READING ANALYSES WEEK 7

Rebecca Wiltzen

HIST 2480-01: Gender Sexuality and History in Film

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The readings today, “Postfeminist Media Culture: Elements of a Sensibility” by Rosalind Gill and “Damsels and Heroines: The Conundrum of the Post-Feminist Disney Princess” by Cassandra Stover largely discuss what post feminism is and how it can be applied in context, for example, within Disney movies. Gill’s work delves into what post feminism is, how it has been constructed and how it now influences society. She explains her key argument by saying, “On one hand, young women are hailed through a discourse of ‘can-do girl power’, yet on the other hand their bodies are powerfully reinscribed as sexual objects.”[[1]](#footnote-1) There is contradiction here in the new era of post feminism but Stover highlights important parts of how far we’ve come in terms of film and how Disney movies have transformed in this post feminism era. She explains how princesses used to be portrayed in movies like *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* and *Cinderella* as “voiceless heroines who performed conventional gender behaviors like housekeeping and nurturing.”[[2]](#footnote-2) We now see in Disney an urgency of strong female leads that embody much of the “Can-do girl power”[[3]](#footnote-3) that Gill discusses in her article and much of the post feminism ideals. The theme of powerful leads is congruent in both texts and what I believe to be an important aspect of post feminism.

Another theme that I’ve found myself considering from these texts is how feminism can be transformed, continuously taking on varying aspects of the same thing throughout time and space. Stover explains from her work how historic events such as World War II re-wrote gender ideologies and social norms thus transforming feminism into what we now know as post feminism.[[4]](#footnote-4) It’s interesting to me that history changes people and our ideologies such as that of feminism. What I am going to take away from these reading in hopes of applying it into my work elsewhere is the understanding of what post feminism is and the conscious understanding that feminism can and will change over time therefore re-writing our understanding of gender and sexuality. I think it’s important to carry this understanding because it allows me to have an open mind to the ever changing world that we live in.

**Bibliography**

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1. Rosalind Gill, “Postfeminist Media Culture: Elements of a Sensibility,” *European Journal of Cultural Studies:* 10, 2 (2007): 163. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Cassandra Stover, “Damsels and Heroines: The Conundrum of the Post-Feminist Disney Priness,” LUX: *A Journal of Transdisciplinary Writing and Research from Claremont Graduate University*, 2, 1 (2013): 2. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Gill, Rosalind, “Postfeminist Media Culture,” 163 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Stover, Cassandra, “Damsels and Heroines,” 2-3. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)