Christopher Crawley 9/20/2020 Mise en scene Assignment



Fight Club is about a man, known just as the narrator (played by Edward Norton), who meets a strange soap salesman named Tyler Durden (played by Brad Pitt). After the narrator's perfect apartment is destroyed, he moves in with Tyler. From there the two men form an underground club for men to fight.

The scene I have chosen is a scene where Tyler Durden pours chemicals on the narrator's hand to teach the narrator to let go and accept things for the way they are.

1. Dominant

The Dominant point in this scene is Tyler holding the narrator's hand with the chemical burn on it. Everything else on the table is out of frame so you are forced to focus on what the two characters are doing. They are also both lit equally to also have you focus on the two characters.

2. Lighting Key

The lighting in this scene is lowkey (the picture makes it look a bit brighter than it really is). The two are sitting in the kitchen of their new house under lights that look like they are about to go out.

3. Shot and Camera Proxemics

The shot scene above would be a medium shot. Both the narrator and Tyler Durden are shot from the waist up capturing them both in frame. It emphasizes the subject of the two men, while keeping the setting visible.

4. Angle

The camera angle seems to be slightly above both characters. This was done to show the power relation between Tyler and the narrator as Tyler is holding the narrator's hand as the narrator gets burned by the Lye.

5. Color Values

The light and color in this shot seems to be tanned and almost dirty looking. This is to show that as the narrator slowly enters more into Tylers world how chaotic it really is.

6. Lens/Filter/Stock

This shot was most likely taken with a wide angle lens. The subject being Tyler and the narrator are in focus while items around the kitchen are somewhat out of focus such as the pink soap and other kitchen utensils. The scene was also probably shot with a slow film stock because of how eerily lit the scene is.

7. Subsidiary Contrasts

The different items on the table such as the soap and the items used to create the soap are used to balance out the two main characters in the scene. The chemicals also help to explain the significance of the scene because they caused the burn which helps the viewer to understand the scene.

8. Density

This scene is moderately dense because we are only supposed to focus on the narrator and Tyler. Nothing else is happening in this scene besides the two characters interacting.

9. Composition

This scene's composition is balanced. I believe this because the negative space in the background helps the viewer draw attention to the characters in the middle ground. The objects in the foreground help give context to the scene and why they have this chemical in the first place.

10. Form

This scene has an open form because despite Tyler holding onto the narrator the two characters are still free to move around the scene. It is also open form because the two characters are free to move around the frame.

11. Framing

I believe this shot is loosely framed. Despite them sitting in the kitchen, they have plenty of room to move around the scene.

12. Depth

This scene has a foreground of the soap and the soap making materials, a middle ground of the narrator and Tyler performing this ritual, and a background of the dirty house and more chemicals. Tyler and the narrator in the middle ground are the only two things that are in focus right now.

13. Character Placement

Tyler and the narrator both occupy the center of the middle ground. In the scene Tyler is placed slightly above the narrator to show the power dynamic between the two.

14. Staging Positions

Both characters are in profile. You can see one ear on both the narrator and Tyler and the sides of their faces making it to be in profile.

15. Character Proxemics

The characters in this scene are in intimate space. This is because Tyler is holding onto the narrator's hand as he burns it with the lye.