



"SLAVE.
TO
FREEDOM"

On
Lars von Trier's
Manderlay

10-11
October
2007

Conference
organised
by

THE CIRCLE FOR
LACANIAN
IDEOLOGY CRITIQUE

*Jan van Eyck Academie
Maastricht*

&

HEYENDAAL INSTITUTE
*Radboud University
Nijmegen*

Manderlay (2005) is the second film of Lars von Trier's trilogy 'USA - Land of Opportunities'. Its story brings back one of the darkest sides of western history: while creating a free society, a large part of the 'New World' declared slavery to be one of its constitutive elements. *Manderlay* is von Trier's way to deal with that traumatic aspect of modern freedom's legacy. The conference intends to explore two basic questions raised by his film. 1. Not unlike socio-political catastrophes like the 'Gulag' and 'Auschwitz', this trauma raises the question of how to incorporate and 'accept the unaccept-able' into our memory, into the making of modernity's tradition. 2. What to think if freedom as such is based on a *lie* urging us to act *as if* we were slaves. What if this very lie is the basic condition of the way we, moderns, deal with freedom's truth?

Conference venue:

Jan van Eyck Academie
Academieplein 1
Maastricht
The Netherlands

Admission free,
but please register
by e-mail:

madeleine.bisscheroux@janvaneyck.nl.

This event was made
possible with the support of the
City of Maastricht.



Programme Day I
Wednesday 10 October

15.30-16.00

Registration & Coffee

16.00-17.00

EMMA BELL

University of East Anglia, UK

Alien-Nation:

On Not Misreading Lars von Trier's
(Anti-)American Pictures

17.00-18.00

MARC DE KESEL

Radboud University Nijmegen, NL

Journey Between Mirrors:

Lars von Trier's *Manderlay* as an
Essay on Modern Freedom

21.00

Film Screening

Introduction by

PETER VERSTRATEN

University of Leiden, NL

Location:

Lumière

Bogaardenstraat 40B, Maastricht

www.lumiere.nl

Programme Day II
Thursday 11 October

11.00-12.00

JAN SIMONS

University of Amsterdam, NL

The Redeemer's Dilemma:

A Game-Theoretical Approach to
Lars von Trier's Films

12.00-13.00

CHRIS GEMERCHAK

Jan van Eyck Academie, Maastricht, NL

Spectres of the Civil Undead:

On the Veil of Authority and
the Disavowal of Freedom

13.00

Lunch

14.00-15.00

KATRIEN VUYLSTEKE VANFLETEREN

Hogeschool Gent, BE

Manderlay:

A Film Version of Brecht's
Epic Theatre?

15.00-16.00

ROK BENCIN

University of Ljubljana, SL

'Where all notions get split into two...'

Von Trier's *Manderlay* and
Brecht's *Der gute Mensch von Sezuan*

16.00-16.30

Break

16.30-17.30

ERIK VOGT

Trinity College, Hartford, US

Mauvaise foi in Manderlay

17.30

Drinks