

... You can fool all the people some of the time, and some of the people all the time, but you cannot fool all the people all the time...”
Abraham Lincoln (1809 – 1865)

FACTS AND FICTION- ARCHIVAL FOOTAGE HISTORICAL EVENTS AND TELEVISION AND FILM PRODUCTIONS

Media Archeology

Movies and television productions are released and transmitted each year dealing with historical events or public personalities like politicians , military leaders, revolutionaries, and people with a record of special achievements.

The aim of my presentation is to make you aware of different possibilities in reusing archival footage in movies. It is my intention to inform you about the importance of the audiovisual archives and how to reuse transmitted programmes or real shots of life in new productions.

It is not my intention to evaluate real shots in historical movies and to report about facts and fiction in those films. The subject is dealt with in the book called: PAST IMPERFECT. History According to the Movies. 1995, and my own paper on the same subject: HISTORY AND MOVIES: An evaluation of the information of historical events, of international known personalities and of famous sites and buildings describes in movies.
External links:

(Contact: <http://www.baacouncil.org/> or office@fiatifta.org for copy of the paper)

Television companies should be proud of their collections of transmitted programmes.

Because I have worked for television archive for about 29 years I have viewed a lot of television programmes and movies. Some years ago I started to question the reuse of transmitted television programmes and also the active reuse of news in new productions. I was surprised to see that the use of real shots are more common than I was aware of. The use of reconstructions of historical events is a must to make a documentary about actions taken place before the invention of photos, moving images, television and radio and movies. The reconstruction of a well-known event has to be as realistic as possible. I think we all may agree on the demand for a true description of what went on. To my surprise I see that fictions and facts and the use of equipments of the time the event took place are not correct. For those who are interested in old equipments expect to see the correct use of the tool in the film.

REUSE OF RADIONEWS , STILLS AND EQUIPMENTS- ARCHIVAL FOOTAGE

Let me give you an example: The Norwegian soldiers in 1940 used the Norwegian made rifle called ” The Krag-Jørgensen rifle”. Let me show you a reconstruction of an important military action in 1940 in Norway to prevent the Germans to capture the Royal Norwegian family and the government. You will see a photo of Vidkun Quisling (1887-1945). The voice you are hearing is the real voice of Vidkun Quisling. It is a historical speech given by Vidkun

Quisling to the Norwegian people after having occupied the Norwegian radio station situated in Oslo in 1940.

At Midtskogen- a site not far from Oslo , the capital of Norway - a reconstructed battle takes place.

You will see that one soldier is using an American rifle called " M1 Garand rifle ". A small detail to most of you - but an irritation to those who work with military history.

MOVIES: FACTS, FICTION AND DRAMA – SELECTION POLICY

The issue of using real shots in movies was brought to my attention when I was watching an American movie called " The Hunters " during a short stay in the city of Trondheim on duty. I was watching tv in my hotel room in the evening and I was surprised to discover that an explosion of an aircraft was not the same aircraft shown earlier in the movie. I could not forget the film. Finally I managed to buy a vhs copy of the film in Australia because it was impossible to find the film on the video marked in USA. Viewing of movies in a small room is not what the film is made for. All details are shown and revealed. My intuition was correct. A F-86 Sabre is making an attempt to land at the airfield and it is a F-100 Super Sabre which explodes. The film had used real shots of an accident that took place.

PRIMARY SOURCES

I made a selection of videos of historical movies of my private collection. The number of titles of my video and DVD collection is about 845. I have viewed a lot of films searching for real shots. Films dealing with wars and political issues were my first target for searching but also drama and fictions were examined.



THE AIM

My aim for the searching was to find out if the use of real shots in movies was just an isolated action made by some film producers? I was surprised to see that real shots are used in movies often. It is not a strange idea made in secret by some filmmakers.

Let us take look at the titles of the movies and the year of productions where you will find real shots hidden between fiction and drama .The list of films is set up with reference to the year the movie was released or produced.

