

The image of Greek Jew in Greek war movies (1945-1980)

Many times Greek cinema production made use of period under Axis occupation (1940-1944). From 1945 until the beginning of 1980, the reference in occupied years was either directly or the period was used as a canvas of dramatic storytelling. The interest in historical war movies is reduced the decade after Greek civil war. However, the interest revives in late '60s after the endowing of military equipment to cinema makers by the dictatorship. This act, despite the political purposes that obviously had, also helped the producers to reinvent a movie genre that was never died.

Movie's producers faced many barriers because of the lack of funding, the inefficiency of laws, the censorship and generally the rough psychological conditions that followed every greek after those wars. Despite these barriers, the work of the movie's producers transfers the norms, values, and ideas of their time nowadays. In that way, movies can capture beliefs of their times, as they are documents of culture, and sometimes they can even shape the collective consciousness. The main themes of narrative structure of the movies are: the hatred for the occupied forces and their collaborators, the heroic resistance of Greeks and English saboteurs and partisans (who are generally presented without ideological nuances and they are labeled as "patriots"). In the context of a collective, living experience, the mention in Shoa is being expelled. The mention of Greek Jews in Greek war cinema is limited, with only implicit comments on them. In few cases, in which there were Jews-characters in a movie, how the directors represent them and what subjects they bring for discussion? How could we explain the absence of the Jews in Greek movies?

Those are the questions will attempt this presentation to answer. My main purpose is to find how directors construct and represent the image of Greek Jew in Greek war movies productions of the years 1945-1980. Also, I will try to interpret the cinematic narrative of absence about the deportation and devastation of Greek Jews.