

Educational material

Šoljan in Rovinj



CLASS DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: 4th grade

TEACHING AREA: Culture and media

TEACHING UNIT: *Šoljan in Rovinj*

CLASS TYPE: Analysis of a short documentary film

DURATION OF A TEACHING UNIT: 45 minutes

ŠOLJAN IN ROVINJ

Zvane Črnja High School, Rovinj, 2023

MOTIVATION

Conversation with the students

1. What do you know about Antun Šoljan and about the people around *Krug/The Circle* magazine?
2. Have you read Šoljan's novel *A Brief Excursion* or maybe watched the 2017 film of the same name by Igor Bezinović, based on the novel?
3. Do you know about Šoljan's connection to Rovinj?

THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE FILM

You will watch a short film *Šoljan in Rovinj* produced by Zvane Črnja High School from Rovinj.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR WATCHING

1. Pay attention to the sound in the film.
2. Pay attention to the kinds of shots used.
3. Try to guess which stylistic figure this film is based on.

WATCHING THE FILM

EXPRESSION OF STUDENT IMPRESSIONS

What do you think of this film? Be sure to provide arguments for your impressions.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF THE FILM

1. How does the film start? What do we see and hear?

With an attractive shot in which we see an old man from the back in a medium close-up, looking at a sea port. We hear the narrator's voice (non-diegetic voice or voice-over) and non-diegetic music.

2. What do the shots in the film mostly show?

Rovinj, from the tourist-famous parts of the city to those that are less well-known. This is visually a film about the city of Rovinj, a kind of visual postcard.

3. How is the beauty of Rovinj further emphasized? What colours predominate?

With colours; gentle pastel colours prevail in the shots of the city.

4. How does the viewer get to know the film crew?

We see the film crew for the first time in a medium full shot next to Šoljan's statue, while the narrator states that this is the crew that's making a film about Šoljan.

5. What is the name of a film about a film, i.e. a film that shows the process of making a film?

A meta-film.

6. Can you explain what is "meta" about this film?

A shot of the film crew, the narrator's lines "We are making a film about Šoljan" and "How to make a film about Šoljan".

7. What is the music like in the film?

Non-diegetic.

8. Besides voices and music, are there any noises in this film? List some examples.

The noises of waves, the noise of a child crying, the noise of people murmuring.

9. What are the camera angles like? Is the camera always at eye level? List some examples.

There are low angles (e.g. the shot of Rovinj windows) and high angles (the shot of the beach).

10. What cinematic means of expression best shows the humour of this film?

The screenplay - the female voice-over.

11. Can you clarify what is actually humorous in the narration and in the film?

Disappointing the audience's expectations, especially considering the name of the film; the audience expects a (boring) film about Šoljan in Rovinj, and gets a playful and entertaining film about shooting the film in Rovinj.

12. Is *Šoljan in Rovinj* a film about Šoljan?

This is a humorous film about boundless imagination and the fact that creating something is possible even when it seems impossible.

13. Why is irony the basic stylistic figure in this film?

The authors claim that they ran out of inspiration, but in fact they made a phenomenal film, just not about Šoljan; the film partially parodies biographical documentaries.

14. What does the viewer learn about Šoljan from the film?

He was a poet, writer and translator. Šoljan's statue is located in Rovinj, as is a memorial plaque for him, since he lived and worked there.

15. What makes this a documentary?

Authentic locations, shots that prove that Šoljan lived in Rovinj (his statue, the memorial plaque on the house where he lived and worked), narration, protagonists instead of actors.

EVALUATION

- monitoring student activities while watching a film
- checking the understanding of the film by asking questions
- teaching sheet (quiz)

THE TEACHING SHEET (QUIZ) is available on the Film EDUcation website.