THE TITLE	THE YEAR OF PRODUCTION
A Yank in the R.A.F (The Eagle Flies Again) About American pilots in R.A.F before USA joins the Second World War.	1941
Casablanca	1942
Objective, Burma !	1945
Zakazane Piosenski (Polish feature)	1946
The Desert Fox	1951
The Flying Leathernecks World War II.	1951
The Snow on Kilimanjaro	1952
Malta Story	1953
The Glenn Millar Story	1953
From here to Eternity Hawaii 1941. About the life in U.S Army	1953
Retreat Hell	1954
The Unknown Soldier (Tuntematon Sotilas)	1955
To Hell and Back The true story of the most decorated soldier in U.S. History: Audi Murphy	1955
Reach for the Sky	1956
KONTAKT	1956
The Hunters	1958
The Young Lions	1958
The Naked and The Death	1958
Cuban Rebel Girls (Also known as: Assault of the Rebel Girls) The American actor Errol Flynn is playing himself as a war correspondent active in supporting Fidel Castro	1959

Coming Home	1978
From Hell to Victory	1979
The kidnapping of The President	1980
Belønningen (The Reward) Norway, Oslo , 35 years after the end of the Second World War. Two former friends in conflict about the war.	1980
Lion of the Desert The film is about the Libyan resistance leader, Omar Mukhtar, who led the Libyan resistance against the Italian oppressors from 1911-1931. The movie takes place during the reign of Mussolini	1981
Ragtime In early 1900 New York. A young black pianist becomes embroiled in the lives of an upper-class white family	1981
Robert Kennedy and his Times (part1.part2)	1984
Forbidden The movie tells the tale of a wealthy German countess who hid her Jewish boyfriend in World War II	1984
Wild Geese II An American television company is practicing ” yellow journalism” . News has to be made by the tv company. The German Nazi war criminal Rudolf Hess is imprisoned in Spandau Prison in Berlin. The tv company wants to get him out of the prison	1985
Mussolini: The Untold Story (tv-series) Film about the Italian fascist dictator Benito Mussolini (1883-1945). The seven hour mini-series is based on the memories of Vittorio Mussolini	1985
LBJ: The Early Years	1987
Walker The life story of William Walker, an American adventurer who invaded Mexico in 1850s and made himself President of Nicaragua	1987

Onassis: The Richest Man in the World (TV) (2 episodes)	1988
Mississippi Burning Two FBI agents arrive in Mississippi to investigate the disappearance of civil rights activists. The year is 1964	1988
Pancho Barnes Movie portrayal of the pioneering female aviator Florence "Pancho" Lowe Barnes(1901-1975)	1988
Hemingway (Part 2)	1988
Scandal	1989
The Legendary Life of Ernest Hemingway	1989
Margaret Bourke-White	1989
The Kennedys of Massachusetts (Part I,II,III)	1989
Casablanca Express The year is 1942. Winston S. Churchill has to be protected from being kidnapped by the Germans	1989
Patton The story of General George Patton's commands during the World War II	1989
Bethune: The making of a Hero Based on the true story of the Canadian doctor Norman Bethune (1890-1939)	1990
Memphis Belle The story about a young crew on bombing raid into Europe. The year is 1943	1990
A Dangerous Man: Lawrence After Arabia The 1919 Paris Peace conference. T.E. Lawrence works as the liaison to the Hashemite delegation in an effort to have the Allies agree to Arab independence	1990
One against the Wind (I ørnens skugga) The story of Countess Mary Lindell who helped allies in occupied France during World War II	1991
Den demokratiske terroristen About infiltration of a terrorist organisation connected to " Rote Armeefraktion (RAF) "	

