Path (o) s of Mourning. Memory, Death and the Invisible Body in Derek Jarman’s Blue

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Abstract

The essay addresses two quite complex issues. The first one is the virulence of the hostility toward gay men that the AIDS pandemic has released: this is the backdrop against which Jarman’s extended elaboration and mourning for his own death is performed, after his diagnosis as body-positive in 1986. The second issue links to the open question of public mourning and its relation to AIDS in the early 90s, when the AIDS epidemic is not at its height, but it is certainly more visible than before, and many artists register the impact of the new sensibility this medical and social emergency actually moulds. Considering a specific time span (the 90s) and focusing mostly on cinema a strategic, privileged arena where gay cultures resist to social and cultural sanctions, this work elaborates on how AIDS as a deathly social and cultural destiny has suggested strategies of mournings that introduce new artistic practices. The analysis is specifically focused on Derek Jarman’s last works, culminating in the film Blue (1993).

Parole chiave
Derek Jarman, AIDS, Blue, path, pathos, Stonewall, GRID, political resistance

Full Text

PDF

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Jarman offers his insights on life, love, disease, the meaning of art, and the symbology of the color blue over a blue screen. Derek Jarman's filmic essay on his own blindness and impending death is a monochromatic elegy to a director's loss of vision. Aug 1, 2007 | Full Review… Anton Bitel. Film4. View All Critic Reviews (5). Audience Reviews for Blue. ½.

Jarman's masterpiece was always going to attract a lazy criticism from the mainstream mindset: pretentious, trendy, self-indulgent etc. But to dismiss it out of hand as no better than a first year art student's project is to fail to appreciate the rich narrative. The coldness of the blue focusses the mind on what Jarman has to tell us, perhaps fa "Good Mourning" is the first episode of the sixth season of the American television medical drama Grey's Anatomy, and the show's 103rd episode overall. It was written by Krista Vernoff and directed by Ed Ornelas. The episode was originally broadcast on the American Broadcasting Company (ABC) in the United States on September 24, 2009. In "Good Mourning", the physicians are seen dealing with the revelation that a dead John Doe is their beloved co-worker Dr. George O'Malley (T.R. Knight), and dealing Invisible Death. Hidden In The Clouds Floating In The Air Invisible Bringer Of Death Death Of Human Population. Hidden In Cold Winds Drifting Through The Landscape Freezing Death Breath Of Lethal Power. Breath Of Life Turns Into Breath Of Death Last Bits Of Life Force Grasped By Eternal Darkness. Fields Of Corpses Cities Of Death Grotesques Results Of Deadly Disease. Terror Of Invisible Death Deserted Civilization Centuries Backwards Landmarks Of Mans Evolution. Growing Knowledge Growing Body Count Lethal Winds Landmark Of Mans Evolution.