

Postfeminism and the Portrayal of Female Friendship in *Barbie as the Island Princess* (2007)

No. Abstract: ABS-ICOLLITE-24160

Karisa Adelia Tabina
Undergraduate English Studies Program, Universitas Padjadjaran

INTRODUCTION

- *Barbie as the Island Princess* is an feature film directed by Richardson in a DVD-animated movie fomrat in 2007 (IMDb)
- Postfeminism refers to “a discourse popularized by the mass media in the 1990s reflecting a reaction against the feminist theories of the 1970s and 1980s, often on the basis that the ‘battle of the sexes’ is over.” (Chandler & Munday, 2011)
- Female friendship is an important part of postfeminism, yet it is also complicated
- Research Objectives:
 - What is the correlation between female friendship and post-feminism in the film?
 - What is the significance female friendship bring to the plot development?

LITERATURE REVIEW

- Barbie (2023) live-action success (Variety)
- Barbie animated movies is a well-loved film (Boon, 2020; Bahr, 2023) and has been a 'pink post-feminist' icon (Vered & Maizonniaux, 2016)
- Bell (2021) argues that female friendship in film has received very little attention despite the extensive writing
- The negative stereotype of women's companionship in films (Arbuthnot & Seneca, 1990)

METHOD

- Repeatedly watching the research object
- Analyzing the dialogue and visual aspects of the movie
- Analyzing the movie by applying post-feminism theory and feminist film criticism
- Analyze how female friendship correlates to post-feminism and how it affects the plot

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Female Friendship and Breaking the Gender Stereotype of Women Rivalry

- Prince Antonio was arranged to be wed with Princess Luciana while he loves Rosella,
- The showcase of 'unspoken' rivalry between the two women
- The stereotype of women rivalry for love (Arbutnot & Seneca, 1990)



FINDING AND DISCUSSION

- However, Luciana and Ro do not hold malice of each other
- Ro and Luciana showcase respect for each other feeling
- Female friendship as a mean of survival in a new place (Hollinger, 1998)



FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Female Friendship and Individuation:
Post-feminism Notion of Woman Ability to Choose

- The relationship between mother and daughter is notably an important aspect of women's development (Hollinger, 1998)
- Luciana's gain individuation over her mother as she break the engagement with Prince Antonio with Ro's in mind



CONCLUSION

- It shows female friendship as a way to break class boundaries and the scornful gaze of women's rivalry
- This study finds that the early Barbie animated movies portrayed female friendship as something that pushed Barbie characters forward

REFERENCES

- Arbutnot, L., & Seneca, G.** (1990). PRE-TEXT AND TEXT IN GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDES. In Erens, P (Eds.), Issues in Feminist Film Criticism. Indiana University Press.
- Bahr, S.** (2023, August 11). This Isn't Barbie's First Time Onscreen: She's Been a Movie Star for Decades. The New York Times. <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/08/11/movies/barbie-animated-nutcracker.html>
- Bell, C. E. R.** (2021). Old Acquaintances and New Sisterhoods: Female Friendship in Classical Hollywood Cinema [Doctoral dissertation].
- Boon, M.** (2020, March 13). How Barbie movies foster female friendship. The Queen's Journal. <https://www.queensjournal.ca/how-barbie-movies-foster-female-friendship/>
- Chandler, D., & Munday, R.** (2011). post-feminism. A Dictionary of Media and Communication (2nd ed.). Oxford University Press. Retrieved 22 Apr. 2024, from <https://www.oxfordreference.com/view/10.1093/acref/9780199568758.001.0001/acref-9780199568758>.
- Hollinger, K.** (1998). In the company of women : contemporary female friendship films. University Of Minnesota Press.
- Richardson, G.** (Director). (2007). Barbie as the Island Princess [Film].
- Vered, K. O., & Maizonniaux, C.** (2016). Barbie and the straight-to-DVD movie: pink post-feminist pedagogy. Feminist Media Studies, 17(2), 198–214. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14680777.2016.1178158>



THANK YOU!

Follow us @...