

Females and Their Roles in Star Wars



→ Both McFarlane and Casetti can be applied to the relationship between the animated series *Star Wars: Clone Wars* and the major motion picture—*Star Wars: A New Hope*.

→ McFarlane explains that some elements like names, places and times (informants) are directly transferable. These elements are pretty much the only ones that exist in both *Clone Wars* and *A New Hope*.

→ Casetti discusses the need for a “re-programming” of texts when moving them from one communicative situation to another.

→ The main difference between the two communicative situations that we are discussing is the passage of time from 1977 to 2005 and all the social, political and culture elements/changes that are involved.

→ The way in which females were viewed changed dramatically from 1977 to 2005, specifically the forwardness of their sexuality and the prominence of their presence.

→Leia's sexuality becomes less and less sublimated throughout *A New Hope*—beginning with her covered in virginal white from head to toe, then progressing to a low cut, tight fitting yet still virginal white dress for the award ceremony at the end of the movie.

→*Episode V: The Empire Strikes Back* takes this one step further by dressing her in a very skimpy and now infamous gold bikini—exploiting her sexuality and answering the prayers of young boys everywhere.

→Leia is one of the first "girls with guns" in a major motion picture and the ONLY female in *A New Hope*, commanding the Rebellion, giving orders to men, shooting storm troopers and "rescuing her rescuers".

→Sexuality in *Star Wars: Clone Wars* is even less sublimated than in *A New Hope*, even though it is a cartoon targeting a younger audience.

→Padme and Anakin meet in secret to have make-out sessions since their affair is clandestine.

→Anakin comments that its okay that their affair is secret because Padme "does look great in the dark" then proceeds to make-out with her some more.

→C3PO is even somewhat sexually charged in the cartoon despite him being a robot (scene where Anakin wants him to show off his new gold plating).

→Padme is always dressed in tight fitting dresses in the cartoon.

→ The presence of female characters in the cartoon is far more prevalent.

→Two female Jedi, the female Sith and Padme versus just Leia in *A New Hope*.

→Both the female Jedi and the Sith are quite "badass", taking part in fighting and kicking major butt, however Padme is still portrayed (in the cartoon) as being weak.

→Another interesting point is that the Sith, although female is not obviously female—she looks nothing like the traditional “girl” and if it were not for her voice and the fact that Count Dooku refers to her as a “she” we would not know she is a feminine character.

→Casetti’s theory on adaptation explains these occurrences as being necessary for the adaptation of a work that is being moved from one communicative situation to another:

→Almost thirty years have passed since Lucas created Leia and made her the ultimate representation of femininity for his Star Wars legacy and in 2005 not only is it important to reach a broader audience (younger children and specifically young girls) but sexuality is far more freely expressed even in children’s cartoons.

