

1999-2007 concerns. From personal and national towards more collective.

The scope of the present effort is to help the free* education of all citizens of their own countries and of world, in the directions advocated by people like Mumford and Chomsky, and in ways that hope to go over the ceiling of the sub-critical number of effectively concerned people that the format of such thinkers can create. The reason why Mumford is still so relevant is not that his predictions, concerns, and proposals had included e.g. global warming, but that the perspective and the contexts of his analysis of his time's global threat, nuclear holocaust, are valuable for a valid analysis of our own time's problems, global warming and global gangs, despite the fact that, of course, his analysis does not exhaust the aspects of the problem that we are facing. The reason for the format of our effort, a format whose nature one can grasp at once by just leafing the file-titles of our pages (we'll leaf them once more, together, right below here too), is that some motives, both of genuine and of despicable scholars, seem to be moving the teaching of history to directions that, at best, make someone as calm a viewer of his own country's history and fate as any other country's and, at worst, as dispassionate, de-nerved and passive an onlooker of the same as the worst among indifferent foreigners; while the overcoming of chauvinism that is urgently needed to help our time's earth and life, is the cultivation of the most passionate and noble forms of other times' patriotism in ways helping these elements to naturally extend to the love that can defend our whole mother planet as passionately as some other times' peoples defended their mother countries or mother towns.

John Alevizos, Christmas 2007

PS: And, of course, a "more" practical reason for Mumford's continuing relevance in days of global warming is the convincingness with which he argued that the town models proposed by Howard were not only energy-conserving but also possible and infinitely more desirable than the ones existing now.

A brief and personal outline:

Farcitrilogy:

Mount Bushmore, farcitragedy in soap-opera format.

Onground, tragicomix in road-movie format.

Overground, tragicomix in space-movie format.

("Overground", "Onground" are meant, mainly, as the two missing complements of "Underground" in the sense of Kusturitsa's film with that title, i.e. in the sense of the monkey-ification of man in conditions of lack and distortion of information about the world, and his emergence as criminal from that state. He examined this point for the case of Eastern Europe. Is there a film about US's Underground (in that sense)? In a sense it is the couple formed by "Arizona Dream" and "GhostDog" (by Kusturitsa himself and by Jarmusch) where the point is made from the direction where someone emerges from criminality into a nobler state of mind (as a samurai type of warrior). So our Onground-Overground integrate that US counterpart of Underground to a more whole triad)

A brief presentation of a more comprehensive outline:

Mumford, man-for-all-seasons for our season.

In and out of Borgesian and non Borgesian Labyrinths.

*A proposal helping in free, or at least less expensive, education is outlined in the next page in the format of one form of personal deal. It can only help in making education cheaper and wider if similar personal deals are made on a scale that becomes collective.

Publishers who might be interested in either “Mount Bushmore” or anything else of what shows up at www.johnalevizos.net can contact me at johnalev@gmail.com if and ONLY IF they are willing to only publish a leaflet containing the theater program (only), to have no copyright preventing anybody else from doing the same, to include in the leaflet a CD with exactly the content of the site www.johnalevizos.net and in a way not preventing the copying of the CD, to write on the outer part of the back cover of the leaflet that both the leaflet and all the contents of the enclosed CD can also be obtained for free both at the above site and at the publisher’s site, to sell the leaflet at only the price of a usual color-photo commix (the present analog of the price of the issues of those good old “classics illustrated” coming out weekly in our childhood)+one extra dollar for the expense of including a CD, to either arrange the due royalties with the originators of the term “Mount Bushmore” or just print the leaflet with the title “Theater Program” on its cover, to pay the author (me) with the average percentage of what they (the publishers) pay their other writers, to keep for themselves exactly the same percentage and, with the rest of their net gain, to finance a plan (either unrelated or even related to these pages) or a cause that we’re both interested in helping along. Same deal (but with smaller price since not any paper is involved) is for people interested in fixing and distributing the book not in page form but in CD form only (to be sold either at bookstores or at CD-shops). The plan just proposed, which if shared by many authors is of course a plan for “publisher suicide for the sake of free, or at least less expensive, and higher quality education for wide audiences”, goes hand in hand with a proposal in the direction of making cheap book-shape laptops without a keyboard, with only page-change button, as easily useable as a book one leafs sitting in an armchair, i.e. laptops that are friendly to e.g. people of the non computer-friendly generation (and also are friendly to their pocket. Maybe “old timers” do not want to also buy technology they’re not going to need if they only want to use a PC for reading CD’s. Without reference to keyboard & modem wouldn’t reading be cheaper? Also, one doesn’t need to be an old timer to prefer to use less paper and to want to be more educated, less expensively, and by less profit-oriented authors and publishers. Also, rewritable CD’s, for books and newspapers, are more easily recycled than paper. Overall, this is not a proposal for suicide to publishers, just a proposal for suicide of many functions of them. They can very well be reborn in new form and stay alive)*

**Making reward/ help to both author and publisher (like to street musicians) optional for the reader.*