

## Don't look

## B(L)ack: *Orfeu da Conceição* and some aspects of classical reception in Brazil

Lecture by Prof. dr. Cecília de Miranda N. Coelho

March 14 at 1-2:30 pm

Leslokaal 1.10  
Blandijnberg 2  
Campus Boekentoren



In this lecture I will present some aspects of the reception of the myth of Orpheus in the play *Orfeu da Conceição*, by Vinicius de Moraes (1954), and in the films *Orphée Noir* (aka *Orfeu do Carnaval*, 1959) and *Orfeu* (1999). In spite of *Orphée Noir*'s success in Cannes, it was heavily criticized among others by Vinicius due to the exotic image of Brazil and the folkloric treatment given to racial relations. To better understand the aforementioned works, I will compare the reception of Orpheus' myth with that of Medea's in the play *Beyond the River* (*Black Medea*), from the 50's which was not allowed by the Brazilian Government to represent the country in the First World Festival of Negro Arts in Senegal (1966). My aim is to discuss political and aesthetic issues related to the use of myths to deal with socio-economic

conditions of marginalized groups in the country .

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*Lezing in het kader van de cursus  
"Receptiegeschiedenis: De klassieke traditie",  
M. Formisano*