

**THE 2014 JAMIE BISHOP MEMORIAL AWARD** for an essay on the fantastic written in a language other than English

**Winner**

Vera Cuntz-Leng

“Frodo auf Abwegen: Das queere Potenzial des aktuellen Fantasykinos”<sup>1</sup>

[Frodo Gone Astray: The Queer Potential of Fantasy Blockbusters]

Since the foundation stone of blockbuster cinema was laid with the release of STAR WARS (US 1977), Hollywood has produced at regular intervals fantasy movies with high budgets and impressive special effects that need to attract as many recipients as possible to guarantee commercial success. Due to the resulting universality of these films, fantasy cinema appears to be predestined to be read against the grain, because certain issues need to be excluded from the narration and therefore conspicuous gaps (*Leerstellen*) – particularly in relation to sexuality – remain.

The method of *Queer Reading* may uncover the subversive potential of the genre and can open up new spaces for marginalized social topics; spaces within mainstream cinema, where alternative gender and sexual concepts are allowed and welcome. A queer reading of Peter Jackson's THE LORD OF THE RINGS: THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING (NZ/US 2001) and Alfonso Cuarón's HARRY POTTER AND THE PRISONER OF AZKABAN (GB/US 2004) exemplifies the argument that fantasy genre films have a high subversive potential. Furthermore, an outlook will be given about the way in which fantasy movies might discuss "gender, sex, and desire" in the future.

**Finalist**

**Merja Leppälahti**

“Eläviä vainajia, muodonmuutoksia ja muita outoja tapauksia: Kansanperinne taipuu fantasiaksi”<sup>2</sup>

[From Folklore to Fantasy: The Living Dead, Metamorphoses, and Other Strange Things]

**Semi-Finalist**

Clotilde Landais

“*Aliss* de Patrick Senécal: la métalepse ontologique comme instrument du fantastique”<sup>3</sup>

[Patrick Senécal's *Aliss*: Ontological Metalepsis as an Instrument of Fantastic Fiction]

---

<sup>1</sup> This essay appeared in German in: *Zeitschrift Für Fantastikforschung* 1.1 (2011): 24-43.  
[http://www.fantastikforschung.de/cms/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=163&Itemid=103&lang=de](http://www.fantastikforschung.de/cms/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=163&Itemid=103&lang=de)

<sup>2</sup> This essay appeared in Finnish in the journal *Elore* (December 2012).  
[http://www.elore.fi/arkisto/2\\_12/elore2\\_12.html](http://www.elore.fi/arkisto/2_12/elore2_12.html)

<sup>3</sup> This essay appeared in French in the journal @analyses 8.2 (2013).  
<https://uottawa.scholarsportal.info/ojs/index.php/revue-analyses/issue/view/195>