

Diversity Literacy Week 7 – Culture

Group Assignment 3 – Afrikaaps (2010)

Directed by Dylan Valley

“On the surface, Afrikaaps appears to be a theatre piece within a film, based as it is on the creative processes and performances of the critically acclaimed stage production of the same name. But rather than depending on the drama on stage and the production’s prominent characters to carry the narrative, Valley finds revealing moments from the cast’s and production crew’s personal narratives that transcend what happens on stage. Afrikaaps, the film and the stage play, breaks ground by boldly attempting to reclaim Afrikaans – so long considered a language of the oppressor – as a language of liberation. It does this by foregrounding alternative histories of ‘the Creole birth’ of the language and shattering long-existing efforts to whitewash and purify Afrikaans. While the ideas of the film are informed by rigorous academic study, the presentation of those ideas are steeped in the now – conveyed by hip hop-generation Cape Town-based artists like Jitsvinger, Bliksemstraal, Blaq Pearl and Emile YX, who school audiences with an immediacy, irreverence and vibrancy often frowned upon in the academy”

Extract from <http://www.encounters.co.za/backup09/encounters2010/heritage-focus.html>

Please read the questions below before the film starts. Think about the questions as you watch the film and then as a group discuss the Group Assignment questions at the end and together formulate an answer. This is an academic piece, proper referencing required.

Afrikaaps attempts to “reclaim Afrikaans” “by “foregrounding alternative histories of ‘the Creole birth’ of the language and shattering long-existing efforts to whitewash and purify Afrikaans.”

1. How does the film do this?
2. What does this show us about the ways in which culture is contested?
3. What does this show us about the ways in which culture is raced?
4. How do some of the characters personal experiences illustrate these contestations?
5. What is at stake in these contestations?

Group Assignment 3 (1500 words)

- Showing an understanding of the contestation of culture, explain how the film illustrates the fluidity of culture and the importance people place on the seemingly concrete nature of culture.
- In what ways is culture being contested in your lives as a group?

