



The Media Studies Conference 2005

Plenary sessions

1. Media Education and New Technologies: Historical Continuities and Rhetorics of Rupture

Wednesday 6 July 2005 11.00am - 12.00pm

Andrew Burn

Andrew Burn is Senior Lecturer in Media Education at the Institute of Education, London University and Associate Director of the Centre for the Study of Children, Youth and Media.

More fanciful rhetorics of cyberculture and the cyberkid suggest that new technologies represent radically different ways of engaging with and making media texts. I want to challenge this a little, and balance the new possibilities against those aspects of media education that clearly do connect with 'older' practices of analysis, design and production. I will focus particularly on digital video and on computer games, looking at what they change and what they don't change about critical reading and creative production in the field of media education.

Videogames: text, narrative, play by D. Buckingham, D. Carr, A. Burn and G. Schott, will be published later this year by Polity.

2. John Willis in conversation

Thursday 7 July 2005 9.30am – 10.45am

Director of BBC Factual and Learning

John Willis began his career at Yorkshire Television where he won a string of awards for his hard-hitting documentary programmes, including *Johnny Go Home* (British Academy Award), and *Rampton – The Secret Hospital* (International Emmy). Later he became Controller of Documentaries and Current Affairs, where he started the acclaimed documentary series *First Tuesday*. In 1988, he joined Channel 4 Television as Controller of Factual Programmes, introducing new documentary stands like *Cutting Edge*, *True Stories* and *Secret History*. In 1993, he was promoted to Director of Programmes which oversaw a number of successful programmes and films in several genres including *Father Ted*, *Rory Bremner*, *The Politician's Wife* and the movies *Four Weddings and a Funeral* and *Trainspotting*.

After Channel 4, he became Chief Executive of United Productions as it rapidly expanded in both factual programmes and drama including *Hornblower*, *Oliver Twist* and several Paul Watson documentaries. He represented United on the Boards of both Channel 5 and Independent Television News. When Granada Media bought United, John moved to become Managing Director of both United Productions and London Weekend Television and, subsequently MD of Granada's International Production. In June 2002, he moved to Boston to join WGBH, America's biggest public television station, as Vice President in charge of National Programmes. Their award-winning programmes include *Frontline*, *Nova*,

American Experience and *ExxonMobil Masterpiece Theatre*. In June 2003, he returned to the BBC as Director of Factual and Learning with responsibility for BBC factual production across all channels. Since then his department has been responsible for award-winning productions like *The Secret Policeman*, *Dunkirk*, *One Life* and *Pompeii*.

3. Making Films in Contemporary Hollywood

Thursday 7 July 2005 2.15pm – 3.30pm

Gianluca Sergi and Alan Lovell

Lecturer in Film Studies, University of Nottingham;

Senior Lecturer in Media, Journalism, and Cultural Studies, Staffordshire University

Traditionally, film critics have concentrated on the director, seeing feature film-making as a form of individual expression. The authors will challenge this view and arguing that film-making is a form of collective expression. The idea that many individuals, including editors, cinematographers and sound designers, contribute to the making of a film will be examined and that, it is misleading to classify them as technicians. This presentation will consider how money and power determine the structure within which all those involved with film-making work. And, in challenging the accepted view of the dynamics of film-making, it will raise questions about the nature of the feature film. Is it essentially a visual form? What place does it have? How important is the script?

4. Surprise Speaker - Details to be posted on this website shortly.

Friday 8 July 2005 11.45am – 12.45pm