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Rehabilitation of the Body: Technical Changes in the Soviet Lithuanian Cinema of the Thaw

Summary

This article explores the technological changes in film production that influenced the style of films made at the Lithuanian Film Studio during the Thaw period. The introduction of various technological innovations, alongside a relatively more liberal public discourse in the Soviet era, provided local filmmakers with greater opportunities to experiment with cinematic language and explore new stylistic expressions. The search for this new cinematic language included visual and auditory elements, such as subjective shots filmed with the handheld camera „Konvas–Automat“

and stereo sound, which during this period were associated with the perception and functioning of a „more realistic“ cinematic experience. The article highlights that the concept of „body rehabilitation“ explored by various scholars in the Soviet context cannot be fully understood without considering the technical advancements and the physical experiences of viewers, which directly influenced film style and reception. It aims to demonstrate that, during the Thaw period, „more realistic“ body-centered experiences became a key component of film style.

Keywords: cinema, cinema style, cinema technology, Konvas-Avtomat, depth of field, stereo sound, widescreen cinema.