

Karolina Vera and Jen Vander Els

Looney Tunes openings plays

Introduction of Hosts:

Welcome our podcast, Nature in film. With Jen and Karolina

In our class, 10 ways to Know Nature, we discuss how people understand nature through various methods. Learning about nature through film can be very informative, but also very manipulative. The cameramen, editors and directors can pick and choose what to show their audience. Despite this fact, films are very popular, as people enjoy being taken away from reality and transported to the movies world.

All films portray nature with their own bias, they show their audience how to view nature in a specific manner. For Example Disney tends to show nature as proof of their own ideal american family. And studio Ghibli shows the destruction of nature as inherently evil. WALL-E and Avatar show the potential devastation of viewing nature as artifact. Planet Earth presents the idea of living in harmony with the sublimity of nature.

In Meinig's "Ten versions of the same scene" he covers ten different ways of understanding the same landscape, such as artifact, habitat, or ideology. Landscape as artifact is an egotistical way to view nature; saying that nature is made as a tool for humans. Habitat is one which sees the environment and man as equals and that man should be able to take and give back to nature in a harmonious coexistence. Ideology is when humans view nature as representative of an idea, or giving nature an abstract meaning.

WALL-E:

- Wall-e is a movie about humans disrespect for nature and their preoccupation with technology
- The people of earth have to desert the planet because natural life has been choked out by pollution. The humans live on a spaceship, and they lose touch with their own humanity as time goes by. The people become obese and complacent; by destroying the planet they not only killed every living organism, they destroyed what it meant to be human.
- Wall-e shows how this attitude of landscape as artifact is harmful to both our planet and ourselves

Avatar:

- Avatar is essentially a film concerning itself with environmental advocacy and their

main point is that nature will always win.

- In the film the virgin rain forests of Pandora are threatened by wanton exploitation by evil corporate interests that are trying to destroy it all. This is parallel to what is happening now with the Amazon rainforest.
- The indigenous peoples who have much to teach the developed world have a planet which functions as a collective, interconnected Gaia-istic organism. Their way of viewing nature is one that sees it as habitat.
- A character dies for the sole reason that destroying the rainforest for profit is morally and spiritually wrong. This shows us that nature can have an innate value to it apart from its service to man.

Planet Earth:

- Planet Earth is a nature documentary that shows the physical landscape of our planet from all four corners and the animals that live on it.
- Planet Earth was the winner of a the Science and Natural History Award, as it was known for its accuracy in its depiction and its low levels of interference
- The movie shows landscape as nature as well as habitat. People are never shown, which makes the audience feel that nature is sublime, and shows that nature and wildlife are beautiful and amazing. However the narration encourages people to question how they affect what they've been shown.

Disney:

- Disney introduced most of America to nature through film starting in the 1930s.
- They are famous for anthropomorphizing its animal characters in order to make them more relatable to the viewer. This is also done through the incorporation of the traditional 1950s family unit in many Disney films.
- In its nature films, Disney is known to alter the environment and its inhabitants, or edit out scenes that don't fit their intended image.

Studio Ghibli:

- Studio Ghibli began producing movies after the shock of World War II
- They portray the abuse of technology as destructive and evil, whereas nature is good and right.
- Many movies deal with the pollution of earth as the cause of death and destruction, and only reverence for nature can bring any kind of solution
- The animation of the background is far more detailed than that of the actual characters. This allows immersion of the audience, so they connect with the characters environment and ongoing.

Comparison:

Both Disney and Studio Ghibli focus on creating an ideal, and both were influenced by the horrors of World War II. However, while Disney tries to ignore the more ugly truths of the world, studio ghibli calls attention to what can happen if humankind isn't responsible with the environment. Disney inherently portrays nature more as artifact, whereas Studio Ghibli shows nature as Habitat

Karolina: When I think of nature and film I think of The Lion King.

The way it humanizes the animal characters has always captured my attention greatly whenever I watched it as a child and even now.

It in a way it allowed me to see wildlife as relatable to my own experiences and what was familiar to me.

I remember seeing it as a class in the 2nd grade and being fascinated that an animated movie with no humans shown could make me choke up and laugh out loud.

Before this class I hadn't really put much thought into how my view of nature was influenced by movies I had seen.

But now I realize that films, because they are so popular can have a hand in shaping my perspective on how I understand and interact with the environment.

Jen: When I think of nature in film, I remember my favorite childhood movie Totoro.

The characters in the movie had great respect for nature, moving into a house specifically because it was shaded by an ancient tree that was hundreds of years old.

The forest around the house was inhabited by a nature spirit, a totoro, the king of the forest, who guarded it.

If you were respectful to nature the guardian was respectful to you.

I remember placing flowers under all the trees in my backyard, hoping I could have an adventure too.

The class ten ways to know nature helped me understand that some of the ways I perceive nature have been ingrained into me by the films of my childhood, and even the movies i see now.

Conclusion/ Wrap Up:

Wall-e shows us what could happen if humans aren't careful in dealing with the planet. Planet Earth shows us the beauty of our planet and encourages us to search for solutions. Avatar shows that even with our incredible technical advances, humans aren't a permanent fixture and the planet will continue with or without us. Disney allows us to relate to nature on a personal level and even teaches us lessons through nature.

Film is a very active aspect of art. Up next on our radio show, Stephanie and Lauren will explain Nature through art, They explored the galleries and pieces of art in the easton area, and interviewed students on how works of art impacted their view of nature

This was Nature in Films

with Jen

and Karolina.

Thanks for tuning in

and hang around for the rest of our show!

“Thats all folks”