

Film as Film Today:
On the Criticism and Theory of V. F. Perkins

University of Warwick
4-5 September 2018

Central Campus, Humanities Building
Plenary sessions: room H0.51 / Parallel panels: Humanities Studio (both ground floor)

Provisional symposium timetable:

TUESDAY, 4 Sept

10.30 - 11 **Registration** (Humanities Building, Porter's Lodge)

11 - 11.10 **Symposium welcome** (room H0.51)

11.10 - 11.55 **Introductory address** (H0.51)

Andrew Klevan (Oxford, UK)

Important Features in the Work of V. F. Perkins

12 - 1.30 **Session 1: Histories** (H0.51)

John Gibbs (Reading, UK)

Method and motivation: *Oxford Opinion*, *Movie*, and the early criticism of V.F. Perkins

Sarah Street (University of Bristol, UK)

Victor Perkins, Clive Donner and *Some People* (1962)

Robert B. Ray (Florida, USA)

Film as Film, the *Screen/Movie* debate, and Wittgenstein's case-by-case method

1.30 - 2.20 **LUNCH** (Humanities concourse)

2.20 - 3.50 **Session 2: Evaluation and Criteria** (H0.51)

Douglas Pye (Reading, UK)

Perkins, Gombrich and Criteria

Katerina Virvidaki (Hellenic Open University, Greece)

V.F. Perkins' "Credibility": An attempt to clarify the use of the concept

Pete Falconer (University of Bristol, UK)

Understanding and judging horror movies

3.50 – 4.15 **BREAK (Humanities concourse)**

Tea and coffee

4.15 – 5.45 **PARALLEL PANELS:**

Session 3. Character and performer (H0.51)

Alex Clayton (University of Bristol, UK)

Notes on Casting, after Perkins

Miguel Gaggiotti (University of Bristol, UK)

Insisting on failure: the value of clumsiness and awkwardness in film performance

Seth Watter (independent researcher)

Film and the hermeneutics of character

Session 4. The 'Impurity' of Film (Humanities Studio)

James Taylor (University of Warwick, UK)

Digital imaging technology and technique

Elizabeth Muñoz Huber (independent researcher)

Hidden in plain sight: explorations of an intermedial vocabulary in VF Perkins' work

Joshua Schulze (University of Warwick, UK)

Perkins and the post-cinematic: understanding and judging the desktop film

5.45 – 6.45 **Keynote 1 (H0.51)**

George Toles (Manitoba, Canada)

The World of the Film and the World Particle in the Criticism of Victor Perkins

7 – 8.00 **Drinks reception (Chancellor's Suite, Rootes Social Building)**

8.00 **Conference dinner (Chancellor's Suite)**

WEDNESDAY, 5 September

9 – 10 Keynote 2 (H0.51)

Laura Mulvey (Birkbeck College, University of London, UK)
Re-thinking Max Ophuls: A post-Perkins view

10 – 11.30 Session 5: Evaluation and Judgment (H0.51)

Dominic Lash (University of Bristol, UK)
Why *this* how? V.F. Perkins and the evaluation of function

Leo Robson (independent researcher)
“It is understandable...,” or *Why* is What: on the uses of empathy in Perkins’s critical thought

Lara Perski (Düsseldorf University of Applied Sciences, Germany)
Questioning credibility

11.30 – 11.55 BREAK (Humanities concourse)

Tea and coffee

11.55 – 12.55 PARALLEL PANELS:

Session 6. Perkins and Politics (H0.51)

Alan Lovell (independent researcher)
What do we talk about when we talk about film?

Leighton Grist (University of Winchester, UK)
Revisiting “Must we say what they mean?” V. F. Perkins, film criticism, and the political

Session 7. Beyond Interpretation (Humanities Studio)

Lucy Fife Donaldson (University of St. Andrews, UK)
“The moment that made me smile”: Affect, empathy, texture

Hoi Lun Law (University of Bristol, UK)
The pertinence of significance

12.55 – 1.55 LUNCH (Humanities concourse)

1.55 – 3.25 Session 8: Movies and other media (Humanities studio)

Christopher Holliday (King's College London, UK)

“A totally controlled vision”: V.F. Perkins on animation

James Walters (University of Birmingham, UK)

Perkins and Television

Timotheus Vermeulen (University of Oslo, Norway)

Where else could the world be?

3.25 – 3.50 BREAK (Humanities concourse)

Tea and coffee

3.50 – 5.20 Session 9: Role and Philosophy of Criticism (H0.51)

Charles Warren (Boston/Harvard University, USA)

The integrity of film: Victor Perkins and some cousins in aesthetics.

William Rothman (University of Miami, USA)

Film as Film and *The World Viewed*

Murray Pomerance (Ryerson University, Canada)

Upstairs, downstairs: Victor Perkins and Nicholas Ray's domesticity

5.30 – 6.30 Keynote 3 (H0.51)

Adrian Martin (Monash University, Australia)

What to look for in a film? (And how to know when you've found it?)

6.30 Farewell!