“Don’t Scare Me Like That, Colonizer!”

The Cultural Infiltration of Black Panther in the MCU

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The Marvel Cinematic Universe

- Iron Man
- Captain America
- Thor
- The Incredible Hulk
- Dr. Strange
- Ant-Man
- Peter Quill
- Spiderman
Black Panther

- $1.3 Billion Dollars Worldwide
- 97% Rotten Tomatoes Critic, 79% Audience
- Over two dozen awards
  - Oscar for Best Costume/Production Design
  - MTV Movie of the Year
  - NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Actor
Afrofuturism

- Science Fiction that is created from and with an African-American, African, or African Diasporic cultural perspective

Alondra Nelson
Afrofuturism

“This idea of leaving but bringing and then becoming more is at one of the hearts of Afrofuturism, or you can simply call it a different type of science fiction. I can best explain the difference between classic science fiction and Afrofuturism if I used the octopus analogy. Like humans, octopuses are some of the most intelligent creatures on earth. However, octopus intelligence evolved from a different evolutionary line, separate from that of human beings, so the foundation is different.”

Dr. Nnedi Okorafor [Author & Professor]
Afrofuturism

- Janelle Monae’s
  - The ArchAndroid
  - The Electric Lady
  - Dirty Computer
- Octavia Butler
  - Xenogenesis Trilogy
- N.K. Jemison
  - The Fifth Season
What Is Cultural Infiltration?

- Ogbanje: The repeating children, children who come and go
- A spirit sent into children to work the will of the gods
- Use the children as vessels to target the family
What Is Cultural Infiltration?

- A cultural deliverance dependent on the venue of another body
- A predecessor allows a spinoff, or clears the way for a show or character of color to thrive
What Is Cultural Infiltration?

“On the contrary, I set out to grasp the mechanisms of the effective exercise of power; and I do this because those who are inserted in these relations of power, who are implicated therein, may, through their actions, their resistance, and their rebellion, escape them, transform them—in short, no longer submit to them.”

Michel Foucault (Dits et Écrits)
What Is Cultural Infiltration?

Introduction

Afrofuturism

What Is Cultural Infiltration?

Examples in Today’s Media

Misrepresentation and Cultural Appropriation

Goals
What Is Cultural Infiltration?

- Captain America 1
- Iron Man
- The Incredible Hulk
- Iron Man 2
- Thor
- The Avengers
- Iron Man 3
- Thor 2
- Captain America 2
- Guardians of the Galaxy
- Guardians of the Galaxy 2
- Avengers 2
- Ant-Man
- Captain America 3
- Spiderman: Homecoming
- Doctor Strange
- Thor 3
- Avengers 3
- Ant-Man 2
- Captain Marvel*
What Is Cultural Infiltration?

Cultural Infiltration

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Goals

Sam Wilson: Falcon

Rhodey: War Machine

Nick Fury / Samuel L Jackson
Examples Within the MCU and Beyond

- Black Panther
- Luke Cage
- Cloak and Dagger *
- Spiderman: Into the Spider-Verse
- The Cleveland Show
- Mayans M.C.
Examples Within the MCU and Beyond

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Goals

Orbit Books, 2015

Penguin, 2014

Penguin, 2014
Misrepresentation and Cultural Appropriation

- Cultural Appropriation:
  - Dia de los Muertos
  - ‘Native’ American costumes
  - White People in Cornrows

- Black Panther’s “Appropriation”
  - Continental Africans vs The Diaspora
Misrepresentation and Cultural Appropriation

“While diasporic Black people can do a better job at respecting the African cultural customs they adopt, to call this appropriation is ludicrous. Black diasporic people are Africans, simply displaced and systematically denied our ties to our homes over centuries.”

Hari Zayid, for AFROPUNK©
Goals

• A more focused train of thought on color
• Greater connections lead to greater tools of discussion
• Extend the narrative beyond a western mantle
• https://www.imdb.com/title/tt1825683/awards
• https://www.imdb.com/title/tt1825683/?ref_=ttawd_awd_tt
• https://www.imdb.com/list/lst020525837/
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• Emezi, Akwaeke. Freshwater, Faber and Faber, 2011.
• Sunday T. C. Ilechukwu (2007) Ogbanje/abiku and cultural conceptualizations of psychopathology in Nigeria, Mental Health, Religion & Culture, 10:3, 239-255, DOI: 10.1080/13694670600621795
• Copious amounts of Netflix
• https://www.ted.com/talks/nnedi_okorafor_sci_fi_stories_that_imagine_a_future_africa?language=en