

Maciej Pawliński

Summary of the doctoral thesis entitled *Between Rambo and Tarkowski – the search for harmony at the junction of action cinema and poetic cinema styles in the film editing of Essential Killing by Jerzy Skolimowski*

Supervisor: dr hab. Milenia Fiedler, prof. PWSFTviT

The author of the work addresses the topic of the presence of elements from two different film genres – action cinema and poetic cinema – in the film *Essential Killing* directed by Jerzy Skolimowski. From the perspective of the editor, it presents the editing process, its key moments, inspirations, and decisions that had a significant impact on the final shape of the work. The leading theme is to show this process as a path full of opposites, experiments and searches whose aim was to find harmony at the junction of two styles. It indicates places in the structure of the film where we can find traces of genre, among other in its construction or the way of narration. Thus, it proves that the director's provocative statement with which this process began „Let it be a bit Rambo, a bit Tarkowski" is reflected in the editing of the film, which ultimately translated into the form in which the story is realized.

The work is divided into four chapters. In the first, the author extracts issues related to the concept of „genre" from the area of film studies, which give the appropriate context to the further part of the work. The second chapter is an analysis of the film material. In the third chapter, he focuses on the stage of searching for an appropriate film structure that would reflect the idea of combining elements from two different film genres. The fourth chapter is devoted to the narrative, dividing it into two sub-chapters. The first concerns the analysis of the way of narration, which is specific to this film and determines the nature of the language used by Jerzy Skolimowski. The second contains an analysis of *Essential Killing's* narrative as a maze structure. In the last, fifth chapter, he places the film in the wider context of Jerzy Skolimowski's work, looking for elements of a unique style present in all his films, including the analysed *Essential Killing*.