

Maria's Marias (Video Essay by Maria Hofmann)

Abstract

For many US Americans, *The Sound of Music* (1965) with the pure mother figure, Maria, at its core is the epitome of Austrian culture; yet, the film is almost unknown in Austria and Germany. Furthermore, not many people on either side of the Atlantic know that the musical and the film are adaptations of the German Heimatfilm *Die Trapp-Familie* (1956) (itself an adaptation of Maria von Trapp's memoir). *Maria's Marias* uses a multiscreen format to highlight the similarities and differences of both versions. In direct comparison, the representation of Maria and her transition from one prison to the next (from the abbey to the mansion and, finally, marriage) becomes apparent. This video essay aims to highlight the intertextual relationship between the Marias (including the original real person) and challenges their portrayal as the pure woman devoid of desires outside of marriage and motherhood.

Bio

Maria Hofmann is an Independent Scholar. Her research focuses on contemporary documentary film, theories of spectatorship, and videographic criticism. She participated in an NEH-sponsored summer workshop on Videographic Criticism in 2018, and is currently working on a multimodal monograph on documentary film in the post-truth era in which traditional written chapters are paired with videographic essays. Her research has been published in *[in]transition*, *Studies in Documentary Film*, and others.

Sources

Inspired by "What is Neorealism?" by kogonada, "Meeting of Two Queens" by Cecilia Barriga, and "Chekhov's Masha's Masha" by Masha Vlasova

Sources

Die Trapp-Familie. Directed by Wolfgang Liebeneiner, 1956.

The Sound of Music. Directed by Robert Wise, 1965.

Music: "Morning" by Alva Noto & Ryuichi Sakamoto

Being a von Trapp - by Elisabeth von Trapp - <https://youtu.be/WBB84HFVxu8>

Climbed Every Mountain' - The Story Behind the Sound of Music - https://youtu.be/tMVXS_xNlz0

Julie and Maria von Trapp sing "Edelweiß" - The Julie Andrews Hour, 1/20/1973 - <https://youtu.be/luf4zs6yqFs>

Julie Andrews and Maria Von Trapp part 1 of 2 - <https://youtu.be/2Juaz5UI6gs>

Maria von Trapp - <https://youtu.be/0nxvkRCmBgo>

So long, farewell: Maria von Trapp dies at 99 - <https://youtu.be/TLgrpgXyqFs>

Sound of Music - 40th Reunion - Julie Andrews & 7 Children - <https://youtu.be/i0VFC704wI0>

Sound Of Music - Johannes von Trapp im Bezirksblätter Interview - <https://youtu.be/XAd27CFbtPA>

Sound of Music Tour - Panorama Tours Salzburg- <https://youtu.be/s1VgYTGi3JI>

The real Maria von Trapp that inspired the musical The Sound of Music dies at 99 - <https://youtu.be/N9esRcpsNLY>

The Sound of Music in Vermont?! Wir besuchen das Familie von Trapp Haus - <https://youtu.be/OrrKkaFiUQU>

The Sound Of Music's real "Maria Von Trapp". - <https://youtu.be/3GnDcvEhMGE>

Trapp Family - <https://youtu.be/ZpHtstV11xk>

What ever happened to the Von Trapps? - <https://youtu.be/-iWOedHVmiQ>