



PRESENTATIONS OF SALOMÉ

OSUN Connected Learning Contest Winner

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Course: What is Salomé

The assignment asks students to choose one presentation of Salomé for analysis by means of a common paradigm. Visual examples are especially emphasized.

What is Salomé (HUM 135)

The figure of Salomé, not the person but an artifact composed from various sources, has been prominent since Oscar Wilde's play, Richard Strauss's opera, and many cinematic representations. The sources drawn upon — principally the New Testament and the historian Josephus, but also Byzantine and Renaissance painting — need to be understood in their own terms, for the modern amalgam to be appreciated.

Practical and pedagogical value

The course began only after most students had left campus. For that reason, visual artifacts were especially foregrounded, and the seminar unfolded by means of considering increasingly complex work.

The assignment

For the discussion on 24 April, we will focus on Aubrey Beardsley's illustrations after we have discussed the assignment: your selection of one innovative feature for each of you among the many that Wilde introduced into his play:

<https://www.bl.uk/romantics-and-victorians/articles/salome>.

For the discussion of Beardsley, see the articles by Zatlin, Kultermann, and Gilbert attached here, and see

<https://hammer.ucla.edu/exhibitions/2012/a-strange-magic-gustave-moreaus-salome>.

Once we have accomplished that, we will move into a part of the course that accommodates the interests of individual students. For this purpose, Kramer's article (attached) gives a good overview. As you select possible artifacts for investigation, keep in mind that the aim is to write a three-page paper, covering

1. who contributed the portrayal and when,
2. your description of the presentation in your own words,
3. its distinctive features, and
4. its influence on the profile of Salomé as it is today.

In addition the resources given in our readings, the following sites may be useful to you. They are not exhaustive, but indicate the possible range of work:

Productions of the opera by Strauss

Nikolaus Lehnhoff, Baden-Baden 2011 (with English captions)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=umMeLSNlYMU&t=192s>

Romeo Castelucci, Salzburg 2019 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tOe9Zc9oC9o>

Independent dance

Roger Silva, 2019 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IQLL_6j1HAU

Films

Charles Bryant, 1923 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lybJmDzRH68&feature=youtu.be>

William Dieterle, 1953 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zOd5AjHWZVg>

Ken Russel, 1988 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u3C1KP-ZeIA>

Al Pacino, 2011

<https://video.search.yahoo.com/search/video?fr=tightropetb&p=al+pacino%2C+salome#id=2&vid=b33e1704ca4506f267344282e7b8436a&action=view>

Enjoy!