

Teaching with SP-ARK

The Sally Potter Archive at www.sp-ark.org

SP-ARK is an **interactive digital archive** based on the work of Britain's leading female director, **Sally Potter**, and rooted in her **independent** and **audience-focused** filmmaking practice. Potter was the first filmmaker to **blog** (for *YES*, 2004) and SP-ARK extends the **innovative web presence** for her recent work.

Currently focused on *Orlando* (1992), Potter's most widely-taught film, the archive includes extensive documentation of **pre-production**, including multiple versions of the screenplay, location recces, schedules, contracts and casting videos.

Using a familiar **Web 2.0 interface**, users can **search** and **tag** all assets, foregrounded by **pathways** (innovative **user-generated** mini-blogs linked to a series of individual assets).

Sophie Mayer,
Author of *The Cinema of Sally Potter: A Politics of Love* (Wallflower, 2009)
Educational Consultant, SP-ARK



Orlando, 1992

The **Film Studies Department** at Queen Mary, University of London (**QMUL**), is engaging with SP-ARK **pedagogically** in a variety of ways. At **undergraduate level**, Sally Potter is being taught on the **Auteurism** and **Film, Literature and Adaptation** courses as part of the **Film Studies BA**.

At **postgraduate level**, an **MA course** on using archives will incorporate SP-ARK as a **digital resource**, and the work of Sally Potter will form a model for the **Auteur Direction** course, where MA students recreate the distinctive hallmarks of a chosen auteur through the production of a **short film**.

QMUL will also host an **'About Sally Potter'** day in **February 2010**, which will include a demonstration of the possibilities SP-ARK offers for **researchers**. It is hoped that this work will form the basis of a **Collaborative Doctoral Award** between SP-ARK and QMUL, funded by the AHRC.

SP-ARK is currently building relationships with **academic partners** at QMUL and the University of Essex, and **seeking further partners**, to trial the site in innovative **teaching and assessments** across multiple areas of film and media studies: auteur studies, British cinema, women directors, adaptation, independent cinema, archival studies, film production, and screenwriting.

User input on content, interface and usability will shape future development, with the aim of **mass-digitising** all assets and developing **search architecture for audiovisual and digital materials**.

Working in collaboration with academic partners, SP-ARK aims to secure **grants** creating **studentships**, internships and research opportunities innovating the **digital archive**.

Sophie Mayer



Thriller, 1979



Rage, 2009