

Emily Doran
Prof. Stone
MDIA 120-113
23 September 2020

Film: The Greatest Showman

Still Image:



Synopsis of Film and Scene Setup

This image was taken from one of the final scenes of the film *The Greatest Showman*. During this scene, P.T. Barnum goes to the beach to meet up with his wife, Charity, to reconcile their marriage. During a lot of the film, Barnum was so focused on becoming successful and making money and not at home with his wife and two daughters. In this emotional scene he apologizes for all of the hardship that he put their family through and says that from now on things will be different.

1. Dominant

The dominant in this still image is Charity; she stands out in this frame because of her bright blue scarf and light colored top. Although P.T. Barnum is the closer person to the camera, our eyes do not go to him at first glance.

2. Lighting Key

This image is a combination of high key and low key lighting. There are a variety of colors within the image, but the colors are not very vibrant. Since the scene was taken during a sunset, the lighting is a little bit dark and dull.

3. Shot and Camera Proxemics

This is between a close-up shot and a medium shot. It only captures the two actors from their chests up. This shot is also a two-shot because it contains two figures; since this is a relatively close up shot between a husband and wife, the viewer is able to predict that this will be an intimate scene.

4. Angle

The angle of this shot is pretty neutral. The camera is very close to eye level; it is tilted upward a sliver, but overall very neutral and makes the viewer feel like they are right in the scene with them.

5. Color Values

The dominant color is blue in this shot; the sky is blue, P.T. Barnum's shirt and jacket are shades of blue, and Charity's scarf is blue. The use of the color in this scene is meant to symbolize loyalty. Although their marriage went through some hardships, Barnum followed her to the beach to apologize and let Charity know that he has changed and will never do that to their family again.

6. Lens/Filter/Stock

A standard lens was used for this scene because there is minimal distortion with the two characters. A blue filter is used to make them appear isolated and to enhance the sunset beach scene. A standard slow stock is also being used.

7. Subsidiary Contrasts

After taking in the dominant, Charity, you quickly notice her husband, P.T. Barnum. You can see the look of distress on his face as he tries to think of the right words to say to make things right with his wife.

8. Density

This image is moderately dense. We are able to see a lot of detail in the faces of P.T. Barnum and Charity; we also can see full details of their clothing. However, there is not much density outside of the two of them. The background does not have much density of texture at all.

9. Composition

The image is segmented into three different areas: the right side with Charity, the left side with P.T. Barnum, and the background of the sunset. We first focus on Charity, then our eyes glance over to the sunset behind her, and eventually to her husband. This helps with the moment of silence that is currently happening while P.T. Barnum tries to come up with the right words to say to reconcile his marriage.

10. Form

This is a fairly open form image. The audience is really brought into the image, but does not feel constrained or trapped. We are more focused on the talk that they are about to have than on what the surrounding background is like.

11. Framing

The framing in this shot is tight. There is not very much room for either of the characters to move around within the frame. P.T. Barnum is taking up the majority of the left side of the frame, and Charity is stuck between her husband and the ocean.

12. Depth

The image is composed of two major depth planes. The first depth plane is the two characters. The second plane is the ocean. It could also be argued that there is a third depth plane that consists of the sunset back behind the ocean.

13. Character Placement

P.T. Barnum stands on the right side of his wife Charity upon arriving at the beach. On the other side of Charity is the ocean. This placement signifies the choice that Charity has to make; is she willing to take her husband back after all of the pain that he caused her and their family?

14. Staging Positions

The two characters are standing between a quarter-turn and profile position. This signifies the intimacy and love that is about to rekindle between the couple.

15. Character Proxemics

The proxemics in this shot are intimate to personal. The two characters are standing pretty close together, and throughout the scene become more intimate as their conversation progresses and they reconcile their marriage.