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G-AAAH

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Short synopsis (What is it about)

Amy Johnson worked as a typist for a firm of solicitors before her record- breaking solo flight from Croydon to Australia in 1930. This film has been created with an Underwood 315 typewriter as a celebration of her journey.

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Why did you select it?

Style looked very unique to me. Director brilliantly used typography symbols to create images, story, that are clearly understandable to the average viewer. I was found of the use of typewriter to represent person's past and then their journey.

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Theme and Tone

Atmosphere of the short film reminded me of old, retro documentaries from 20th century. The main goal was to pay respect to Amy Johnson for her achievements. Film shows struggles in the journey of solo pilot, all stages that she went through during her way, from being cheered by audience to getting into hurricane. Video captured my attention, made me interested in all symbols and what image they make, as well as gave the feeling of this jouney.

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Technique / Cinematograhy / Direction

Film is short documentary of Amy Johnson. Director used typewriter to not only use symbols to create animated plane and journey to show contribution of pilot, but also because of Amy Johnsons past as a typist for a firm of solicitors, which gives us more information and gives special meaning to technique. There is only one source of light at the top right corner as a lamp, which gives us a look as if all these symbols are just part of biography typed by some writer. Animation is made from one angle. Transitions felt sharp, as if they were cuts from big documentary, snapshots of the most important events. The story is very straightforward, we know about whom it will be as it is written at the beginning, but technique is complex.

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Sound and Music

There was no music or voice over, but rather only sound effects were used. There was not much of the layering just clear sound of specific things all people know about. This supported visuals a lot to understand what images symbols created. For example, to get that all “o” are people, by using cheering sound coming from them. Sound Effects in film is simple, yet works well in combination with abstracted visuals and give more meaning to it.

Last thoughts

I will recommend it to my friends, maybe parents, since I have father interested in history, he probably knows Amy Johnson. It wasn’t much thought provoking, but rather just interesting and inspiring in terms of technique. In my opinion short film “G-AAAH” is done perfectly. Sometimes simpler is better.