

THE 'FANTASTIC' BEASTS OF POPULAR VISUAL CULTURE: A CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF THE REPRESENTATION OF THE FANTASTIC IN CONTEMPORARY HOLLYWOOD CINEMA

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ABSTRACT

Disney's The Pirates of the Caribbean presents a remarkable fusion of the real with the unreal, the historic, the mythical through the dominant ecological imagery and the objective versus the fabulous creatures to the modern visual space. The portrayal of monsters and the fantastic in the western cinema underwent drastic changes over the course of cinema history. The paper endeavors' to evaluate the history of monsters in cinema and categorize them into three distinct yet historically overlapping phases in the genre of monster cinema. The paper also strives to showcase how the Pirates of the Caribbean series figures in the third category of the classification.

KEYWORDS: *Popular Culture, Cinema, Monsters, Humour*