

Cartoonisation



Reducing things to crude stereotypes for the benefit of a dumbed down audience.



Making things more digestible and fun.

There was a documentary last night which showed footage of happy slapping. Because each new incident has to be better than the last, they are now pulling people off bicycles and setting fire to tramps, etc. One of the kids said it was funny because it was like what he saw on the television.

Weblog

In mediocratic drama, individuals are two-dimensional and fall into a few crude categories (he-man, psychopath, nerd, vamp, virgin, etc.). Complex interests are boiled down to primitive urges (sex, aggression, money). Motives and narratives are reduced to the formulaic. The lurid, the grotesque and the funny is emphasised. Detailed characterisation is scrupulously avoided.

Outside fiction, cartoonisation is equally prevalent. Historical figures are reinterpreted in simplistic terms. We want to know whether they were disturbed, perverted or obnoxious, but are not particularly interested in the details of what they achieved.

Cartoonisation comes to affect the way people view contemporary events. Violence, horror and suffering are perceived as unaffecting or even humorous, unless they come clearly labelled 'socially sanctioned as requiring sympathy', e.g. disasters in the developing world.