in West Germany	1992
L' Accompagnatrice	1992
Citizen Cohn	1992
Ruby	1992
Marilyn & Bobby: Her Final Affair A fictional account of the alleged romantic relationship between Marilyn Monroe and Robert Kennedy	1993
Hong Kong 97 Hong Kong right before the transfer of power from Britain to China. 99 years of British rule are about to come to an end.	1994
Nixon	1995
Lust och Fagring stor	1995
Hamsun	1995
Apollo 13 The movie is based on real events. Apollo 13 mission bound for the moon. The year is 1970.	1995
Alfred The life of the Swedish engineer Aldred Nobel (1833-1896). How he invented dynamite and founded the Nobel Prize	1995
Land and Freedom (Land and Freedom- A story from the Spanish revolution) Tierra y Libertad (En la guerra Civil Espanola, David, un ciudadano Ingles, se enrola en el ejercito popular)	1995
Michael Collins	1996
Raputin The story of the Russian mystic Grigori Rasputin and his work for the last Tsar of Russia, Tsar NicholsII	1996
Flynn A biographical movie of the Australian film actor Errol Flynn (1909-1959)	1996
The English Patient The love story between an archeologist and a married woman during the Second World War	1996

Winchell	1998
The Rat Pack	1998
Behind Enemy Lines Vietnam. American prisoner in Vietnam. About how to rescue the American soldier	1998
Holy Smoke	1999
RKO 281 (The Battle Over Citizen Kane)	1999
Thirteen Days	2000
ENIGMA	2000
Pearl Harbor	2001
The Tailor of Panama (Skredderen fra Panama) The film is based on the novel of John le Carre: ” The Tailor of Panama ”. A tailor living in Panama reluctantly becomes a spy for a British agent.	2001
Dark Blue World Pilots from Czechoslovakia in RAF. World War II.	2001
The Gathering Storm	2002
Live from Bagdad The Golf War 1991. About the work of a group of CNN reporters	2002
The Pentagon Papers	2003
Killing Hitler A drama-documentary about the Operation Foxley. A British plan to assassinate Adolf Hitler	2003
IKE – Countdown to D-Day	2004
Head in the Clouds (Juegos de Mujer)	2004
The Aviator Biography: The earlier years of legendary director and aviator Howard Hughes’ career from the late 1920s to the mid-1940s .American eccentric and billionaire	2004
Triple Agent	

France 1936-37. The Popular Front wins elections. The Spanish Civil War begins. The story of the former Russian general, Fiodor Voronin	2004
Agent Secrets A French spy story with a realistic point of view	2004
Good Night, And, Good Luck A film enacting broadcast journalist Edward R. Murrow's televised criticisms of the Joseph McCarthy hearings of 1953 -54	2005
Otoko-tachi no Yamato (English title: Yamato) The last battle of the Japanese battleship Yamato in 1945.	2005
FIDEL & CHE The film is based on historical research into the life of Fidel Castro and the revolution which he led.	2005
The Last Drop Nederland 1944. A secret mission of a robbery of gold	2005
The Last King of Scotland	2006
The Queen About HM Queen Elizabeth II struggles with her reactions after the death of Princess Diana in 1997	2006
Pedersen: High-School Teacher (Norwegian title: Gymnaslærer Pedersen) A drama focused on Norwegian society in the 1970s – an era dominated by Marxism and Leninism	2006
BOBBY The movie is a fictural account of events at the Ambassador Hotel on the day Robert F. Kennedy was assassinated, June 5 1968	2006
The Good German	2006
Flyboys The Lafayette Escadrille fighter squadron. The story of young Americans who volunteered for	

the French military before U.S entered the
World War 1.

2006

THE REAL SHOTS: THE SUBJECTS SELECTED

Real life document – dramas

It is not my intention to give you a detailed description of the reuse of real shots used in all the movies listed above. But let us evaluate some of the films.

The Norwegian movie called: " KONTAKT " was produced in year 1956. The film is based on the story of the Norwegian pilot and agent Oluf Reed Olsen. He went to Canada for pilot education and later on he was trained for secret agent work in Norway. The film starts with German news. Hitler is speaking and we watch real shots from the Second World War. The real shots and fiction are mixed together. Nils R. Muller made the film . I asked him about the use of fiction and real shots two weeks before he died in 2007. It was no philosophy about the use of real shot. The audience accepted the use and so we did it – that is all.

