

An exploration of the ways in which pedagogy is represented through film and how notions of pedagogy can be discussed and challenged by engagement with dramatic representations of teaching, learning, knowledge and understanding

Dr Andrew Lambirth and Dr Ken Fox
Departments of Primary Education and Media

Background

The researchers share a passion for film and pedagogy. They were interested in making an intervention into the ways in which students of film and student teachers conceptualise pedagogy represented in film, while seeking to establish the importance of film as a vehicle for discourse, debate, research and learning about the process of education in its multiple forms. The use of film narrative as a source of learning about educational processes adds to a growing repertoire of multi-modal models of knowledge transfer activities in both Faculties.

Approach/methodology

The pilot stage of the project involved showing the film *School of Rock* (Linklater, 2005) which dealt with the theme of pedagogy, after an introduction setting out the project. There was a discussion after the film, which was supported by a discussion board on the course virtual learning environment (VLE) sites where those who saw the film could continue or initiate discussion.

Those who took part in the screening and discussion were asked to research and suggest other films. This led to a twice termly screening over the next 18 months, covering a range of fiction film and documentary that included: *Etre et Avoir* (Philibert, 2003), *If...* (Anderson, 1969) and *Happy Go Lucky* (Leigh, 2008).

Students were encouraged to include reflective writing on the films as part of their reflective journals or professional development planning (PDP).

Outcomes

Up to 70 students (and staff) came to the films.

There was no formal evaluation but the researchers collected the comments made by students.

Although Education students might be shown clips of films as part of their programme, this was an opportunity for them to see a relevant film in its entirety and then discuss it with others. Students from both Faculties were able to benefit from hearing different views and perspectives.

As a number of Radio/Film/TV and Media students go on to do a primary or secondary PGCE, this gave them an introduction to some education issues and students.

The researchers worked together on a presentation for a teacher education conference in Carlisle. They also arranged their own conference for PGCE and English Language specialists around literacy and film making. Dr. Ken Fox contributed to a TeachersTV.com programme on favourite school movies and provided an introduction for the screening of *The Fox and the Child* at the Odeon Cinema, Canterbury, during Film in Schools Week.

The external review of the Primary Education Department thought that Primary working together with the Department of Media was a very positive development.

Reflections and any future plans

Following on from this project the researchers developed a module on film and education for Year 3 Education Studies students. They are hoping to develop Masters level modules.

Contact for further information:
kenneth.fox@canterbury.ac.uk

Film & Pedagogy

UKLA Film & Pedagogy & Research Informed Learning Initiative from the Department of Media and the Department of Primary Education

The United Kingdom Literacy Association & Canterbury Christ Church University Presents **Writing with Film**

A practical Literacy conference for Primary Teachers/ Literacy Coordinators/LEA advisors/TAs/PGCEs

Saturday 6th June 2009 9:30am - 3:15pm **By Ticket Only Seats are limited**

Keynote Speaker **Cary Bazalgette** (freelance writer and journalist)

The conference will offer a choice of practical workshops for primary schools focusing on film to create narratives that will inspire learning in literacy - links well to The Primary National Strategy's twelve strands.

Venue: Powell Lecture Theatre, Canterbury Christ Church University, North Holmes Road, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 1QU

Date: Saturday, 6th June 2009, 9:30am - 3:15pm. Lunch included in price. An Education UKLA Bookshop will be open at the conference.

Tickets: £10 or £5 for students, application details below. **Entrance by pre-purchased ticket only, no tickets available for purchase at the door.**

Search are limited, please send or hand in applications by May 11th 2009 to: Andrew Lambirth, Canterbury Christ Church University, Faculty of Education, North Holmes Road, Canterbury, Kent CT1 1QU. Contact e-mail: andrew.lambirth@canterbury.ac.uk. Please specify how many tickets you will require at £10 each or £5 for students.

Payment by cheque only, do not send cash. Cheques must be made payable to Canterbury Christ Church University. Don't forget to include your name and address for return of your ticket, alternatively they can be collected at the door (please specify). You may also wish to include an e-mail address or phone number in case we need to contact you.