

The evolution of Storytelling: Peter Pan from Stage to Screen

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It is not uncommon to watch a movie that was adapted from a written work. Sometimes those adaptations are successful, sometimes they are not.

In this paper, we address the aspects of a cinematic adaptation that help the turning of a play into a great movie through the analysis of two adaptations of Peter Pan.

Several movies were based on James Matthew Barrie's Peter Pan such as Hook (Spielberg, 1991) or Walt Disney's animation Peter Pan (Geronimi, 1953).

We analyse in terms of narrative styles, characters modifications, and visual effects techniques the silent movie Peter Pan made in 1924 and the most recent version of the story, also called Peter Pan, made in 2003.

The choice of those movies was motivated by the changes of society and techniques that happened between 1924 and 2003, leading to totally different approaches to filmmaking and to the story.

The analysis provided material to determine the aspects that should appear in a movie adapted from a play such as freedom from the original text, or a loose interpretation of the story.