

## Document Citation

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Embarrassed by having to mention a number of things for those who cannot understand Straub's German films.

Sound films and the dialogue is spoken in German. Important because most of the sound films today are not sound films, but silent films with added dialogue. and sound effects.

Only called sound by a general agreement.

In S/f films, the sound effects (there are not effects), the dialogue and the music are as important as the image.

the sound is no illustration of the picture and the picture no illustration of the sound. sound and image form an entity.

He has pushed his films to such an extreme that if you take away anything, you have nothing.

This applies not only to the sound, the cutting and the length of the sequences.

color etc.

the problem is therefore that most of his viewers won't see the film as an entity because of sub-titles. Except with Bach. But that raises issue of translation. Extremeist argument, read and listen only to languages that one can understand. because every trans. is a betrayal. scientific articles as much as everyday stuff. translations are sedative.

important films are always multilayered.

Straub's films are open to the viewer, and really militant statements against what I would call the mediocre attitude of most knowledgeable film buffs.

3 important things important about his films:

1. political impact. political man, which means that he has to fight if he wants things to change. So, since he is also a purposeful man, his films are political films, ~~therefore~~ they are weapons in his struggle for change.

Argument about the Bach films being his contribution to the Vietnam war.

2. simplicity. film needs immediate recognition by the audience.

detachment of people is misunderstanding of what he is after. Fascination, touches people, it depends on fascination and it is the contrary of detachment.

Since film needs this spontaneous acknowledgement, it cannot be too complicated not too long.

the subject, the moral and whatever the filmmakers wants his audience to get, has to be simple enough, and in a much shorter time than if the same person were to read an article.



so, the most important thing about his films is that there is a very deep and thinking man presenting his view of things in the simplest possible way to the people.

Simplicity triumphs.

Machorka Muff and Nicht Versonht, for., if you stare very hard you can see through the screen, like a watercolour painting, where you see the paper.

If you take one small detail away, the whole thing crumbles under your fingers.

Everything that is not necessary has been cut out.

3. Honesty: all 4 films recorded with direct sound, still a startling thing to do in 1961.

He wanted direct sound (had not heard of Leacock, Pennebaker films. but knew and loved Renoir and Flaherty.

QUOTE ABOUT RENOIR'S FILMS.

I This sound of the first talkies is for me the best of all existing ~~films~~ sound in films. A film like Man of Aran was something that impressed me most then.

And Toni, and La chienne. La voix humaine, or miracolo by Rossellini. In la Voix Humaine you can hear the dolly. That's beautiful. But you should pursue the idea systematically, like some bloody intellectual would say: "I'm going to let the audience hear the noise of the dolly, so that they realize that they are seeing a movie.

If you are ever going to get it on the sound, then you are not allowed to deceive.

Beside the fact that he thinks boring to film people moving around without at the same time recording the sound, it is a matter of honesty for him.

Language is the most important means of communication. Therefore he treats very carefully, not an obsession, but a necessity.

honest. Gustav Leonhardt. does not want to deceive the public or the people working with him.

Stratling also is the fact that St. comes so near to the audience because he treats them as equals and not as an unknown group of people who paid to be entertained.

But asks for their willingness to get involved

argument about films made for people who don't make up their mind before seeing the film.

he knows "that under capitalism... the means of production and the apparatus of distribution' are controlled by private owners who run them at their discretion driven by an urge for profit. Hence his anarchistic way of making films.

revolutionary

Quote by Chaplin and ends by saying that he is the only filmmaker to have worked in Germany since the 30's