

ETERNAL SUNSHINE OF A SPOTLESS MIND FILM NOTES

Director: Michel Gondry

- Opening / Development / Resolution
- Editing
- Sound
- Acting
- Characters
- Lighting
- Camera Technique

Opening quote, "I woke up in a funk today"

Non-Diegetic sound – piano. Mysterious, painful, bleak experience for the audience.

Colour Graded Editing – Blue-Grey overtones. Depressing overtones for the audience.

Introduction of lead characters. Trumpet – Non-Diegetic sound. Quirky reference, weird projection for the audience.

Kate's character is introduced as an odd person who shows emotion in a quirky way. Audience is unaware of where this relationship will lead.

The opening has a distinctive ending with credits. Cut to SONG (used a re-occurring motif through out the narrative)
SONG – Everybody's gotta learn sometime.

Non-Chronological order of events. Flashbacks & Flashes to the future are employed.

Is the word NICE a foreshadow?

Both characters are portrayed to the audience as eccentric and odd. Acting styles reveal this.

The audience love constantly but in a confused state, questioning the motives of both characters Jim & Kate.

"Erase you as a lark"

Time is manipulated for the audience through a series of flashbacks and flash forwards. They also speed up the duration of the flashbacks to indicate to the audience that his memory is disappearing at a fast rate.

Jim's character is walking around in his pj's suggesting to the audience he is dreaming.

Low-key lighting employed in the apartment, sets a dense mood for the audience. Enhances the shadows and bleakness of the actors faces. Almost like they are losing their minds.

The Director constantly confuses the audience on purpose. They are assuming Jim's character has lost his mind. Hearing things, and seeing things.

Motif – Song – Everybody's gotta learn sometime.

The point of the narrative is to create a spotless mind.

Eternal Sunshine is a metaphor for ongoing peace and happiness.

Oversized table used in the kitchen scene make Jim Carey look 4 years old and child-like.

Spotlight on actors is often employed to show characters running from the mind erasing.

The resolution of the narrative is cold and depressing but shines elements of clarity for the audience. It is a complex text that takes the audience on a journey of discovery. The audience find it hard to connect with the characters and the narrative. Although they can understand the plot, it is drawn out in a complex manner. Just the way the Director intended.