

Reflective Essay

My film, “The Routine” was a final project assignment for my AMD 122: Survey of World Cinema Course taught by Kristine Diekman. There were many films throughout this course that my class watched and researched using the library's databases. Through my research, class discussions, and watching the different films I was inspired to make a neorealist film as these films touch on larger social issues within our society. My film inspirations were Italian filmmakers Roberto Rossellini and Vittorio and Paolo Taviani as they were both highly successful and influential Italian neorealist filmmakers that I researched and learned about in my class. I watched and studied several of their films including *Rome, Open City, and Paisan*, by Rossellini and *The Night of the Shooting Stars*, by the Taviani brothers. All films were located and watched through the library database.

My research on neorealism and understanding different film techniques and movements wouldn't have been possible without access to the library's databases. I utilized the library reserves for my AMD class, and the library website using the “Books & More” and the “OneSearch” tabs to conduct my research on neorealism and Rossellini's and the Taviani brothers films. I watched these neorealist films assigned by my professor and did additional exploration through researching and analyzing neorealist films which allowed me to obtain a better understanding of the historical and cultural significance of them. Through this, I was able to make my project come to fruition and apply the techniques researched into a real film of my own creation with a story based around my lived experiences during the pandemic. Social commentary is a key part of neorealism, and this film classification gave me the opportunity to share my COVID-19 story.

Scholarly research is an essential part of a college education and having the opportunity to create my own scholarly work and research for this university and under a faculty member is an amazing opportunity. Academia provides the space for students to find and create new information to share with their faculty, peers, and community and at the same time, this process enriches the university and students' educational experience. I look to my professors who have vast knowledge and expertise in their field to provide me with feedback on my projects and research assignments to make me a better scholar. Conducting research under my faculty and then getting this feedback makes me a better scholar as I am still learning and will be continually learning throughout my academic career and beyond. Research is an amazing tool because it allows me to actually apply the knowledge I am learning and dig deeper into the fine details and deeper meaning behind things.

Scholarly research and creating this creative work also put me in contact with different perspectives that I may have not come across otherwise. The research process makes me a better critical thinker and a better learner overall. Being open-minded to new ideas that may or may not change your opinion is important. All research associated with AMD 122: Survey of World Cinema put me in the position to be open-minded as I had seen very few international films before this class, and hadn't considered them on par with American films. However, I kept an open mind and was proven greatly wrong as these films were equally as good if not better in many aesthetic and technical regards.

Through my research methods, I took a diverse approach as I used the films as a source of information but also did additional research through reading scholarly articles to understand neorealism's influence on society and history. This helped me to obtain a clearer understanding of how to make an impactful film of my own. Incorporating other resource types other than films

into my research allowed me to widen my perspective as well. The library and its wonderful open resources allowed me to do the necessary research to create my creative works and now share it with this review committee.

Bibliography

- De Negri, Giuliani G, et al. *The Night of the Shooting Stars: La Notte Di San Lorenzo*, 1982, https://csusm-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/f/1905vc/01CALS_ALMA993687613402902.
- Gottlieb, Sidney. Roberto Rossellini's *Rome Open City*. Cambridge University Press, 2004, <https://hdl-handle-net.ezproxy.csusm.edu/2027/heb.07655>.
- Gundle, Stephen. *Fame Amid the Ruins*. 1st ed., Berghahn Books, 2019, https://csusm-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/f/17n5p6l/TN_cdi_askewsholts_vlebooks_9781789200027.
- Rossellini, Roberto, and Kanopy. *Paisan*. Kanopy Streaming, 2016, https://csusm-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/f/131fg3/01CALS_ALMA99900437434101672.
- Rossellini, Roberto, et al. *Rome Open City*. Kanopy Streaming, 2014, https://csusm-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/f/131fg3/01CALS_ALMA99900436261601672.
- Vojkovic, Sasa. "The Humanist Vision in Neorealist Films: The Circularity of Influences in World Cinema." *Interdisciplinary Description of Complex Systems*, vol. 17, no. 2, 2019, pp. 282–293, <http://dx.doi.org/10.7906/indexs.17.2.5>.