**Chapter 2 Assignment**

Francis Ford Coppola Bram Stoker’s Dracula

1. Cinematographer: Michael Ballhaus
2. Styles of Cinematography: Lighting, color, composition, camera
3. What make it distinctive:

There are several uses of shadows for the character of Dracula in the castle, or of victims, and people dancing. Vibrant use of reds and blues which constantly remind us of the importance of blood to Dracula and the darkness he is confined to. Even when other characters are within their own living spaces, the lighting is soft and intimate. During flashbacks there is a blending of both the character’s current time and past events all in the same shot together. Other eerie scenes we see only Dracula’s face as he lies in his coffin. Dracula takes on several animal forms and during these times the camera will give the audience a fragmented point of view from the creature. There are close-up shots of subjects that make you cringe.

1. Why I liked it:

I thought the film was visually beautiful. With its theatrical feel it gave the classic Dracula story a very elegant and gothic feel. The creative use of shadows reminded me of another classic film Nosferatu. A unique look at the classic tale of Dracula makes it one of my most favorite vampire films.

Pans Labyrinth

1. Cinematographer: Guillermo Navarro
2. Styles of Cinematography: Blues and yellows, dark and light, slow zoom in, vertical panning and wide shots.
3. What make it distinctive: There are a lot of yellows during the day or at the end of the movie when Ofelia returns to her kingdom. But most of the movie is at night and the blue colors combined with the dark bring the magical world to life. I also noticed many times when he used either slow pans or wide shots to show the audience the beauty and spaciousness of the fantastical forest.
4. Why I liked it:

It did a great job in combining both a reality and fantasy world together. While the movie takes place mostly in the dark I can still clearly see what’s going on. I loved the claustrophobic camera shots during a monster chase scene through a hallway.

City of Lost Children

1. Cinematographer: Darius Khondji
2. Styles of Cinematography: Color, Close up shots, Lighting
3. What make it distinctive: The most distinctive style in this film is the use of orange and green colors. A lot of the green represented the antagonist and the oranges for the protagonists. The city itself always appeared to be dark and wet. This matched the mood as the characters typically found themselves in difficult situations. There were many close shots of characters making the film feel more surreal and dreamlike.
4. Why I liked it:

I admired the ongoing theme of color in this film and look of cyberpunk techonology that gave this movie a strong science fiction setting

Kill Bill

1. Cinematographer: Robert Richardson
2. Styles of Cinematography: Close ups, panning, Birds eye angles, tracking shots
3. What makes it distinctive: Throughout the film the colors change between saturated with deep blacks, or just black and white. There is a fight scene in a deep blue background where only the characters are shown as silhouettes. Many camera angles are also utilized for extreme close up shots of faces, or low angle of characters feet, to bird eye views. Other shots include long tracking shots of characters moving through their environment. Plus several crop shots of characters face as well. There is a short origin story told in anime which shared the same type of angles and rich colors.
4. Why I liked it:

I admired the use of various creative camera angles and color in this film. It contained so many styles that fit perfectly well together.

The Cell

1. Cinematographer: Paul Laufer
2. Styles of Cinematography: Wide shots, Lighting, Low angles, Panning, Composition, Frame rate
3. What makes it distinctive: In the beginning there is an extreme wide shot as we see the enormous sand dunes with the small character walking across it. Once the protagonist enters the mind of the killer the colors and lighting are more striking. At times the frame rate changes to slow motion or reverses for a more dreamlike effect. There are also panning and tracking shots used to follow quick paced action scenes. For composition, the frame sometimes shows various cropping of head shots or extreme close-ups of insects in others.
4. Why I liked it:

I admired the use of color and costumes along with amazing composition. I always find myself watching the dream sequences over and over again because they look like living works of art.

Suspiria

1. Cinematographer: Luciano Tovoli
2. Styles of Cinematography: Color, Lighting, Zooming, Composition
3. What makes it distinctive: The use of color sets the tone through the whole movie. For the majority of the time the film is set in various reds, blues, and yellows. It gave a feeling of the characters being in constant danger. Varying camera angles through the school especially long takes through the hallways added to the horror effect. In one scene the characters are surrounded by white sheets but as the lights go off the lighting turns to red and shadows emerge from behind the sheets.
4. Why I liked it:

I love the use color palette in this film. I think it added nicely to the overall creepiness of the school. It also has a lot of interesting camera angles during the kills.

The Shining

1. Cinematographer: John Alcott
2. Styles of Cinematography: Lighting, camera angles, color
3. What makes it distinctive: The film starts off with a very long bird’s eye view shot that leads up to the hotel. The use of wide shots inside, slow tracking through the hallways, clinical lighting give a strong sense of isolation and dread. A great use of dark and light is demonstrated in one of the last scenes as the character Jack walks through the maze almost like a silhouette. Or the use of camera angles during some scenes such as the low angle shot looking up at Jack as he bangs on the freezer door. Some of the POV shots help show Jack’s decadence into madness.
4. Why I liked it:

It is one of the best horror movies to revisit often. It stands the test of time and never fails to remain creepy. There are tons of shots that haunt my thoughts every time I watch it. I don’t get scared very easily but the scenes with the bloody hallways and the old woman from room 237 have always stuck with me.

