Polyphony and performance: integrating the theatre into cinema’s modernity.

Humanities Research Centre Seminar

21 July 2014, 4.00 – 5.30pm
Conference Room, A. D. Hope Building #14 ANU

Speaker

Dr Victoria Duckett, University of Melbourne

My research explores film’s nascent relationship to the late nineteenth century stage. It argues that the emergence of digital culture has seen a focus on the technological rather than performative history of film and new media. This means that what we accept as ‘the cinema’ often denies or elides the theatrical practices that were brought into the nascent media. My interest, in particular, is the narrative theatrical film before World War One. Particularly in Australia, which is credited with having ushered in the longer playing feature film format with the release of The Story of the Kelly Gang, these pre-teen years are fundamental to a proper understanding of our larger contribution to the global film industry.

Dr Victoria Duckett is Lecturer in Media Studies at Deakin University, Melbourne. Victoria has published extensively in the areas of performance, film and media studies. She is on the steering committee of Women and Film History International, on the editorial board of Nineteenth Century Theatre and Film and has curated films on performance for Cinema Ritrovato, Bologna. In 2013 she was co-convenor of the 7th international Women and Silent Screen conference in Melbourne. She is co-editor of Researching Women in Silent Film: New Findings and Perspectives (University of Bologna, 2013). Her book Performing Passion: Sarah Bernhardt and Silent Film is forthcoming from the University of Illinois Press.