



CROSS EXAMINATION

with 35mm film

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with poor image

M Poor Image, we'll start with a few questions about your most recent role, please.

Ok.

You said a moment ago that you served as a DVD copy of clips from a piece by Humphrey Jennings in a recent conference on the film essay, is that correct?

Yes.

But in the end, you didn't show up at the presentation, did you?

No, not at all. They didn't let me.

Can you please briefly state the reason?

The speaker obviously believed that a proper film projection was needed for high-quality demonstration and communication.

And is it true that there was a standard DVD player at the speaker's disposal?

Yes, in addition to a functioning video projector.

And is it true that the speaker was aware of these alternative choices they had?

I think so, yes. The staff of the conference offered them potential solutions but were all turned down.

And how was the communication conducted?

They described those clips, so I guess the audience kind of imagined what those images might have looked like.

Your honour, I have no further questions.

Bibliography

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BlackBeltBarrister (2022) Example cross-examination, YouTube. YouTube. Available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7AO_k5Qz58 (Accessed: November 13, 2022).

I understand. But do you agree with the fact that most video essays and experimental films remained unseen?

Well, yes you can say that.

And this development was connected to the neoliberal restructuring of media production, wasn't it?

I guess yes.

At present, these images mostly exist in rare screenings in metropolitan film museums or film clubs, if not in archives. Is that correct?

At least in their original resolution, yes.

Do you know that since 2012, Stan Brakhage's 1987 video essay Existing is Song, originally produced with 35mm film, has been circulated 34K times on YouTube in 360p?

I do! I don't really understand....

Your honour, I have no further questions.

M 35mm film, is it accurate to say that you have been the most favoured gauge for motion picture recording and the movie industry since the 1980s?

Yeah, I guess I'll accept that.

Is it also true that much non-commercial imagery such as experimental and essayistic cinema was produced in this format as well?

I'd be very surprised if they didn't.

Ok. And do you agree that since 30 years ago, the non-commercial imagery in question has become increasingly invisible?

Uh, you can't really blame anyone for that. Do you know how expensive that it could be to keep those works circulating in cinemas in their original resolution? And most of them are quite marginal that very few would even watch them if they were broadcasted on television....

Image by Stan Brakhage
via <https://thewordviewed.com/2013/existence-is-song-a-stan-brakhage-retrospective-january-to-december-2018/>