

Queens: Glamour, Power Femininity
Prof. E. Bronfen und Dr. B. Straumann

Th 14-16, KOL-F-117
Autumn 2012

Introduction

1. (20.9.) Technical issues and screening of *The Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex* (dir. Michael Curtiz, perf. Bette Davis, 1939)
2. (27.9.) Political Visions: The Two Bodies of Elizabeth I
-- Elisabeth Bronfen/Barbara Straumann: "Königinnen"*

Elizabeth I

3. (4.10.) Shakespeare's Elizabeth
-- *A Midsummer Night's Dream, Richard II, Henriad, Richard III, Macbeth*
-- Louis Montrose: "Shaping Fantasies"*
-- Ernst H. Kantorowicz on *Richard II* (from *The King's Two Bodies*)*
4. (11.10.) Portraits of Elizabeth I
5. (18.10.) Literary representations in Romanticism and Modernism
-- Friedrich Schiller: *Maria Stuart* (1800), Sir Walter Scott: *Kenilworth* (1821)
-- Virginia Woolf: *Orlando* (1928)
6. (25.10.) Celebrity – Politics – Theatricalization
Flora Robson in *Fire over England* (1937), *Sea Hawk* (1940)
Bette Davis in *The Private Lives*, (1939), *The Virgin Queen* (1955)
Jean Simmons in *Young Bess* (1953)
Cate Blanchett in *Elizabeth* (1998), *Elizabeth: The Golden Age* (2007)
-- Richard Dyer: from *Stars**
-- Joseph Roach: "It"*

Cleopatra

7. (1.11.) Cleopatra's History as a Visual Icon
8. (8.11.) William Shakespeare's *Antony and Cleopatra*

9. (15.11.) Classic Hollywood's Cleopatra: Theda Bara, Claudette Colbert, Vivien Leigh
10. (22.11.) Elizabeth Taylor's Stardom and Its Recyclings

Royal Others

11. (29.11.) Queen Victoria
12. (6.12.) Hollywood's Royalty and the 1930s
Greta Garbo in *Queen Christina* (1933)
Marlene Dietrich in *The Scarlet Empress* (1934)
Norman Shearer in *Marie Antoinette* (1938)
13. (13.12.) Elizabeth II and Jackie Kennedy Onassis
14. (20.12.) Exam

Texts: The handouts for the lecture and texts marked with an asterisk (*) are available on OLAT.

Exam: The exam will consist of a short in-class essay on a relevant topic of your own choice. You are allowed – and encouraged – to bring along your notes and material.

Course description: This lecture focuses on the rich and strange interface between queenship and stardom, taking two historical figures – Elizabeth I and Cleopatra – as its main case studies. We will look at the cultural afterlife of these two iconic queens in their literary, visual and cinematic representations. Issues we will be addressing include gender and political power, the political theology of the two bodies of the queen, the circulation of the queen's images to consolidate political power and the use of theatricalization to disseminate it. The wager subtending this lecture is that while historical queens have recourse to the power of spectacles to sustain their own political power, glamour stars make use of their representations of these queens to perpetrate their own star image. Further examples will include Queen Victoria, Elizabeth II and Jackie Kennedy and the queens embodied by 1930s glamour stars such as Marlene Dietrich's Catherine the Great, Greta Garbo's Queen Christina and Norma Shearer's Marie Antoinette.