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The Leonard Lopate Show / August 18, 2009 / Projections: Journalism on Film

Projections: Journalism on Film

Tuesday, August 18, 2009

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We take a look at how journalism and reporters have been depicted on film over the decades with Professor Joe Saltzman, director of the Image of the Journalist in Popular Culture Project, and New York Times film critic Dave Kehr.

The four films we'll be discussing are "His Girl Friday," "Ace in the Hole," "Network," and "Good Night, and Good Luck."

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[1] Sandra from Astoria, Queens August 18, 2009 - 01:15PM

"Network" is so great! I really loved David Fincher's "Zodiac" from a couple years ago. It's all about journalistic information-gathering and is closer to "All the President's Men" than any typical movie about serial killers. Plus Robert Downey Jr. was brilliant (as usual) as reporter Paul Avery.

[2] tom from ny August 18, 2009 - 01:39PM

please no spoilers!! ok - we're all entitled to our opinions. i happen to think ace in the hole was a very good film but do understand that film buffs don't always like what i like. what i don't understand is why the buffs love to ruin the ending.

[3] steve m from jersey city, nj August 18, 2009 - 01:43PM

what does moral balance have to do with a movie being good or bad? whether 'ace in the hole' is too cynical has nothing to do with whether or not it's a good movie. i'm enough of a pollyanna so as to think the story shown in 'ace in the hole' is a pretty ridiculous exaggeration of the real world, but it's still a hugely entertaining film. i don't need for films to match my own viewpoints or mirror my belief systems.

and now we're getting the usual praise for the perennially over-rated sam fuller. i guess his work must have the "moral balance" that's missing from mean old billy wilder's 'ace in the hole'. we'll ignore what a clunky ham-fisted moralizer fuller was.

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[4] tom from qns Which of these films actually depicts the craft of journalism most accurately?
 August 18, 2009 - 01:46PM

[5] Joe Saltzman from USC Annenberg - Los Angeles Tom: "Call Northside 777" is a good film depicting the hard work of the journalist to free an innocent man accused of killing a policeman. "All the President's Men" shows some of the hard work journalists go through to verify a story.
 August 18, 2009 - 02:07PM

[6] Joe Saltzman from USC Annenberg - Los Angeles If anyone is interested in this subject, you might be interested in The Image of the Journalist in Popular Culture (IJPC) website at ijpc.org
 August 18, 2009 - 02:08PM

[7] Steve Brand from NYC Error alert:
 August 18, 2009 - 06:33PM
 Howard Hawks' "His Girl Friday" was a remake of Lewis Milestone's 1930 "The Front Page" with Adolph Menjou in the Walter Burns part. So it was the original movie (which was a Broadway show before that) that had two guys in the reporter/editor roles. It was Hawks who switched it to male editor and female reporter. Billy Wilder switched it back to the original version for his remake of the remake.

[8] Steve Brand from NYC oops, pls ignore previous comment.....tuned in late and thought His Girl Friday was being described as the original version....actually one of your commentators misspoke and said Hildy was a woman in the original, but this was after it was clearly set up that it was the other way around (which I discovered once I listened to the beginning of your segment).
 August 18, 2009 - 06:46PM
 So, in the words of Gilda Radner....."never mind."

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