The movie called: " Holy Smoke " was produced in 1999. It is a film about the meaning of life. Religion is a topic in the movie. A young lady is searching for the meaning of life. Her family makes an attempt to get her out of the influence of the region of a certain group in India. Real shots about different societies of religions are shown as tv programme to tell the girl about the danger of the religion. A list of filmarchives is published at the end of the film. The producer has made no secret about using archival materials.

Events selected to be described by using real shots are mostly news. When Paris is occupied by the Germans in 1940, the information about the fall of Paris is told by using radio news and excerpts from news reels. In movies about wars, you find real shots from the battlefields like the movie called " The Desert Fox " and in " The Naked and The Death ".

The filmmaker Oliver Stone is even making a further use of the real shots: He makes a mixture of facts and fiction within the real film in his movie about the late American president Richard M. Nixon.

In some movies the news – archive footage - are used to give you a correct and realistic picture of the time and of the events described in the movie. Take a look at the film about the late American president Lyndon B. Johnson. In LBJ: The Early Years American newsreels are used to tell you about the political situation in USA when Johnson was fighting for his political life. The killing of president John F. Kennedy is presented by using the real shots from Dallas where he was killed and then later the scene is gradually changing into drama and fiction.

The making of a mixture of fiction and real shots is also used in the movie called " IKE – Countdown to D-Day.

The story is about the allied invasion of Europe in 1944 and about general Dwight D. Eisenhower.

In the film called " The Hunters " excellent shots of the fighter plane Sabre is used and also a real shot of an accident called " Sabre dance ".

In the film called "Soylent Green" archival footage of the fjords of Norway and Norwegian classical music are used to describe how life used to be. The American actor Edward G. Robinson is playing a death scene and the archival footage is used to describe a better life.

The famous shots of the forty-fifth birthday of President John F. Kennedy at Madison Square Garden, May 19, 1962 where Marilyn Monroe sings "Happy Birthday, Mr. President" is used in the movie called "Marilyn & Bobby: Her Final Affair". (1993).

President John F. Kennedy gave a speech on television to the American people after the conflict between USA and Cuba in 1961. Excerpts of the television news of Kennedy is used in the movie about Ernest Hemingway released in 1988. The archival footage is spliced into the film to tell you some of the reasons why Hemingway left Cuba after having lived on the island for many years

Some filmmakers have edited the film in a way so that you cannot say when the real shots are used and when fiction is used. This takes place also by presenting the events with the use of historical photos. In the movie: "The Big Brass Ring", 1998, photos have been changed by adding an actor to the photos.

Combat footage is used in the film called: "Reach for the Sky" about the Battle of Britain. (1940). The film splices actual RAF WWII combat footage with fiction. The use of combat footage in air battle is mentioned by viewers later on with a positive approach to the issue of using real life shots.

The movie called "Walker" is using archival footage in a special way. At the end of the film the archival footage is added to the film to show that the American military policy of Latin America has not changed after 1850. The film is a historical film about William Walker who invaded Mexico and later made himself President of Nicaragua. The American policy of President Ronald Reagan is presented by archival footage at the end of the film. The film makes a move from 1850s to 1980s.

Archival footage from the Spanish Civil War (1936–39) has been used as an introduction to the story in the movie called: "Land and Freedom – Tierra y Libertad".

"... Featuring actual aerial footage..." information published on the cover for the film called "A Yank in R.A.F.". It is not common to inform the public about archival footage used in the film.

The movie: The Queen. After the death of Princess Diana HM Queen Elizabeth II struggles with her reaction to a sequence of events nobody could have predicted. "...Frears (Director Stephan Frears) combines archival footage of a grieving public and newscasts with intertwining splices of historical recreations of fictionalized riffs on what it must have been like inside the Royal Chambers... quotation: Author David H. Schleicher, New Jersey, USA ...".

Footage of movies – not real shots- but fiction is also used in movies. When Howard Hughes is watching rough footage in the movie called "The Amazing Howard Hughes", he is not watching excerpts of his own film "Hell' Angels" but excerpts from the film called "The Blue Max" (1966). The crash footage shown in "The Amazing Howard Hughes" is actually taken from the film called "Ace Eli and Roger of the Skies".

