

Filmmaking

Chapter two assignment

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“Through our eyes” is a drama telling the story of a Raika, a dog to help Albert (13 years old) an autistic boy that sees the world in a different way. It tells most of the times a poverty life. Albert’s family with no money and bills to pay, but is not limited to the same environment in the house. the story is told from the different view of the characters, different angles.

Our protagonist is Raika, a dog trained by her owner to help him in the moments of crisis in the sickness. Lovely dog that gets pregnant, then have puppies. The family decide to sell the puppies to help paying the bills. Leaving only one of the Raika’s puppies in the house, a weak and small one that nobody wants to buy. Until after a month somebody decides to buy the last dog, and Raika understands whats happening and desperately she breaks the chain and run away chasing the car with her puppy. But the car is too fast. She lost the car. She lost herself. Moments of howling and sadness. Looking around to realizing she is in a dark dangerous neighborhood. She has no idea how to come back.

On the streets Raika is gonna learn the bad side of the humans. She’s gonna starve. She’s gonna be seriously beaten. Almost tasting the death, a homeless find her and start taking care of her. The homeless falls in love with the dog. But one day he sees the “missing dog” sign with Raika’s picture he sees the address, its not far. But he already loves the dog too much to simply give back his only friend. Until one day he is walking on the street and listens to somebody crying, he sees through the window of the house a boy beating himself, punching his face, his body, and his mother desperate trying to calm down her boy, but its useless.

Comparing the last story with “Marley and me” for example, they differ on the genre to start. “Marley and me” is more like a romantic comedy explaining the life of the dog and how it affected an average family. The story worked because the author makes you love the dog together with the family by telling funny and exciting events in their lives

mostly. Becoming more dramatic only at the end when the dog die, what is touching for most of the audience.

“The Film Lessie” (1994) remembers us in a few aspects the movie “Through our eyes” on the theme: a boy has a dog as best friend, Lessie appears to make the boy’s life better after moving in to a new town. And the adventures of the dog to come back home after being being apart of the boy. The difference between Raika and Lessie is that Lessie’s story to return to the family is a fun adventure where a dog can do those unbelievable things. Raika is a normal and real dog, so she’s not gonna “ride cars” like Lessie to return to their owner, she’s is gonna face the “real world” problems. More close to “Red Dog”, based on a true story is a comedy about a dog relating to different people of a community in a mission to find his family again. The story worked because as in “Marley and me” it’s told with the objective to make the audience relate to the dog and create a lovely story about the people around it.

“On Eight Bellow” and “Snow Dogs” from Walt Disney Pictures, both stories based on a true event: Sled Dogs lost in the middle of the snow mountains and all the adventures the survive and find a way back to a safe place. Both are entertaining, but focus more on the adventures itself than the life’s problems of the main characters. There’s not really much I can use from them in “Through our eyes” when they have different tones and genres.

“Fluke (1995)” is the movie where the Dog can think and the audience is able to know the dogs thoughts, even though the characters can’t understand him. This is something that I would like to use in “Through our eyes” but the dog will express her ideas by subtitles on the movie so the audience can know what the dog is trying to bark. In the same way nobody can really understand the dog, except for Albert that can almost tell what the dog want to “say”.

In “Son-rise: The Miracle of Love (1979)” we know the story of Raun Kaufman, an autistic boy and his dedicated parents that after efforts on known but unsuccessful treatment to autism of that time, they decide to find a way one their own to “cure” the boy. The movie focus on the sickness theme and all of the problems it can create for the people around it.

“Mozart & The Whale (2005)” tells the story about a man and a women a with the Asperger Syndrome, what gives us an idea about the sickness but the movie doesn’t really show a heavy side of this syndrome, probably to keep on the tone more related to the romantic comedy genre. The actors doesn’t really need to make a deep heavy dramatic scene about it.

The movie "Under the piano" (1996) is about a autistic girl called Rosetta that has this gift for playing piano like a pro but her mother, Regina, forbids her to play it. It's a drama but still not exactly the kind I want "Through our eyes" to be. But still uses the idea of showing a good skill of an autistic person, that is something you will see on this movie.

The kind of autism Albert has is close to what you find in a few scenes of "Molly" (1999), a smart autistic girl that is still changes her humor very sensitive, but differently than in "Under the piano" Molly is encouraged to use and evolve her different intelligence.

"Her name is Sabine" (2007) is a documentary narrated by Sandrine Bonnaire about her younger autistic sister. It's great because has lots of videos showing Sabine's behavior when younger and nowadays, therefore we the audience can learn a lot about this sickness and understand how it can progress.

Differently from "Through our eyes" that talks a lot about Albert sickness, interesting facts, and situations seen from the eyes of a autistic person. But Albert sickness is not the main theme of the movie.

And finally there's "Hachiko: A Dog's Story" (2009) lovely movie based on a true story that became a huge success. The movie worked because people got related to the dog and its incredible loyalty for his owner, Parker Wilson. It's something that you can see on Raika's behavior about Albert, since Raika is the one to cheer him up when he's having a crisis.