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3/11/20

Sound and Image Essay

The 100

I am going to analyze a scene from the show, The 100. The background of the show is that the human race lived up in space. They had decided to send 100 kids down to earth to see if the earth was livable again, after it had been ruined by radiation. When the kids arrived, they soon found out they were not alone on earth as there were other communities of people that did not get along with others in their own territory. The scene is from season 3, where Clarke the main character turns into “Wanheda” (commander of death) and is being hunted by all communities. She was once the leader of her people but lost her way into this situation. In this scene she is at a trade post where people come in looking for her and the lady who owns it, helps her. This is important because it sets up the rest of the entire season. The use of sound, image and shot selection make this scene feel important to the viewers and gives a lot of emotion to the viewers. I will go over specifics within the body of the paragraph explaining shot selection, sound and lighting to uncover the whole meaning of the scene.

Shot Selection

The beginning uses a lot of medium close up shots, with over the shoulder shots. This shows how close the two people are and with the added over the shoulder shot, you understand that they are looking and listening to each other when they are talking. This technique is used multiple times throughout the scene with most of the conversations. I feel they used this to show how important the conversations are between each character. It also makes you focus in on what

is being said during that time for a more dramatic feeling. Next, the frame pans out going into a long shot. This shot allows you to see two people talking, and then allows you to notice that someone is walking in the door past them which their whole body is visible. This shot gives you a sense that someone has entered who shouldn't have. It then switches to a close up onto every person in the trading post. With the close up shot, you are able to see every single one of their emotions while only focusing in on them. It also allows you to feel that emotion with the character being shown. The scene ends with the one character, placing down a drawn picture of the girl they are looking for. The camera zooms in for a close up. This effect of zooming in and into a close up allows you to see who is on the drawing but also holds the picture on the screen to show that it is important. It then fades into a dark screen where the scene ends, which is giving it an even more dramatic effect. This fade gives you time to think about what you just saw before the next scene begins.

Lighting

The whole scene itself has mostly low key lighting. Low key lighting is a high contrast between light and dark. The scene is set up where it is mostly dark but with candles lit around the room which would be very bright. This sets the tone that gives off that the scene is very intense/serious. You can only see what the camera wants you to see. Which is the characters faces/bodies but not a clear vision on what is going on behind them. There is one scene where the background is in there is also shallow focus. Shallow focus is when the background is more clear than the person itself. This was used when the two girls were talking and the man walked in the door. The focus was on the man in the background. But it was interesting with the lighting

because the girls were still in the light and the man who was in focus was very dark, almost like a shadow. Giving the effect that he was scary/mysterious.

Sound

Most of the sound in the scene is diegetic sound. Which refers to the characters talking, footsteps, or any sound that is made that is not edited. When the character enters the room you can hear the door swing open and bang against the wall, along with their footsteps and their weapons jingling while they walk since they are mostly wearing some type of armor. Everytime something is placed down on the table you can hear it. Also there is non-diegetic sound. The whole scene there is music playing in the background that has been added in for effect. At the beginning it is soft and gets louder when things happen and no one is talking to make it more dramatized for the viewer. It gets your heart beat going so you can feel the emotion in the room. The loudest parts of the music are at the time the man walks in and then when he places the picture down on the table. These two specific sounds are the most important in this scene, even though there is no talking during these parts, the non-diegetic sound gives those parts another level of importance. The sound separates it from the other parts, giving you time to think about what will happen next. When the screen fades black the music cuts right away ending the scene with the picture.

Conclusion

With the use of shot selection, lighting and sound the producers were able to make the scene feel very important. Which is crucial at the beginning of a season because it then sets up everything else for the episodes to come. Also within the scene, they used a lot of the same styles. They didn't switch up the lighting, sound and shots a lot because sometimes that can get

confusing when there's too much going on. Although these techniques might be seen as “simple”, I think it gives the scene more meaning and makes it more dramatic. Simple scenes let the viewers really pay attention about what is going on. I really enjoy this TV show and I think it is because of how it is produced. It is easy to follow and you know what is going on and you can feel the emotion with each character. Even though I only talked about one scene, I think that one scene does a nice job with portraying how the other episodes/seasons are produced.