Inglorious Basterds – Tavern Scene

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In this report, we will be looking at the tavern scene in the movie *Inglorious Basterds*. The scene can be found on youtube[1].

Aspect Description

Story

- What story does the film tell?
- What happened before this scene?
- What will happen after this scene?

It's about a group of American soldiers, known as The Basterds, who spread fear among the German soldiers by killing and scalping them. The Basterds soon learn about a premiere of a Nazi propaganda film which is to be played to an audience of Nazi leaders, including Joseph Goebbels and Adolf Hitler. They plan to attack the cinema during the premiere.

Hicox (British Royal Marine Lieutenant) and some members of *The Basterds* go to the tavern to meet with an undercover agent, the German film star Bridget von Hammersmark. to plan the attack on the cinema. Hicox draws the attention of Wehrmacht Sergeant Wilhelm and Gestapo Major Dieter Hellstrom with his unusual accent. He gives himself away by ordering three drinks and gesturing "three" with his hand (with thumb and pinky finger down); Hellstrom knows that Germans gesture "tree" with the thumb and first two fingers extended. Discovered, Stiglitz and the Basterds open fire, killing everyone in the tavern except Sergeant Wilhelm and Hammersmark, who is wounded.

Setting

- Where does the action take place?
- How quickly can we establish where the story takes place?
- Does the setting lead to certain expectations?

The scene takes place in a tavern in Germany. We can fairly quickly establish that the tavern is located in Germany, because a Nazi walks in and decides to join in on the discussion. The setting is calm, but a lot of tension comes from how they interact with the Nazi.

2 REFERENCES

Sound

- Is there any music?
- Does the music create atmosphere?
- How do the characters speak?

There is no music. There is nothing out of the ordinary with how the characters speak.

Characters

- What do we learn about the characters through what they say?
- What do we learn about the characters through what they do?
- What do we learn about the characters through visual clues?

We learn that the Nazi, Wilhelm, is in full support of the German Reich and would rather sacrifice himself to kill a few English than walk out of the tavern and live with himself.

Both Hicox and Wilhelm are extremely cautious with the way they speak. You can feel a strong sense of distrust.

Colour

- What colours are used in the scene?
- Are the colours warm or cold?
- How do the colours make you feel?

The scene is glowing warm, it feels cozy.

Camera

- Note down any close-up, medium and wide shots in the scene. Why were these shots used?
- If there are any close-up shots, what emotions do they represent?
- Can you think of adjectives or phrases to describe these emotions?

The shots are almost exclusively taken from behind the person being talked to, over the shoulder. There are close-up shots of when Wilhelm cocks his pistol, and another when one of *The Basterds* holds his gun to Wilhelm's balls.

I wouldn't say there's anything special with the way this scene is shot, and thus, don't have much to comment as far as emotions go.

References

[1] Inglourious Basterds - Bar Scene. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=86Ckh80mL1Q. accessed 2017-10-01. 2009.