Vengence or Vendetta: Women and Stylised Violence in *As Três Marias*

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Abstract

The Brazilian film *As Três Marias* (2000, Aluizio Abranches), is a stylised violent drama that functions on an almost fabular level. The film’s trajectory centres around the quest for vengeance by three sisters whose father and brothers are violently murdered as the result of an ongoing vendetta between two families. The mother of the three sisters sends them out with an order to ‘bring back the heads’ of the murderers, with the proviso that none of the girls commit the final act of violence themselves.

In this paper I will explore the constructions of violence and the execution of violent acts by women and the impact this has on formations of the feminine in Brazilian film.