MOVIE AESTHETICS

Class 3
Do you know Baz LUHRMANN?

What do you think of his movies?
Baz Luhrmann

- Mark Anthony Luhrmann is an **Australian film director** born in 1962 in Sydney.
- More recently, his take on *The Great Gatsby* (2013) earned him two Academy Awards (Best Costume Design and Best Production Design).
- He also directed *The Get Down* (2016, TV series) and *Elvis* (2022).
ROMEO + JULIET

Movie 1
The source

- *Romeo and Juliet* (1597) is a tragedy written by William SHAKESPEARE (1564-1616)

- It tells the story of two “star-crossed lovers” (= amants maudits): Juliet Capulet and Romeo Montague.

- Their families are sworn enemies, so Romeo and Juliet are forbidden to meet, let alone fall in love with each other.

- Both die at the end of the play: Juliet, married to Romeo in secret, fakes her death to escape marriage with her cousin (Paris). Romeo, thinking she’s really dead, kills himself. Juliet wakes up, realizes Romeo is dead, and kills herself too.
The movie

- *Romeo + Juliet*, 1996, 120 minutes
- Leonardo DiCaprio as Romeo and Claire Danes as Juliet.
- Set in Verona Beach (Los Angeles) in the 1990s, the movie brings Shakespeare’s play to the 20th century.
- The movie retains the original Shakespaerean dialogues, which creates a strong contrast between the very modern environment and the 16th-century English talked by the characters.
Bien évidemment, personne n’attend de vous que vous compreniez l’anglais de Shakespeare en B1 et B2…! Il s’agit juste d’un aperçu pour votre culture personnelle.

- **Early Modern English** (c. 1500 – c. 1800), and NOT Old English. Old English would look like this:

> ‘Fæder ure þuþe eart on heofonum
> si þin nama gehalgod tobecume þin rice gewurþe þin willa on eorðan
> swa swa on heofonum
> urne gedæghwamlican hlaf syle us to dæg
> and forgf us ure gyltas swa swa we forgyfað urum gyltendum
> and ne gelæd þu us on costnunge ac alys us of yfele soplice.’
Shakespeare’s English (2)

- Now, this is **Middle English** (Wyclif Bible of 1348), or Chaucer’s English (the most famous English poet of the period):

  ‘Oure fadir þat art in heuenes halwid be þi name;
  þi reume or kyngdom come to be. Be þi wille don in herþe as it is dounin heuene.
  yeue to us today oure eche dayes bred.
  And foryeue to us oure dettis þat is oure synnys as we foryeuen to oure dettouris þat is to men þat han synned in us.
  And lede us not into temptacion but delyuere us from euyl.’
And, finally, this is *Shakespeare's English* (King James Bible, 1611):

‘Our father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. 
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. 
Give us this day our daily bread. 
And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debters. 
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.’
Shakespeare’s English (4)

- Shakespeare invented about 2,000 words and phrases still used today...!
Shakespeare’s English (5)

“Thou” = you

“Thou” is the subject form.

“Art thou surprised?”
(Are you surprised?)

“Thou art an esteemed scientist.”
(You are an esteemed scientist.)

“Thee” = you

“Thee” is the object form.

“This T-Rex wants to eat thee.”

“I just sent thee an inappropriate text message.”
Video 1: Prologue (1’59)
Video 1: Prologue (1’59)

- Fill in the blanks (p. 58).
- Try and explain the lines in French.
- Then, rewrite them in plain English (B2).
Original version

Two households, both alike in dignity.
In fair Verona, where we lay our scene,
From ancient grudge break to new mutiny.
Where civil blood makes civil hands unclean.
From forth the fatal loins of these two foes
A pair of star-crossed lovers take their life;
Whose misadventured piteous overthrows
Doth with their death bury their parents strife.
The fearful passage of their death-marked love,
And the continuance of their parents rage,
Which, but their children's end, naught and could remove,
Is now the two hours' traffic of our stage;

Modern day version

In the beautiful city of Verona, where our story takes place, a long-standing hatred between two families erupts into new violence, and citizens stain their hands with the blood of their fellow citizens.

Two unlucky children of these enemy families become lovers and commit suicide.

Their unfortunate deaths put an end to their parents’ feud.

For the next two hours, we will watch the story of their doomed love and their parents' anger, which nothing but the children’s deaths could stop.
Visual identity

- Look at the following pictures and:
  - Describe them
  - Comment on them: what does the picture convey? What effects do the colors create? What do they say of the movie?
MOULIN ROUGE!

Movie 2
The movie was inspired by several works:

- **La Bohème** (Giacomo PUCCINI, 1896)
- **La Traviata** (Giuseppe VERDI, 1853) and **La Dame aux Camélias** (Alexandre DUMAS fils, 1848)
- The Greek myth of Orpheus and Eurydice, insofar as Christian is a musical genius.
The movie

- *Moulin Rouge!* premiered in 2001
- It is a “jukebox musical romantic drama” film directed, co-produced and co-written by Baz Luhrmann.
- A young English poet, **Christian (Ewan McGregor)**, falls in love with **Satine (Nicole Kidman)**, the star of the Moulin Rouge.
- It is the final installment of Luhrmann’s "Red Curtain Trilogy," following *Strictly Ballroom* (1992) and *Romeo + Juliet* (1996).
Video 1: Moulin Rouge! “Silly Love Songs” (2001)
Video 1: Moulin Rouge! Silly Love Songs (2001)

- Complétez les paroles de la chanson (p. 59).
- En anglais, décrivez l’action : what’s going on?
Video 2: El Tango De Roxanne
Video 2: ‘’El Tango De Roxanne’’

◦ **Complétez** les *paroles* de la chanson (p. 60).
◦ En anglais, *décrivez l’action* : *what’s going on?*
Visual identity

- Look at the following pictures and:
  - Describe them
  - Comment on them: what does the picture convey? What effects do the colors create? What do they say of the movie?
The source

- The movie is an interpretation of *The Great Gatsby*, a novel written by American writer F. Scott Fitzgerald (1896-1940) and published in 1925.

- Set in the *Jazz Age* (1920-1930) on Long Island (near New York City), the novel depicts Nick Carraway’s (1st person narrator) interactions with Jay Gatsby, a mysterious millionaire. Gatsby is obsessed with Daisy Buchanan, his former lover, and dreams to reunite with her.

- It is one of the most celebrated novels in the U.S. and worldwide.
The movie

- *The Great Gatsby* premiered in 2013. It is based on F. Scott Fitzgerald's 1925 novel of the same name.
- The film was co-written and directed by Baz Luhrmann.
- Cast:
  - **Jay Gatsby**: Leonardo DiCaprio
  - **Nick Carraway**: Tobey Maguire
  - **Daisy Buchanan**: Carey Mulligan
Video 1: *The Great Gatsby*, Opening Scene
Visual identity

• Look at the following pictures and:
  • **Describe** them
  • **Comment** on them: what does the picture convey? What effects do the colors create? What do they say of the movie?
EXPRESSION ORALE
Topic 1: How would you define **Luhrmann’s aesthetics**? What do you think of it?

Topic 2: Should movies be **entirely faithful to the eras and/or novels** they were adapted from?