The Norwegian film called: "Pedersen: High-School Teacher" is using archival footage of the political riots in China and in Europe during 1968 – 1970.

The candidate for President of the United States, Senator Robert F. Kennedy, was killed June 5 1968 at the Ambassador Hotel. The movie called "Bobby" is a fictional account of the lives of several people present during the final hours in the life of the late Senator Robert F. Kennedy. The title role is not played by a professional actor but by RFK himself. A patchwork of archival footage, radio broadcasts, photos and media clips from the 1960's is used. Robert F. Kennedy alive was better than any actor who was making an attempt to play the late senator!

Two important movies have been released using archival footage: "Fidel & Che" (2005) and "The Good German" (2006). Both films make no secret about using archival footage. Russian archival footage from the archives of the RGAKFD, Krasnogorsk Archive and additional material, CORBIS, are used in the film: "The Good German". Fiction and reality are mixed so well that it is difficult to make a statement when real shots have been used and when a reconstruction of events takes place.

The movie about Fidel Castro and Che Guevara – "FIDEL & CHE" is based on the book entitled "Fidel Castro" by Robert E. Quirk and the book "Guerrilla Prince" written by Georgie Anne Geyer. The film is based on historical research into the life of Fidel Castro and the revolution which he led. The archival footage used in the film: Shots of a fighter-bomber in action. Shots of the president palace in Havana and of people gathered in front of the palace. Archival footage of The Bay of Pigs, April 19, 1961. Prisoners of war captured by Cuban soldiers. The American President John F. Kennedy gives a speech about the invasion of Cuba. Shot of Nikita Krustsjov (1894-1971) and footage of John F. Kennedy who reveals the Russian rockets on Cuba. The name of the stock footage researcher is Andrea Scharf, Total Research. Stock footage is provided by: Archive Films, Best Shot, Inc., CBS News Archive, CNN Image Source, Educational & Television Film Ltd., Film Bank, Historic Films, Moving Image Library, NBC News library, Paramount Pictures Stock Library, Producers Library Service, UCLA Film and Television Archive and Wolfson Media History Center.

The film was shot on location in Mexico and The Dominican Republic. The actors are speaking English all the time – not Spanish.

The last film of the American actor Erroll Flynn (1909- 1959) called. "Cuban Rebel Girls" (also known as: Assault of the Cuban Girls) was released in 1959. Errol Flynn is playing himself as a war correspondent active in supporting Fidel Castro during the fight to overthrow dictator Fulgencia Batista. The film was shot during the heaviest fighting of the Cuban revolution. At the end of the film archival footage is used showing Fidel Castro and his friends celebrating the victory of the revolution. The film is made in black and white.

"Persona" is the title of one of Ingmar Bergmans most famous movies. The film was released in 1966. A black and white film. The plot is about an encounter between two women: A successful actress who become mute and a nurse charged with caring her. TV images of Vietnamese monks in Saigon burning themselves to death with gasoline are used in the film. Bergman brings reality within the film.

” A Passion ” is a story about a man who has decided to live isolated from society. The feature film was released in 1969. A colour film. The archive footage is from a famous event in Vietnam where a vietcong is shot in the head in the street of Saigon. South Vietnamese National Police Chief Nguyen Ngoc Loan executes a vietcong in Saigon, Vietnam on February 1, 1968. Ingmar Bergman brings the reality into the film by using the archive footage.

Shots of the celebration of the end of the World War II in London is used in the film called : ” The Triple Cross ”. The film was released in 1966. A true story about the British safecracker and double agent Edward Arnold ” Eddie ” Chapman 1914 – 1997. (The story of Eddie Chapman’s time in Oslo, Norway during the war and his love affair with the Norwegian girl called Dagmar Lahlum is not dealt with in the movie)

The movies about the British agent called James Bond are well-known worldwide. The Swedish writer Jan Guillou has created a similar person called Carl Hamilton. ” Den demokratiske terroristen ” is based on a novel by Jan Guillou. Shots of the so-called ” Baader-Meinhof- Gang ” are used in the film. News about the attack on the terrorist group is presented as a television programme viewed by Carl Hamilton.

