The Cinematic Jane Austen

Essays on the Filmic Sensibility of the Novels

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The author, *John Wiltshire*, succinctly expresses the primary issue in his Afterword: "On Fidelity". He asserts that the challenge is not to show fidelity to an original text or a work of art. More broadly defined, fidelity refers to the way in which a film or any artistic medium adapts and references the source material. Wiltshire's discourse sheds light on the author's contention that the fidelity of adaptations is crucial to understanding and interpreting the original source material.

The author further elaborates on the importance of fidelity in artistic interpretation, especially in relation to adaptations of classic texts. He posits that the adaptation process is not merely a passive translation but an active engagement with the original work. Wiltshire discusses the ways in which the adaptation of classic literature can be both a creative and critical interpretive act.

When considering the adaptations of the 1995 film *Sense and Sensibility*, Wiltshire observes that while the film is critical and interpretive, it is also literary in its approach. He argues that the film's adaptation demonstrates a deeper understanding of the original novel, emphasizing its themes and characters in a way that transcends the limitations of a traditional cinematic narrative.