Aesthetics of Early Sound Film Revisited: Hybrid Films Between Silent and Sound

International Conference
University of Zurich, Department of Film Studies, in collaboration with Tsuru University
September 14–16, 2023

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

17:00 Welcome Cocktail
Felix Bar (Kalkbreitestrasse 8, 8003 Zürich)

18:15 Conference opening
Uto-Kino (Kalkbreitestrasse 3, 8004 Zürich)

Film programme:
UND NELSON SPIELT ... EINE TONFILM-SCHLAGER-REVUE
(Germany 1929, Hans Conradi, 13 min, DCP)

DELIKATESSEN (Germany 1930, Géza von Bolváry, 82 min, 35mm)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

Filmpodium (Nüschelerstrasse 11, 8001 Zürich)

9:00 Johan Nordström (Tsuru University) and Daniel Wiegand (Universität Zürich)
Introduction

9:30 Part-Talkies
Michael Slowik (Wesleyan University)
“It Comes Right from the Heart”: How Hollywood’s Part-Talkies Sold Sound to Audiences

Daniel Wiegand (Universität Zürich)
Now You Hear Them, Now You Don’t:
Throwing the Lever from Silent to Sound in Global Part-Talkies

10:45 Coffee Break

11:15 China
Nadine Vafi (Universität Zürich)
Modern Shanghai and Political Noise:
Urban Soundscape in Xiling Shen's SHI ZI JIE TOU (1937)

Xiaoxian Ye (Shanghai University of Engineering Science)
Female Images as Urban Imagination at the Emergence of Chinese Sound Films

12:30 Lunch
13:45  Reception Contexts
Maria Adorno (Universität zu Köln, Università di Udine, Université Lumière Lyon 2)
Multiple hybrids around 1930: from ‘silenced films’ to ‘300% talkies’

Jessica Berry (Universität Zürich)
The Reception of Hybrid Forms in Swiss Film Criticism

Selina Hangartner (Universität Zürich)
Calling Them by Our Names? Contingent Phenomena and German Part-Talkies in 1929

15:30  Coffee

16:00  Keynote:
Donald Crafton (University of Notre Dame)
Colonizing and De-colonizing the Hybrid Soundscape: WHITE SHADOWS IN THE SOUTH SEAS
(MGM, 1928)

17:15  Coffee

18:00  Film Screening
WHITE SHADOWS ON THE SOUTH SEAS (USA 1928, W. S. Van Dyke, c. 86 min, 35mm)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16
Filmpodium (Nüschelerstrasse 11, 8001 Zürich)

9:00  Germany / Great Britain
Tobias Schönrock (Universität Zürich)
“Not the actor is talking, but the scenic atmosphere ‘gets to speak’”!
Sound in Hans Tintner’s Jugendgeliebte (1930)

Andreas Jacke (independent researcher, Berlin)
A silent film with sound or a sound film that goes silent: BLACKMAIL (1929)

10:00  Coffee

10:20  Japan I
Johan Nordström (Tsuru University)
Aesthetics of the Japanese Sound-version

Adrian Wood (independent researcher, Fukuoka)
NIPPON (1932): The Quintessential Hybrid Film
(including screening of archival film material)

12:00  Lunch

13:15  Japan II / Dreyer
Kerstin Fooken (Universität Hamburg)
Hybrid Aesthetics in ‘Record-Talkies’ as Home Entertainment during Japan’s Transition from Silent to Sound Film

Casper Tybjerg (University of Copenhagen)
‘Die Gespenster buchstabieren’: Sound and Unlife in Dreyer’s VAMPIR (1932)
14:30 Coffee

15:00 Film Screening
   VAMPYR (Germany/France 1932, Carl Theodor Dreyer, 73 min, DCP)
   Introduction: Casper Tybjerg (University of Copenhagen)

16:30 Conclusion to the Conference and Book Launch
   “Aesthetics of Early Sound Film: Media Change around 1930”
   (Amsterdam University Press 2023)

17:15 Apéro

Conference organizers: Daniel Wiegand, Johan Nordström, Tobias Schönrock

Detailed information on the keynote lectures and film screenings organized in collaboration with Filmpodium Zürich, can be found here: https://www.filmpodium.ch/reihen-uebersicht/57997/