The Conformist

1. Cinematographer: Vittorio Storaro
2. Styles of Cinematography: Color, high angle, low angle, lighting, composition.
3. What makes it distinctive: The colors are more subdued in this film but there are strong contrasts in dark and light. Some scenes depict areas with grays and blacks that gave a sense of cold and loneliness. There are points where shallow depth of field is used and the focus is on the protagonist’s face during flashbacks of his life. Some of the composition had people cropped or slightly out of frame. Later in the film we start to see some softer colors when the character first marries but at the end go back to darks when the tone of the movie goes tone darkens as well.
4. Why I liked it:

The lighting and colors gave the impression that the main character lived a life in confinement of who he really was.

I Am Cuba

1. Cinematographer: Sergey Urusevsky
2. Styles of Cinematography: Bird eye views, low angles, Dutch tilts, long shots, close-ups
3. What makes it distinctive: The wide angle lens used magnifies and distorts the film. With the use of low angles and crane shots it immerses you into each of the story segments. The film was filled with very unique framing and angles. Close ups and tilted shots made each scene eye catching. Even the use of long takes as they followed some of the subjects. One in particular is a shot of some of the tourists partying and the camera goes down several floors and end up submerged underwater.
4. Why I liked it:

The camera angles in this film were mesmerizing. There was such a freedom in how it was shot along with the beauty of shadows and light.

Tree of Life

1. Cinematographer: Emmanuel Lubezki
2. Styles of Cinematography: Close up shots, tracking shots, natural lighting, handheld shots
3. What makes it distinctive: This movie felt like a visual poem. Each scene was brief with very little dialogue. It mainly follows the childhood of the main character. We see many close up shots of faces or of the environments. Natural lighting is heavily used indoors as well as outdoors. Most shots appeared to be taken with a steady cam but there were also handheld shots for a more dramatic effect.
4. Why I liked it:

I liked the crisp close up shots of the characters. The lighting made me feel as if I were looking at photographs in time and on an emotional ride with the character.

Night of the Hunter

1. Cinematographer: Stanley Cortez
2. Styles of Cinematography: Birds eye view, Iris Effect, sharp contrasts in dark and light
3. What makes it distinctive: The film contains several birds’ eye view for the locations at the intro and later of the river. The sharp contrasts of light and dark give the atmosphere a haunting effect. Several shots almost appear like silhouettes as the children adventure through their escape from the hunter. During the boat ride down the river there are extreme close ups of a large frog and spider web with the children in smaller scale. This effect gives a dreamlike quality and isolation to the shot. Other unique framing is shown when the hunter is in a room which appears almost like a church.
4. Why I liked it:

I liked the use of shadows, light, and composition. There were many shots where the hunter was in the background as a silhouette which gave a sinister effect.

Strike

1. Cinematographer: Eduard Tisse, Vladimir Uralsky, Vasili Khvatov
2. Styles of Cinematography: Camera angles, close ups, composition
3. What makes it distinctive: There are very unique examples of framing within other framing in the film. One is a set of workers being shot through a circular machine or through windows in a door. There is countless camera angles used to show workers in large groups or close up shots. Other effects in use were the transitions between the shots as some dissolved into others, or the frame slid into the next. Sometimes a vignette was also added to the frame.
4. Why I liked it:

The use of mixed images of the massacre of the workers along with the massacre of a cow provided a very powerful ending. This film felt like it was ahead of its time and inspired many that came after it.

**Additional 12 films assignment**

**What is the role of cinematography in film? What styles I’m drawn to and why?**

The role of the cinematographer is to use a wide range of skills and tools to tell a story on a visual level. The cinematographer needs to have expertise in knowing how to use framing, lighting, texture, lens, movement, or color.

I’m drawn to many styles of cinematography and the ability to put them all together. Framing can help to add depth to the composition of the shot and making it more aesthetically pleasing to the eye. It is also used to send a specific emotion across to the audience.

Lighting is used in many ways. It’s crucial for setting the tone, color, making images feel three-dimensional, deliver textures such as shadows, or to give direction. But most of all lighting is used to set the proper exposure balance or intensity.

Another tool is lens and how it can create different depths of field or focal lengths. Wide angle lenses exaggerate depth perception giving a feeling of surreal quality or longer lens for compression of space. Changing the field of view is essential for providing more dramatic results.

Movement facilitates the continuity of an action or object. Camera movements for example pans, tilts, zooms, tracking and others pull the audience in or evoke emotions. All used for the purpose of driving the story.

Color is a very important tool and used to affect the mood of the film as well as convey emotions. In other situations it can connect characters to their circumstance or surroundings.

I admire all of these techniques because of how powerful they can be. When done well all of these tools add more development to a character or to the story, giving a deeper experience to the audience overall.