Film and Enigmatization: Nostalgia, Nonsense, and Remembering

Research output: Chapters, Conference Papers, Creative and Literary Works › Chapter in an edited book (Author) › Not applicable

Overview

Author(s)
Linda Chiu-han Lai

Related Research Unit(s)
School of Creative Media

Detail(s)
Original language
English
Title of host publication
At Full Speed
Subtitle of host publication
Hong Kong Cinema in a Borderless World
Editors
Esther C.M. Yau
Place of Publication
USA
Publisher
University of Minnesota Press
Pages
231-250
ISBN (Print)
978-0-8166-3235-0, 978-0-8166-3234-3
State
Published - 2001

Link(s)
Check@CityULib
Permanent Link

Abstract
Taking up the widely discussed topic of nostalgia, in “Film and Enigmatization: Nostalgia, Nonsense, and Remembering,” Linda Lai sees nostalgia mingled with a sense of local community and faith in modern progress. Collective memories of history and everyday experiences become intertwined with the history of popular culture in a process Lai calls “enigmatization.”

“Enigmatization” in this sense means reorganizing existing pop culture images to select the local audience as a distinct, privileged interpretative community. Understanding this imagery distinguishes those within from those “outside” by marking as special those viewers who share a similar pop culture history. Lai uses “enigmatization” as a theoretical trope to examine the phenomenon of how Hong Kong cinema deals with identity. She draws on two films in particular as examples—Peter Chan’s He Ain’t Heavv. He’s My Father! (1993), Derek Yee’s


Bibliographic Note

Research Unit(s) information for this publication is provided by the author(s) concerned.

Citation Format(s)

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Film and Enigmatization : Nostalgia, Nonsense, and Remembering. / Lai, Linda Chiu-han.


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