

BLACK ORPHEUS [ORFEU NEGRO]

France/Brazil, Marcel Camus, 1959



Cast:

Breno Mello	...	Orfeo
Marpessa Dawn	...	Eurydice
Marcel Camus	...	Ernesto
Fausto Guerzoni	...	Fausto
Lourdes de Oliveira	...	Mira
Léa Garcia	...	Serafina
Ademar Da Silva	...	Death
Alexandro Constantino	...	Hermes
Waldemar De Souza	...	Chico
Jorge Dos Santos	...	Benedito
Aurino Cassiano	...	Zeca

Director: Marcel Camus

Length: 105 minutes

Country: France/Brasil

Producer: Sacha Gordine

Language: Portuguese

Color: Color

Script: Marcel Camus, Jacques Viot, Vinicius de Moraes

Photography: Jean Bourgoin

Editing: Andrée Feix

Music by Luiz Bonfá, Antonio Carlos Jobim

Questions of Analysis:

1. What is this movie about?
2. How does the opening scene sets the enigma for the remaining of the movie.
3. What is the meaning of the title?
4. What does the audience need to know to better understand the film?
5. Whose story is it? Defend your answer.
6. Identify the basic conflict and provide a list of metaphors.
7. Whose perspective does the film use to deliver the story?
8. What is the film's and the directors's ideology?
9. How does the film portray the Brazilian spaces?
10. How does *Black Orpheus* present religion as "social construct"?
11. Explore the religious topics presented in the film as it transforms a classical Greek mythology story into a Brazilian favela carnival/urban story
12. How is syncretism presented in the film?
13. Interpret syncretism from within the Afro-Brazilian point of view (See Bastide's article).
14. What is the role of religion in the culture depicted in the film?
15. What is the director's purpose for making this film?
16. How does the film deal with the concepts of nationalism and identity?
17. What message does the final scene attempt to deliver to the audience?