

Still the Moving World: "Intolerance, Modernism and "Heart of Darkness (Literature and the Visual Arts)

By Jordan Leondopoulos



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Nearly three-quarters of a century of criticism - much of it misguided, sometimes even wrong-headed - has obscured a crucial facet of D.W. Griffith's accomplishment in *Intolerance*. This original and lucid study argues that *Intolerance* is, like Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*, a proto-modernist text. Both works exhibit an ahistoric consciousness of disorder, destruction and skepticism, and reflect - to different degrees - the aesthetic experimentalism of the early 20th century. Through a close analysis of Griffith's film and its manifold affinities with Conrad's tale - and more cursorily with the works of other exponents of modernism in the traditional arts - the author demonstrates that, contrary to the conventional criticisms of *Intolerance* as a cluttered, disjointed text, the film's eccentric form and unruliness are among the vital components of its meaning and modernity.



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Editorial Review

About the Author

The Author: Jordan Leondopoulos, Assistant Professor of English at St. John's University, teaches modern Anglo-American literature and courses in literature and film. A graduate of The City College of New York, he received his Ph.D. from Columbia University. Dr. Leondopoulos has also worked as a film editor, screenwriter, and film director. His contribution as the supervising film editor of *The Exorcist* (1973) earned him an Academy Award nomination. He has lectured and is the author of scholarly articles on both literary and film subjects.

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