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Introduction:

This paper will look at the Case Study: Docudramatizing Entebbe and look at how one's perception has, to a large extent, been shaped by films and images rather than rational explanations and history. This paper will look in a comparative perspective two films, Raid on Entebbe (USA 1976), and 7 Days at Entebbe (UK/USA 2017) and will investigate the viewer's perception and memory on the events that occurred in Entebbe. This paper will describe the similarities and differences and use this to summarize the findings on the unique role of docudrama.

Definition of Docudrama

“Docudrama is a type of drama (usually a film, television show, or play) that combines elements of documentary and drama. It may consist entirely of actors performing recreations of documented events, or (in the case of film and television docudramas) may combine that with contemporaneous footage of the events themselves” (<http://encyclopedia.thefreedictionary.com/Docudrama>). Entebbe was a rescue mission performed by several IDF units in Uganda – 4,000 kilometers from Israel – on July 4th 1976, for the liberation of Jewish and Israeli hostages.

According to Kaiser, docudrama is a combination of real events and fiction as he defines it as the “dramatization of actual events using actors and actresses as opposed to a pure documentary, which uses real people and events” (1980, p. 42). Docudrama is usually based on historical events, thereby providing an analysis of past events. The docudrama is the marriage of two unlikely forms-the documentary and drama. The documentary is a record of factual events. On the other hand, drama is the imitation of life- an exaggerated act for the story. The docudrama can therefore be described as something which is very much controlled

by film producers. When watching a docudrama, the viewers are invited to judge the history in relation to the real events, settings and situations represented, and also in relation to the ways the viewer has perceived them in other media representations. Docudramas ask the viewer to evaluate it in relation to their previous knowledge and influences the way they memorize the historical events.

Main Research Question:

While early docudramatic representations of the Entebbe hostage crisis reconstructed the events from an Israeli and Jewish point of view in 1976, the recent movie “7 days in Entebbe,” 2018 emphasizes the terrorist’s, mainly the German and the Palestinian point of view. How does this affect the viewer’s perception and memory of the events?

Background Research

The aim of television docudrama is, as Derek Paget (1998: 61) has described, to ‘re-tell events from national or international histories’ and/or ‘to re-present the careers of significant national or international figures’ in order to review or celebrate these people and events. Entebbe and many other historical events use re-dramatization of history and this becomes part of collective memory.

Global terrorism is a central part in public life, culture and many societies worldwide. The public perception on terrorism is influenced by media and needs further attention. Docudrama is used often to express different experiences of violence. Recently docudrama became a crucial format to represent historic events in cinema and television. Docudramas are a way in which a shared image of historic incidents is created. Media and television play an important role in this making of history. According to Steve Anderson, television plays 'a