

## Film & History (Cape Town, South Africa, 6.-8.7.2002)

H-ArtHist (Homann)

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FILM AND HISTORY CONFERENCE, University of Cape Town, Rondebosch,  
Cape Town, South Africa, 6-8 July, 2002.

Organisers:

Lesley Marx, Department of English Language and Literature

Richard Mendelsohn, Department of Historical Studies

Vivian Bickford-Smith, Department of Historical Studies

This conference aims to stimulate research in the field of film and history in Africa by bringing together scholars from within and beyond the continent.

The organisers particularly invite papers within the following areas:

- 1) Africa in film. We would hope that there would be panels on, for example, the representation of Francophone Africa's past; Apartheid South Africa in documentary, docudrama or feature film; Postcolonial Africa/the New South Africa in documentary.
- 2) The problem of historical representation on film, whether documentary or feature film.
- 3) Hollywood's historical controversies. Papers would be welcome on Hollywood's treatment of the past in such films as *Gladiator*, *U-571*, *The Patriot* or any of their predecessors.
- 4) Alternatives to Hollywood history. We invite papers which deal either with the treatment of the past in national cinemas other than the American, or on films which challenge Hollywood representations of the past in form or content, or both.
- 5) The question of representing the Holocaust on film.
- 6) The city/urban in film. Papers would be welcome which deal either with the representation of the urban in general in film, or which deal with particular cities.

7) Biographical films. Papers on either feature films or documentaries would be welcome.

8) Television histories whether documentaries or docudramas.

9) Postcoloniality in film beyond Africa.

Proposals/abstracts for papers (maximum 200 words) and an abbreviated c.v. should be sent to one of the following by 1 July, 2001.

Vivian Bickford-Smith (vbs@beattie.uct.ac.za)

Richard Mendelsohn (rmend@beattie.uct.ac.za)

Cape Town as a venue: Cape Town is one of the world's most beautifully situated cities, and South Africa's oldest metropolis (dating back to the mid-seventeenth century). Not surprisingly it has seen the growth of a considerable local film industry since the end of apartheid. The oldest part of Cape Town lies on the shores of Table Bay – beneath an amphitheatre formed by Table Mountain, Signal Hill and Devil's Peak – and at the head of a mountainous peninsula that ends in the Cape of Good Hope and Cape Point. The winelands of the Stellenbosch, Paarl and Franschhoek areas are an easy drive from Cape Town. The conference programme will allow for both organised and informal excursions to local places of interest such as Robben Island (where Nelson Mandela spent many years in prison).

Reference:

CFP: Film & History (Cape Town, South Africa, 6.-8.7.2002). In: ArtHist.net, Mar 10, 2001 (accessed Jul 13, 2025), <<https://arthist.net/archive/24371>>.