

Prayers Out of Closet – From the memories of a queer childhood to a filmic letter in the search for another spirituality

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Panel 2

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Abstract

In the short film *Prayers Out of Closet* (2018), I, [author of the article], create a relationship between autobiographical act (LEJEUNE, 1989) and other characters to represent a marginalized and underrepresented community - LGBTQIA + Christian groups. The realization of this project was possible because I've had the funds from a public call for the production of documentary short films, developed by a Brazilian television channel called Canal Futura. To create the film to talk about spirituality and sexual diversity, I thought that could be interesting to a more intimate and subjective relationship to the film. I started from a context of my personal life to understand the experiences, experiences and perspectives that the people who compose these churches have. Taking archival materials, voice over narrations and interviews, I composed the film as a filmic letter written to my mother. In this article, I connect personal reflections about the production of an autobiographical documentary with thoughts about creating a narrative about a life in screenwriting form (LANE, 2002; MACDONALD, 2013). In performing autobiographical works, the experiments proposed by filmmakers in handling the camera and editing can extrapolate the content of the scenes by printing "the filmmakers' psychic experiences and aesthetic interpretations of the events and activities depicted" (MacDonald 2013: 129). As much as it is a film that starts from an intimate and private context, the relationship between religion and sexual diversity allowed me to make political and collective connections from my own life. In this article, the conclusions are that self-writing can function, in this context, as a space for reinventing the imaginary that surrounds the exercise of faith by any person. This act of writing make us discover other ways of relating body and soul, matter and transcendence, unity and diversity through the image.

Keywords

Documentary; Autobiography; Religion; Sexual Diversity; Memory; Archive

Bio

Márcio Andrade PhD in Communication at State University of Rio de Janeiro (PPGCOM / UERJ), with an exchange at the Universidad de Navarra - Pamplona (Spain), with publication of articles in academic journals, such as Revista Doc-Online (UBI / Portugal), Cambiassu (UFMA), Hipertextus (UFPE), Rumores (ECA / USP) and Fronteiras Estudos Midiáticos (Unisinos).

Nowadays, he is part of the research groups Arqueologia do Sensível (UFBA), an interdisciplinary group that develops theoretical and experimental investigations related to the experiences of images; and the Screenwriting Research Network (interinstitutional),

which brings together academics, professionals and researchers interested in research and script creation.