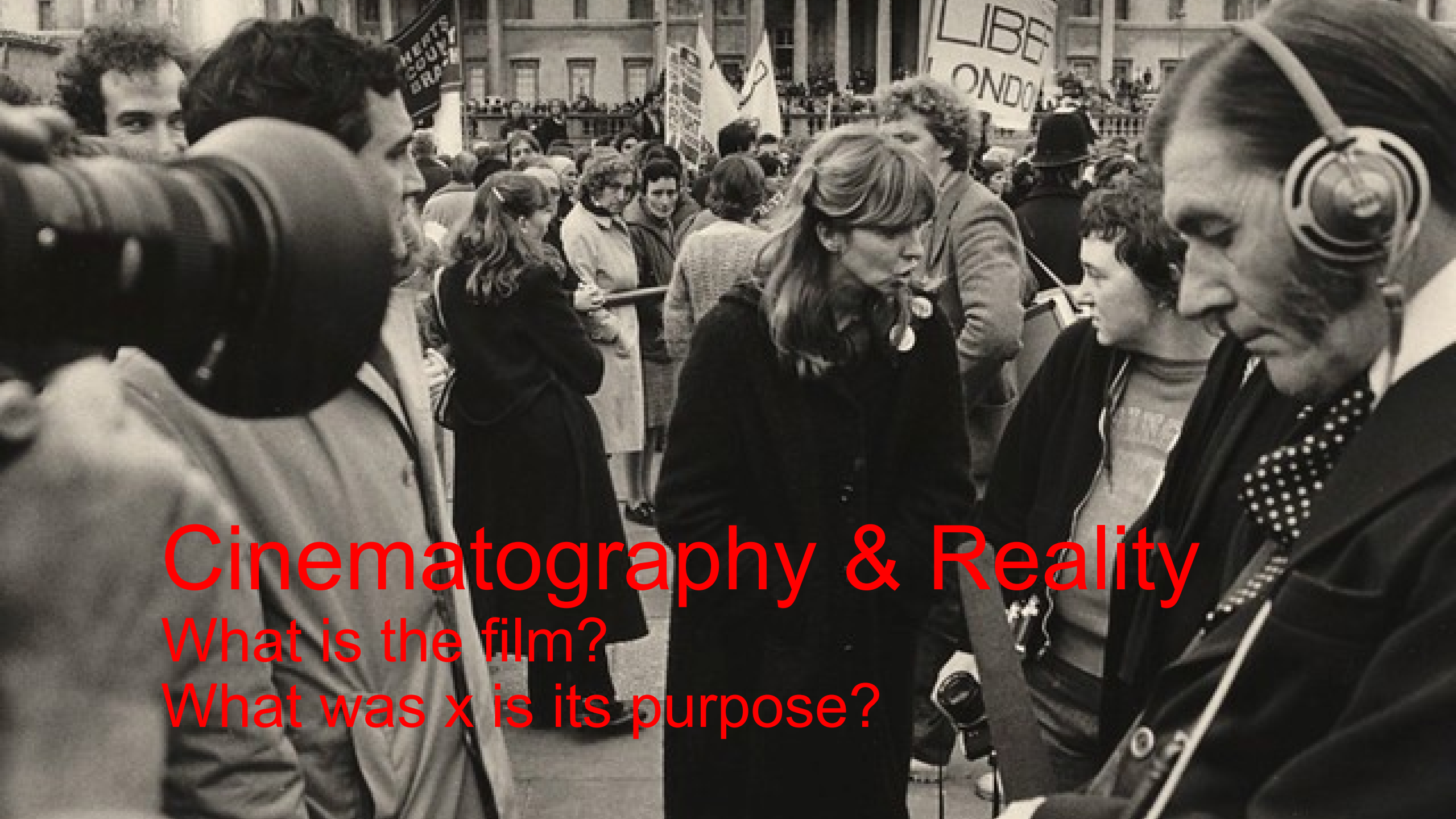




“A true story that might not have happened” (Peter Stormare)

