

Teaching activity – literature

Topic: Czech cinematography in the world
The director Miloš Forman

Step 1:

What do these photos remind you of? Have you seen the films? Can you tell the story?



Step 2:

The director of these famous films is **Miloš Forman**

Read the [information](#) about him and answer the questions:

1. What was his childhood like?
2. Who were his friends with whom he studied and collaborated at Film and TV School of Academy of Performing Arts in Prague (FAMU)?
3. What was his 1st successful film?
4. Why did he move to the USA?
5. What awards did he get?
6. What do you know about his family?

Step 3:

Here are some videos from Forman's best known movies. The students should focus on 2 points of Forman's work:

1. The New wave of the 60's in Czechoslovakia

[The Black Peter](#) (Černý Petr 1964)

[Loves of a Blonde](#) (Lásky jedné plavovlásky, 1965)

- **Before watching:** The teacher asks the students to concentrate on the way Forman works:

- 1) Using non-professional actors
- 2) Giving space for the improvisation of the actors without a fixed screenplay
- 3) Realistic, documentary style of the movie

(it's not necessary to have the translation of the scenes, it speaks clearly without words!)

Step 4:

2. The literature adaptations:

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest (5 Oscars in 1975, Jack Nicholson in the main role)
(Based on the novel by Ken Kesey)

[Shot 1](#)

[Shot 2](#)

- **After watching:**
Go to the web page about the book: [One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest by Ken Kesey](#)
Discuss some of the mentioned questions. (**TOPICS TO CONSIDER**)
Choose some of the main characters (**R. P. McMurphy, Billy Bibbit, Chief Bromden, Nurse Ratched, Dale Harding**) and try to see and explain the story from his / her point of view.

Valmont (1989)
(based on the novel *Les Liaisons dangereuses* by Choderlos de Laclos)

[Shot 1](#)

- **After watching:**
Describe the character of vicomte de Valmont. What is his behaviour with women? What attracts women to him? Is he a positive or negative character?

[Shot 2 – the final wedding scene](#)

- **After watching:**
Compare the first Forman's films with this or with [Amadeus](#) . What's the difference?

Regtime (1981)
(based on the novel by E. L. Doctorow)

[Shot](#)

- **After watching:** What is this story about? How did the creators of the film make the story reliable?

Conclusion: Who are the heroes of Forman's films? What do they have in common? Why are Forman's films so successful?

With all these adaptations of novels you can use also the original texts and keep on working with them. I used the Czech translations, you have to find yours.

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