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

Provisional symposium timetable:

TUESDAY, 4 Sept

10.30 - 11 Registration (Humanities Building reception)

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 (H0.51)

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)

7 – 8.00 Drinks reception (Humanities concourse)

8.00 Conference dinner (Chancellor’s Suite, Rootes Social Building)
WEDNESDAY, 5 September

9 – 10 Keynote 2 (H0.51)

Laura Mulvey (Birkbeck College, University of London, UK)

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 (Marburg, Germany)
On 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 (Harvard University, 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 (independent researcher)

6.30  Farewell!