

## Episode 97 - Rogue One (Gareth Edwards, 2016) (with Jonathan Wroot)

### **Rogue One (Gareth Edwards, 2016).**

The ***Fantasy/Animation*** podcast takes listeners on a journey through the intersection between fantasy cinema and the medium of animation. Available via [Apple Podcasts](#), [Spotify](#) and many of your favourite podcast hosting platforms!

Episode 97 of the podcast takes on the intergalactic conflicts and rebel alliances of *Rogue One* (Gareth Edwards, 2016), an anthology feature film and prequel to *Star Wars* (George Lucas, 1977) that tells the origin story of the ‘Rogue One’ starfighter squadron and the creation of the Death Star. Special guest for this episode is Dr [Jonathan Wroot](#), who is Senior Lecturer and Programme Leader for Film Studies at the University of Greenwich. Jonathan has published research on home media formats and Asian cinema distribution, including the co-edited collection entitled [New Blood: Framing 21st Century Horror](#) (2021) and his recent [monograph on the Zatoichi film and TV franchise](#). He has also contributed to the podcast series *Beyond Japan* and *Second Features*, as well as the 2022 Japan Touring Film Programme. Listen as they discuss Jedis, the Jidaigeki (時代劇) period film, and longstanding East Asian influences upon the *Star Wars* saga; the relationship between Zatoichi the blind swordsman and *Rogue One*’s own blind warrior Chirrut Îmwe; hope, alliance, and the religious structures of Gareth Edwards’ spin-off story; the generic implications of ‘the Force’ upon science-fiction/fantasy distinctions via questions of rationality; digital de-aging technologies and the virtual recreation of youth; and the challenges of *Rogue One* to expand the *Star Wars* brand by taking spectators back into the fictional world of Hollywood’s most famous space fantasy.

\*\**Fantasy/Animation* theme tune composed by Francisca Araujo\*\*

\*\*This episode was produced and edited by Leon Waldo\*\*

### **Suggested Readings**

- Bode, Lisa. 2010. “No Longer Themselves? Framing Digitally Enabled Posthumous “Performance”.” *Cinema Journal* 49, no. 4 (Summer 2010): 46-70.
- Campbell, Joseph. 1949. *The Hero with a Thousand Faces*. Princeton: Bollingen Foundation.
- Holliday, Christopher. 2022. “Retroframing the Future: Digital De-Aging Technologies in Contemporary Hollywood Cinema.” *JCMS: Journal of Cinema and Media Studies* 61, no. 5 (June 2022, in press).
- Walivaara, Josefine. 2018. “Blind Warriors, Supercrrips, and Techno-Marvels: Challenging Depictions of Disability in *Star Wars*.” *Journal of Popular Culture*, 51 no. 4, 1036-1056.

- Wroot, Jonathan. 2021. *The Paths of Zatoichi: The Global Influence of the Blind Swordsman*. Lanham: Lexington Books.