# **MYTHIC APPROACH**

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### WHAT IS MYTH?

#### Myth is:

- a symbolic narration
- a story attempting to provide explanation about some mysteries of human existence

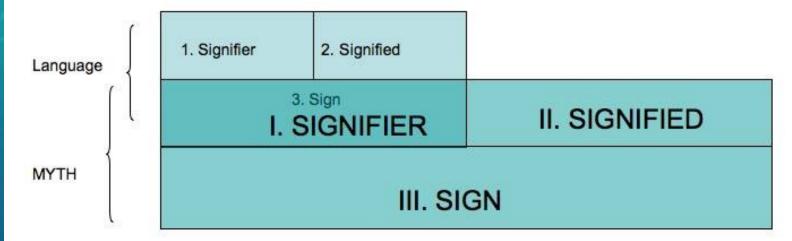
### Myth by lévi-strauss

- Anthropological and diachronic approach
- Universal age-old motives that are realised differently according to the culture
- Myths create humans
- Myth is a base of legitimacy

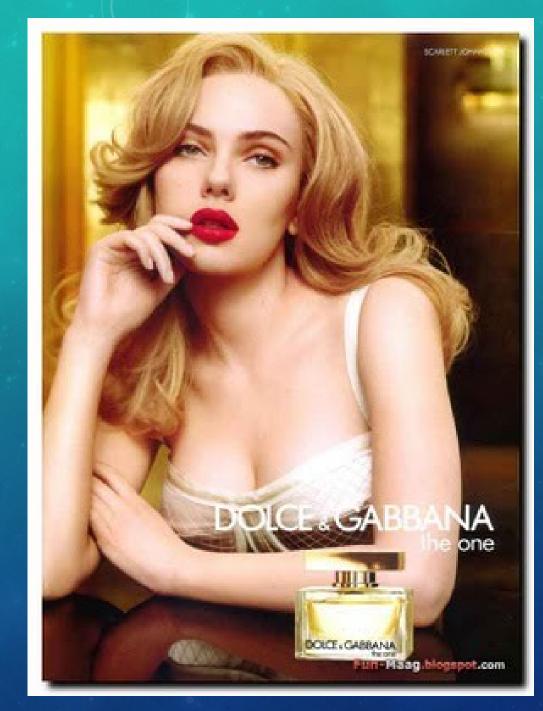
### **Myth by Barthes**

- Semiotic and synchronic approach
- Mytology is produced by today's capitalistic society
- Synonym for IDEOLOGY
- Myths are created from positions of power
- Legitimacy of myths is called NATURALIZATION

# Myth by barthes



Roland Barthes, Myhologies (1957, trans. Annette Lavers, Vintage: London, 1993), 115.





**Gengre analysis** 

#### Identification of:

- Mythic themes
- Cultural myths
  - A historical period
  - Mystical places
  - Idealized times
  - Cultural beliefs

### Mythic themes

- Theme is an abstract concept or observation that is manifested through the action of the plot
- Some genres are particularly well suited for particular mythic themes

## Quiz shows

#### Themes:

- Greed
- Free will vs. fate
- Good fortune



•C: The Moon

### The gangster genre

#### Themes:

- The conflict good X evil, egocentric satisfaction X societal restraints
- The price of loyalty and betrayal appearance X reality
- The hubris of human greatness/power
- The limits of narcissism and greed
- Temptation X control



# EXample

#### Good



### Evil



### The horror genre

#### Themes:

- Good and evil
- Appearance/reality
- The vanity of human greatness/power
- Moral decay
- The influence of the past on the present
- The loss of control



### Cultural myth

#### A Historical Period



#### **Mystical Places**



## Cultural myth

#### **Idealized Times**



#### **Cultural Beliefes**



## Intre-genre analysis

#### Mythic elements

Mythic hero

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- Mythic theme
- Mythic premise

## Example: American dream

