Leaders Who Make a Difference: Joel Klein Brings Accountability to NYC DOE: Day 1

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Maria Duca
Martina Valenti
Chiara Tumminello
Michela Pecoraro
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"The one duty we owe to history is to rewrite it."
Oscar Wilde, The Critic as Artist

Rewriting vs Intertextuality
- hallmark of Renaissance and European literature
- process in which every text is "constructed as a mosaic of quotations [...] an absorption and transformation of another text"[10]
- applied to homoeroticistic texts
- towards a history of networks of texts whose centrality and historical permanence have been given in defining Western cultures
- contemporary authors as subversive authors who revise politics of originary narratives on a paradigmatic scale

Marina Warner about rewriting
"The great myths and narratives are precious stores of experience and even if - as in many European myths - they affirm the order of the masculine state against female wilderness, these stories can be ripe to either explain the past or perhaps to create a new future"

"[...] I don't want to become some kind of apostle for cultural eurasianism, because I am very much about that's dangerous to constantly look back to the past. [...] One must stand in the present. It's a question of remembering, of having voices behind one but keeping one's face to time"
- From K. Warner, Stages of Mind, Debate of contemporary theories on the European Myth "Marina Warner: A European Woman's Heritage"

Post-colonial literature and rewriting
- experience of colonization
- tension with imperial power
- emphasize differences from the assumption of the imperial center
- interrupt the transmission of colonizing models
- distinctive regional characteristics

Feminism and rewriting
- challenge of a changing, postmodern understanding of the historical process and the inevitability of any individual account's claims to objective truth
- desiring to rewrite a male-centered history
- reclaiming historical events and personages as subjects and participants in contemporary fictional accounts
- sense of historical and cultural location
Mythology in Marina Warner

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WHAT IS MYTH FOR MARINA WARNER?

She shares the Barthes’ definition. Barthes defines myth as the dominant cultural way of thinking about a particular aspect. Myth is strictly related with connotation for him.

As Marina Warner says myth can be expression of a dominant ideology, so «it is often used to oppress and cancel the possibility of choice». The only way to overcome this contradiction is see what the myth can awaken through imagination and what stories myth can make possible.

Let’s start our journey through the folk tradition that lie behind Rapunzel fairy tale.

Rapunzel motif is widespread in Europe and derives from some ancient Greek myths and some old stories.
Strategies of rewriting in "The Difference in the Dose"

Let's look at the reference in the fairy tales that are traditional through the slipper story...

They aren't always as simple...

The version of Cinderella's story that Maria Wener has written seems to be entirely different from the older story, but in this tale, the heroine is not a victim of her situation.

The slipper itself is the subject of the story, and the heroine is the one who finds it. The slipper is the only difference between Cinderella and her stepmother.

...To sum up...

Maria Wener has written a story with some distinctive features of the modern narrative and typical elements of folk tales. Perhaps she wants the reader to reflect on a particular issue...

Is a mother who gives her child life or who brings the baby up?
Mother-daughter relationship & feminism

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La Force's Persuille

In the earlier part of the 18th century, La Force is a a symbol for the spirit of the daughter girl who is left from being her life over control.

The original story is a tale of bringing back life to the dead girl.

Marin Marais 'Le Jeu pour le Ton'

The story revolves around a woman who is left without her daughter.

Setting: Fantasy land

Marin Marais 'Le Jeu pour le Ton'

The story is about a woman who is left without her daughter.

The original story is a symbol for the spirit of the daughter.

The original story is a tale of bringing back life to the dead girl.
Bibliography & Website Sources

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Thank you!