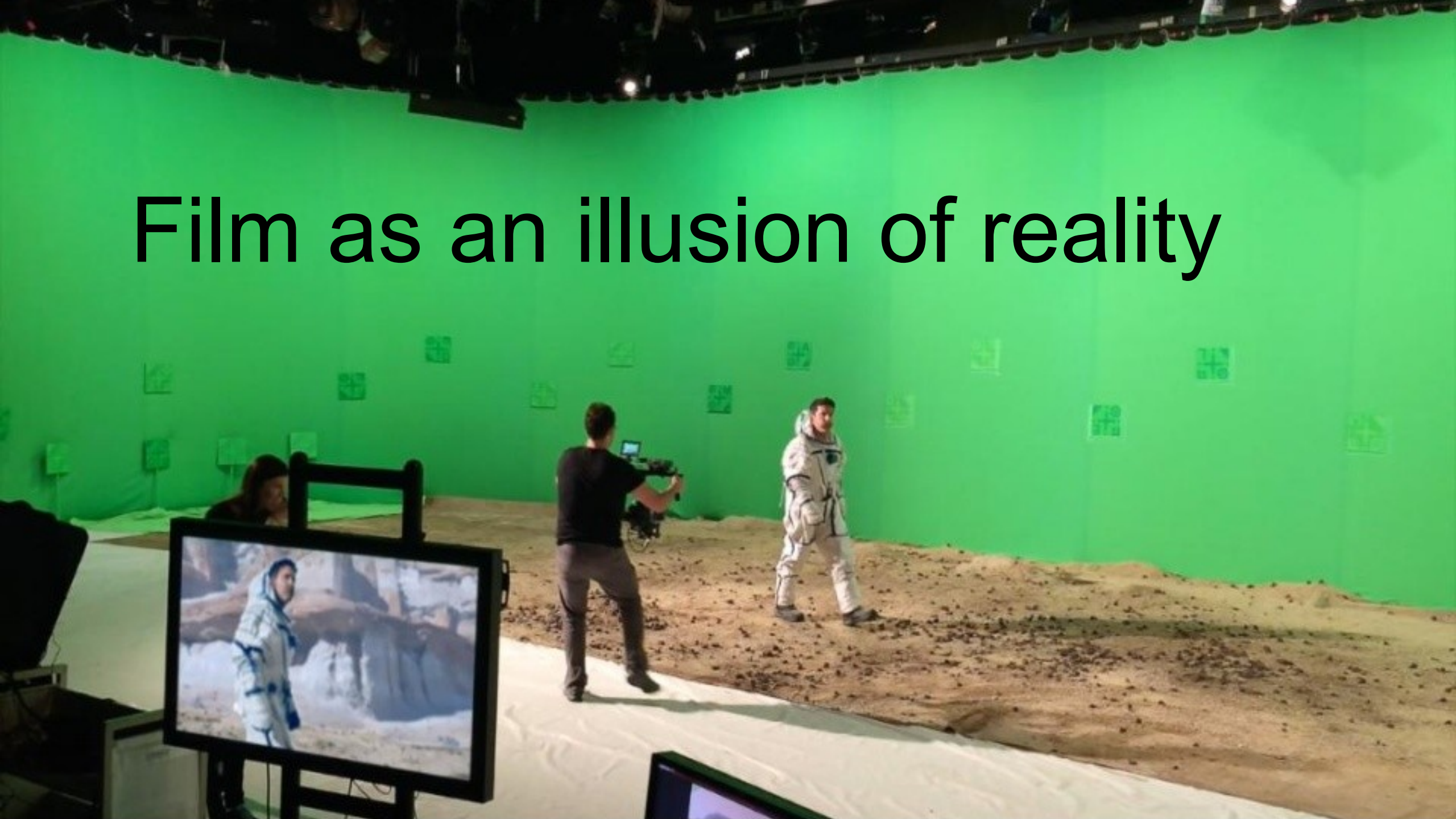


Cinematography & Reality

What is the film?

What was x is its purpose?

