

Philip Cowan
Senior Lecturer
Faculty of Creative Industries



Research interests

Philip Cowan has worked on over 80 film and television productions, including; drama, documentary, dance/performance, and animation projects, working for BBC, ITV, C4, S4C, and numerous independent companies. As a Director of Photography he has shot on 35mm, S16mm, & various digital formats, collecting twenty international 'Best Short Film' awards, including two BAFTA Cymru awards. His work has been screened on network television, and at festivals worldwide. He began teaching in 1994 as a guest lecturer at various institutions, becoming a permanent member of staff at University of South Wales (formerly University of Wales Newport) in 2005. Since joining academia he has published a number of articles on cinematography, film authorship and aesthetics, and completed his PhD in 2016.

Research interests

As a filmmaker and an academic, Philip's main interests lie within film authorship and the aesthetics of film images. He explores the creation of meaning in visual narrative through both his professional practice work, as a Cinematographer, and his published articles and conference presentations.

His practice-based work, which has been screened internationally, awarded twenty 'best film' festival awards world-wide, and his theory-based work, which analyses the work of classical and contemporary cinematographers, like Gregg Toland and Vittorio Storaro, examine the authorial role of the cinematographer in collaborative filmmaking.

Cited Work as a Cinematographer

"The Confectioner [Constantas, 1997] was a personal, almost abstract feminist work centred on sexual power play and repression, with form and content superbly married by the director Margaret Constantas and photographer Phil Cowan." (Dave Berry, 'Unearthing the Present: Television drama in Wales', Wales On Screen, ed. Steve Blandford, Wales:seren, 2000, p.135)

"This multi-layering of fictional and non-fictional information creates a complex cinematic synthesis [They Call Me, Don't Call Me (Sealey, 2006)], a subversion of New York, caught between the present and its own history, a place outside of time", (Paul Purgas, 'The Black Moving Cube', The Black Moving Cube, ed. David A. Bailey, The Green Box, Germany, 2007, p.135)

Qualifications

PhD by Thesis, MIRIAD (Manchester Institute for Research and Innovation in Art and Design)

... → 2016

MA Scriptwriting

... → 2003

PGCE/Cert Ed (PoCET), University of Wales Institute, Cardiff

... → 2001

6 Dec 2022 → 6 Dec 2024 Information Security Essentials, Information Security Essentials

24 Nov 2022 → 24 Nov 2024 Data Protection Briefing: GDPR Edition, Data Protection Briefing: GDPR Edition

20 May 2022 → 20 May 2024 Welsh Language Standards Course, Welsh Language Standards Course

18 May 2018 → 6 Dec 2022 Information Security Essentials, Information Security Essentials

18 May 2018 → 24 Nov 2022 Data Protection Briefing: GDPR edition, Data Protection Briefing: GDPR edition

13 Feb 2020 → 13 Feb 2021 Module 3 - Quiz on Equality and the Law, Module 3 - Quiz on Equality and the Law

13 Feb 2020 → 13 Feb 2021 Module 3 - Quiz on Equality and the Law Types of Discrimination, Module 3 - Quiz on Equality and the Law Types of Discrimination

... → 2016 Honourable Mention British Association of Film, Television and Screen Studies (BAFTSS) Practice Research Award

13 Feb 2020 → ... Module 4 - Quiz on Equality and USW, Module 4 - Quiz on Equality and USW

12 Feb 2020 → ... Module 1 - Quiz on Equality Diversity and Inclusion, Module 1 - Quiz on Equality Diversity and Inclusion

12 Feb 2020 → ... Module 2 - Quiz on Stereotypes Prejudice Assumptions and Unconscious Bias, Module 2 - Quiz on Stereotypes Prejudice Assumptions and Unconscious Bias

12 Sep 2019 → ... Personal Academic Coaching (PAC) Training, Personal Academic Coaching (PAC) Training

15 Jan 2019 → ... RBE CI Faculty Roadshow, RBE CI Faculty Roadshow

14 Feb 2018 → ... LEEP FCI SESSION 3, LEEP FCI SESSION 3

31 Jan 2018 → ... LEEP FCI SESSION 2, LEEP FCI SESSION 2

23 Jun 2016 → ... People Manager Training, People Manager Training

Research outputs

Authorship and Aesthetics in the Cinematography of Gregg Toland

Cowan, P., Oct 2022, first ed. Maryland: Rowman and Littlefield International. 337 p.

Post-Carroll: Functional Elements of the Moving Image

Cowan, P., 1 Dec 2020, In: Projections: The Journal for Movies and the Mind. 14, 3, p. 72-89 18 p., 5.

Aesthetic Elements of the Cinematographic Image

Cowan, P., 22 Nov 2019, In: The Cinematography in Progress Journal. 1, 3, p. 1-13 13 p.

Cinematography Conventions V. Creativity

Cowan, P., 6 Sep 2019.

Aesthetic Elements of the Cinematographic Image

Cowan, P., 4 Apr 2019, (Unpublished).

A Methodology for Analysing Cinematographic Images

Cowan, P., 27 Oct 2018.

A Taxonomy of Elements of Shot Composition

Cowan, P., 13 Jun 2018.

Analyzing Stylistic Patterning in Film to Establish the Cinematographer as a Coauthor: A Case Study of Gregg Toland

Cowan, P., 1 Jun 2017, In: Projections: The Journal for Movies and the Mind. 11, 1, p. 16-37 22 p.

Warmth Test Scenes: "The Cordwainers' Song" and "She Came to Us..."

Constantas, M., Weir, J. & Cowan, P., 22 May 2017

The Use of Colour as a Function of the Cinematographer, *The Sleeping-Mat Ballad*

Cowan, P., 14 Apr 2016, Screenworks, 6.

Stylistic Patterning as a Methodology to Establish the Co-author Status of the Cinematographer: A Case Study of Gregg Toland

Cowan, P., 2016.

The Democracy of Colour

Cowan, P., 3 Aug 2015, In: Journal of Media Practice. p. 139-154 15 p.

Book Reviews: *Cinematography*

Cowan, P., 2015, In: Projections: The Journal for Movies and the Mind. 9, 2, p. 93-98 6 p.

The Sleeping-Mat Ballad

Constantas, M. & Cowan, P., 28 Nov 2014

Branches: the Nature of Performance

Constantas, M. & Cowan, P., 14 May 2014

Image Aesthetics at the Time of Digital Cinema: Round Table for Film Schools
Cowan, P. & Jarry, J-P. (ed.), 2013.

Underexposed: The Neglected Art of the Cinematographer
Cowan, P., 12 Jun 2012, In: *Journal of Media Practice*. 13, 1, p. 75-96 22 p.

Authorship and the Director of Photography: A Case Study of Gregg Toland and Citizen Kane
Cowan, P., 24 Feb 2012, In: *Networking Knowledge*. 5, 1, p. 231-245 15 p.

Prizes

The Use of Colour as a Function of the Cinematographer in *The Sleeping Mat Ballad*.
Cowan, Philip (Recipient), Apr 2016