The famous movie called : ” From here to Eternity ”(1953) was viewed many times without noticing the use of archival footage. By reading a critical comment on the movie, I was informed about the use of archival footage of the attack on Pearl Harbour.

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On the credit list for movies produced during the last 20 years you will see that the names of the film archives used are on the list. RKO 281 (The Battle over Citizen Kane) was released in 1999. Director Richard T. Heffron uses news footage of the World War II in his film called ” Pancho Barnes” produced in 1988. The credit list of RKO 281 published informs you of the names of searchers for archival footage and the names of the archives are also on the credit list. Movies made earlier do not mention the archival footage at all and not the names of the archives or the professional footage researchers. On the credit list for the movie called: ” Pedersen: High-School Teacher ” the archival footage is reported. The Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation (Nrk) is on the list of companies that have supplied the film with archival footage. The most comprehensive list of film and video archives contacted for footage so far, is the list made for the film : ” FIDEL & CHE ” (2005).

CONCLUSION

Those of you who are working in audiovisual archives of television companies or corporations are asked why you keep all the programmes transmitted? Why not make a strict selection of the collection for future use? The old programmes have no value. Let us get rid of the old stuff. I disagree. I even disagree asking the question. I have showed you that even famous movies are using archival footage to make the story a good one. This means that you can return to the movies to find historical films of a time passed and lost. It is also thrilling to do searching for forgotten films by viewing movies. I think we are now

approaching what Pelle Snickars, Swedish National Archive of Recorded Sound and Moving Images and Professor Jan Olsson, Stockholm University, Sweden are calling: "Media Archeology"? The collections of archival footage of news and home films and videos - non movies - stored in Film Institutes worldwide need to be evaluated as an important part of the collections of the institutes.

The majority of the archival footage used in movies is news. Information about events of the Second World War is dominating the subject among shots used. The story about the American Senator McCarthy and his struggle against communists in USA is also a subject dealt with in movies like: Good Night, and Good Bye, Winchell and Citizen Cohn. Real shots from the television transmissions of the programmes are used. (The official hunt for so-called communists in USA is also dealt with in the film: Robert Kennedy and his Times. No archival footage from the events is used but professional actors and reconstructed television news about the official meetings).

Archival footage is used in the movie called The Kennedys of Massachusetts to tell about the social and political changes of USA and the world in connection with the story of the Kennedy family.

What about public speeches of official persons? Speeches made by politicians are also used to tell you about the time presented in the movie. Excerpts of speeches given by Winston S. Churchill during World War II are used in the movie called "One against the Wind".

The late French minister of culture of France, Andre Malraux, is reflecting on the subject of making notes or minutes of conversations between men of history in his book called: "Les chenes qu'on abat" (1971). The English title is: "Last conversations with de Gaulle". Andre Malraux is surprised knowing the information that we do not know much about the talks between Alexander and thinkers of his time. He is also concerned about the fact that Voltaire never wrote about his conversations with Fredrik II. For historical reasons, only conversations of great importance were recorded on paper. The situation to-day is different if we want to make use of modern technology by using audio recording and film and video recording. Andre Malraux who was interested in film productions, understood the importance of film and video productions made for historical reasons. Women and men who made history should be recorded to be used for future historical studies.



What about the future and archival footage and real shots? In the digital world you may make a good reconstruction of any event. Anyway , American soldiers are equipped with a small camera placed on the helmet to shot the real action. What about the shots stored in the military audiovisual archives? Archival footage for sale in future to be published in new movies? The camara can take pictures for at least an hour. The cost of the camera is about NOK 1.200.- and the weight is about 200 gram using 32 MB secure digital card.

Television stations worldwide should be proud of the collections of transmitted television programmes. The challenge is to make it possible to reuse the programmes making new programmes or making a movie where the content is real not fiction but also a mixture

of drama, real shots and fiction. Those who are working with university studies should also profit from this policy. Take care of your collections.

Tedd Urnes
Senior Adviser, Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation (NRK)

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Photo: Lasse Nilsson. New York. 1998