Film as an illusion of reality

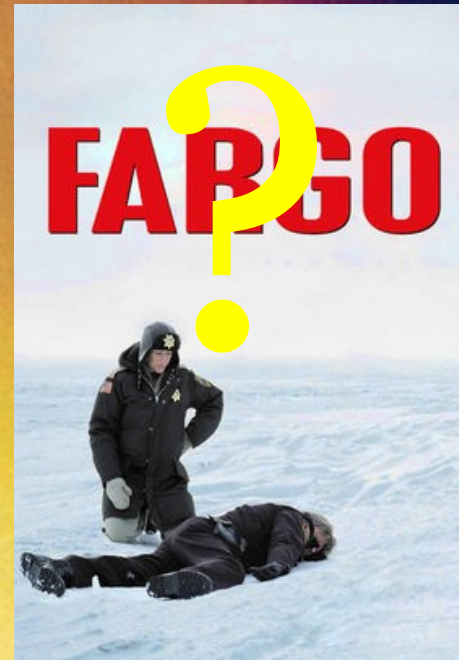
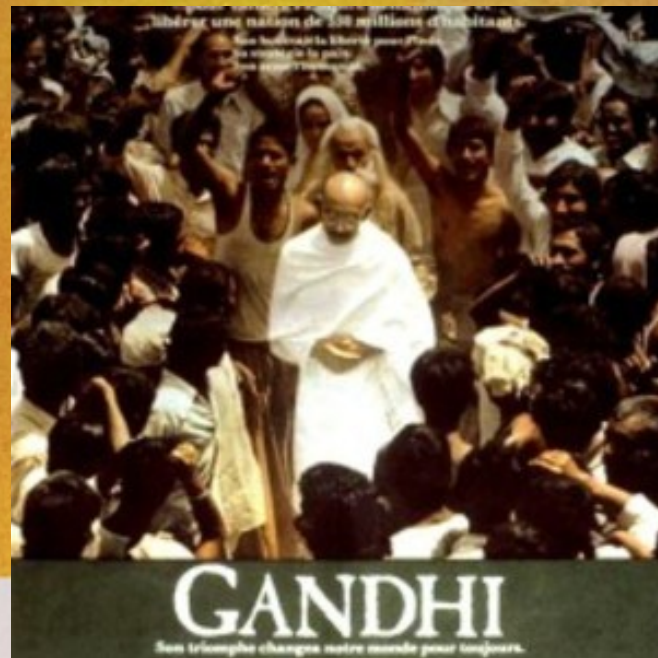


What reality?

- **“PROJECTIVE ILLUSION”** (Richard Allen)
 - we experience the film as a **“fully realized world”**, the active spectator **voluntarily enters** this illusion and **participates** on the experience
- **SUSPENSION OF DISBELIEF** – a typical feature of media based on vision and sound, but especially film (we do not think about the film as a **lie**, we approach it with an intention to believe what is being shown)
 - potential danger – propaganda, misrepresentation of history
- **Real emotional and physical consequences** – our immersion into the **“illusion”** of film reality (how far can the filmmakers go & how far are we willing to follow = suspension of disbelief in practice on both sides)

What is the relationship between the film and reality?

- Documentary “objective reality” ???
- Biography
- Fiction (real-world setting)
- Fiction (fictional-world setting)



Fargo – documentary or fiction?

- Trailer
- Disclaimer
- Setting
- Plot
- Characters
- Minimalist filmmaking
- Camera work

THIS IS A TRUE STORY.

The events depicted in this film
took place in Minnesota in 1987.

At the request of the survivors,
the names have been changed.

Out of respect for the dead,
the rest has been told exactly
as it occurred.

PolyGram
FILMED ENTERTAINMENT

“A reality-based crime drama set in Minnesota in 1987. [...]”

Official MGM Trailer –
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ju75Sd4yAZw>

Camera work - invisible filmmaking in Fargo

position of the camera

Observational / objective

personalized / amidst the action



FRAMING as a central technique in Fargo

WHAT/WHO is in the frame and WHERE



Creating the desolation of place



Characterization of the actors



Isolation and desperation of a character (Jerry)



Support and involvement (Marge)



Shot – reverse shot “over the shoulder”
typical for conversations



showing relationships through conversations



That's it... Really? ... Yeah!



Sources and other interesting materials:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FW0NG-CGGRM> - Fargo: The Coen Brothers and Frances McDormand interview (1997)
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2EFV_xyXH9I - reality in Christopher Nolan's films
- https://books.google.cz/books?hl=cs&lr=&id=6CtsiAEqemlC&oi=fnd&pg=PP15&dq=films+perception+reality&ots=JTAivAPZpn&sig=oKKavj8H643QyyhHkUn8YAL8pdc&redir_esc=y#v=onepage&q=films%20perception%20reality&f=false

Projecting Illusion: Film Spectatorship and the Impression of Reality: Richard Allen

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xjUtWpsbggo> - 4 screenwriting secrets in Fargo
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rasAbD3Y60c> - **7 Things You (Probably) Didn't Know About Fargo!**
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ju75Sd4yAZw> - MGM official trailer
- <https://youtu.be/WxD0zbJV-VM> - the interview where the actors and the directors discuss the reality of the film
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h-vVdxt_xtQ - Lewis Bond for The Cinema Cartography
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MO7DuX56lXg> - Fargo – Discussing Minimalist Cinematography with Roger Deakins