FASHION AND THE FICTION FILM, 1910 - 2020: AN INTRODUCTION

Speaker: Professor Stella BRUZZI
Executive Dean and Professor of Film
Faculty of Arts and Humanities
University College London (UCL)

Details
Date: 15 January 2024 (Monday)
Time: 3:00pm
Venue: Interdisciplinary Multi-function Room (G7603)
7/F, Yeung Kin Man Academic Building, CityU
Enquiry: chpgrd@cityu.edu.hk

Scan to Register
Abstract

The significant and enduring interrelationship between fashion and film is as old as cinema itself. It remains an enduring truism that cinema reflects the fashion of its age but also that it has dictated and inspired fashion. The relationship between film and fashion will be the focus of this talk, identifying certain key historical moments and costumes that best tell that story – from Rudolph Valentino in *The Sheik* (1921) who started a craze for slave bracelets to Audrey Hepburn dressed in Givenchy throughout the 1950s to the sophisticated irony of the treatment of high-end fashion brands in *Crazy Rich Asians* (2018). From costume items that have started trends (such as Tom Cruise’s aviator spectacles in *Top Gun*) to films designed or even directed by internationally acclaimed designers (such as Tom Ford’s *A Single Man*) the history of this mutual dependency between film and fashion has been rich and varied. Until Professor Bruzzi’s first monograph, *Undressing Cinema: Clothing and Identity in the Movies* (1997), the serious study of fashion and costume in cinema had been marginalised. However, this belied the importance of the relationship between film and fashion, which has endured and adapted itself from the early days of cinema to the present day.

Speaker Bio

**Stella Bruzzi FBA** has been Executive Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities and Professor of Film at University College London (UCL) since 2017 where she is also Professor of Film. She has held positions at the University of Manchester, Royal Holloway, University of London and the University of Warwick, where she also served Chair of the Faculty of Arts from 2008 to 2011. She has published widely in the areas of costume and cinema (including *Undressing Cinema: Clothing and Identity in the Movies*, the first book in the field), documentary (including the influential *New Documentary* in 2006), gender and masculinity in Hollywood and representations of history, and has, to date, published eight monographs, the last of which was *Approximation: Documentary, History and the Staging of Reality* (Routledge, 2020). In 2013 she was elected as Fellow of the British Academy.