1998, photos have been changed by adding an actor to the photos.

Combat footage is used in the film called: "Reach for the Sky" about the Battle of Britain. (1940). The film splices actual RAF WWII combat footage with fiction. The use of combat footage in air battle is mentioned by viewers later on with a positive approach to the issue of using real life shots.

The movie called "Walker" is using archival footage in a special way. At the end of the film the archival footage is added to the film to show that the American military policy of Latin America has not changed after 1850. The film is a historical film about William Walker who invaded Mexico and later made himself President of Nicaragua. The American policy of President Ronald Reagan is presented by archival footage at the end of the film. The film makes a move from 1850s to 1980s.

#### COPYRIGHT

On the credit list for movies produced during the last 20 years you will see that the names of the film archives used are on the list. RKO 281 (The Battle over Citizen Kane) was released in 1999. Director Richard T. Heffron uses news footage of the World War II in his film called "Pancho Barnes" produced in 1988. The credit list of RKO 281 published informs you of the names of searchers for archival

footage and the names of the archives is also on the credit list. Movies made earlier do not mention the archival footage at all and not the names of the archives or the professional researchers who had selected the shots to be presented in the movie.

## CONCLUSION

Those of you who are working in audiovisual archives of television companies or corporations are asked why you keep all the programmes transmitted? Why not make a strict selection of the collection for future use? The old programmes have no value. Let us get rid of the old stuff. I disagree. I even disagree asking the question. I have showed you that even famous movies are using archival footage to make the story a good one. This means that you can return to the movies to find historical films of a time passed and lost. It is also thrilling to do searching for forgotten films by viewing movies. I think we are now approaching what Pelle Snickars, Swedish National Archive of Recorded Sound and Moving Images and Professor Jan Olsson, Stockholm University, Sweden are calling: "Media Archeology" ? The collections of archival footage of news and home films and videos - non movies – stored in Film Institutes worldwide need to be evaluated as an important part of the collections of the institutes.

The majority of the archival footage used in movies is news. Information about events of the Second World War is dominating the subject among shots used. The story about the American Senator McCarthy and his struggle against communists in USA is also a subject dealt with in movies like: Good Night, and Good Bye, Winchell and Citizen Cohn. Real shots from the television transmissions of the programmes are used.( The official hunt for so-called communists in USA is also dealt with in the film: Robert Kennedy and his Times. No archival footage from the events is used but professional actors and reconstructed television news about the official meetings ). Archival footage is used in the movie called The Kennedys of Massachusetts to tell about the social and political changes of USA and the world in connection with the story of the Kennedy family.

What about public speeches of official persons? Speeches made by politicians are also used to tell you about the time presented in the movie. Excerpts of speeches given by Winston S. Churchill during World War II are used in the movie called " One against the Wind ".

What about the future and archival footage and real shots? In the digital world you may make a good reconstruction of any event. Anyway , American soldiers are equipped with a small camera placed on the helmet to shot the real action. What about the shots stored in the military audiovisual archives? Archival footage for sale in future to be published in new movies? The camera can take pictures for at least an hour. The cost of the camera is about NOK 1.200.- and the weight is about 200 gram using 32 MB secure digital card.

Television stations in The Baltic countries should be proud of the collections of transmitted television programmes. The challenge is to make it possible to reuse the programmes making new programmes or making a movie where the content is real not fiction but also a mixture of drama, real shots and fiction. Those who are working with university studies should also profit from this policy. Take care of your collections.

Tedd Urnes

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