Name of the student

Instructor’s name

Course code

Date

Film analysis

The classic film chosen for this analysis is *Paths of Glory*, an anti-war film released in 1957. The film is directed and produced by Stanley Kubrick and James B. Harris respectively. I believe that the film is well done and successfully communicates the themes of war brutality and inhumanity throughout the different scenes. An obvious device that Stanley Kubrick uses is the sequence of war brutality to portray physical horror and unfair traits of the army officials to the soldiers who are dedicated to fighting the war. Through the movie, Stanley creates meaning by contrasting different scenes while maintaining the themes of war brutality and inhumanity. The film is also a success because Stanley has managed to tell the story from the soldiers' side and war officials' side through Colonel Dax (Kirk Douglas). Lastly, Stanly has successfully used plot-line and camera to give viewers a clue of which side they can take pertaining to the role of the soldiers and the motives of the war officials.

The film has followed different genre conventions that have contributed to its success. Some of these convections include:

**Sounds**

As defined by Mediaknite (19), Diegetic sound refers to a sound that emanates from within the film world. In other words, diegetic sound refers to that sound which both the audience and characters can hear as a result of observable on-screen action. For instance, tense drum beats are used in the film to bring out the somber mood when the three soldiers who were falsely found guilty of ‘cowardice in the eyes of the enemy’ are escorted towards the firing parade (Kubrick, *Paths of Glory* 1.12.52). Secondly, diegetic sounds are also utilized in the scene where General Broulard and his guests are celebrating and colonel Dax comes to reveal to the general the secrete order of General Mireau to attack the French army when they failed to advance into the enemy's territory. Finally, in the last act of the film, diegetic sound has been used when Susanne Christine, a German captive woman is forced to entertain the soldiers and as she sings, the soldiers get emotional and start to hum while shedding tears.

Secondly are the Non-diegetic sounds which refer to those sounds that are in the external world of the film. These are sounds that are imported to the film's world to help influence the mood or the atmosphere in which the action is taking place (Mediaknite, 19). For instance, at the beginning of the film, a soundtrack is played accompanied by a voiceover describing the history of the war between Germany and France (Kubrick, *Paths of Glory* 1.32).

Foley as a sound effect has been used in the film to create reality in the events at the battlefield. Foley is described as a natural sound as a result of nature or movement (Mediaknite, 20). For instance, the sounds of explosives and guns have been incorporated in the many scenes of the battlefield to enhance the intensity of the German soldiers Kubrick, *Paths of Glory* 29.21).

**Colors**

The photography color used in the film is Black and White, it is the best choice in telling a story in the battlefield. Since the movie mimics events that took place in world war 1, the black and white color is ideal for creating a world of smoke, gun powder, shadows, and mud. As described in Mediaknite (24), on the meaning of different colors in a film, it can be argued that black and white have been used to bring out the dramatic nature of the film.

**The Camera**

Different camera techniques have been used in different scenes of the film, they include angles, movement, and focus.

Movement

In timestamp (27.28), the camera moves to capture the never-ending colonel Dax’s inspection tour in the muddy trench. In another scene, camera movement is applied in capturing the three soldiers on a night patrol into No man’s land. The elaborate parade heading towards the firing squad also utilizes camera movement to capture the reactions of the condemned men walking towards their death.

Angle shots

**Two shot** angle relates to a short that is focused on two objects or people (Mediaknite 12). for instance, in stamp (6.10), the two generals, General Mireau and Broulard are captured arguing on the decision to have their soldiers conquer Anthill.

**A high angle shot** relates to a shot that is taken with the camera above the object. For instance, at the beginning of the film, General Mireau’s walk to welcome Broulard is taken at a high angle. The high angle intends to capture the details of his body language and details of his surrounding which is the house.

**Birds View or an aerial shot** relates to a shot taken from above the ground with the camera positioned directly above or slightly slanting towards the object. For instance, in this film, Bird's view has been used on the soldiers at (timestamp 1.17.22) to give detailed actions of the firing squad.

Focus

Close up shot relates to having the camera lens held close to the object that most of the details are captured. For instance, this type of shot has been applied in (stamp 3.33), a scene shot in General Mireau’s residence while discussing the possibility of conquering the Anthill by General Broulard.

Generally, the main protagonist, colonel Dax is viewed as a disconnected man, he is left confused on whether to side with the army officials or continue to defend his soldiers. Towards the end of the film, he makes it clear to General Broulard that he is not after promotion in the army. On the other hand, he does not show any concern about the new order that required the soldiers to resume duties. The film also follows a linear order as events are arranged in their order of occurrence, that is, there are no references to past or future events. what I have observed from the film has moved me. it has clearly come out that army officials can sacrifice their junior soldiers to satisfy their personal desires. For those who love history and for aspiring film producers, I would highly recommend they watch the film and take note of how its contents were put together.

According to Tibor et al. (4), the Renaissance period was considered a time of rebirth in Europe between the 1300s to 1650. The period brought about culture. Political, social, and economic changes. Most important is that it completely transformed people's view of the world. The main characteristic of this period is that people had rejuvenated interest in classical learning of Rome's culture after the middle age disunity. In other words, people during this period did a lot of rediscovery of arts and writing of both Greek and Romans origin. The main forms of art that were borrowed from the classical period include sculptures, paintings, and Murals with the main purpose of not only showing the importance of religion but also the importance of people and nature (Murrieta np.). This assignment looks at Michelangelo, one of the artists during this period. He was famous for his skill of shaping stones into different masterpieces. For instance, he sculpted *Pieta,* a piece of work that portrays Mary's sorrows as she holds the lifeless body of Christ on her knees. Another piece is the sculpture of biblical *David*, a shepherd who killed Goliath. The features in these two arts that were borrowed from classical art include: bodies are partially clothed or naked, they were made of perfect figures supported by ideas, they depicted real people doing real tasks and the bodies appear active, and in motion (Wscschools np). On the other hand, some of the features in his work introduced new ideas, different from those in the classical era, hence the concept of ‘rebirth.' For instance, the arts incorporated religious and non-religious scenes, the faces of the sculptures expressed people's emotions and asymmetrical paintings were used with colors to enhance visual aspects.

The classical opera chosen in this analysis is ‘*The Marriage of Figaro*, composed by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart in 1786. The libretto of this art was done by Lorenzo Da Ponte (Opera-Arias Composers, np). Some of the elements of this theatrical art include the rhythm which refers to the speed of the beat which is varied in this art of Mozart. In other words, the rhythm is slow, moderate, and fast in different parts of the art. The other element is the melody which describes the high or low sound. In this work of Mozart, the pitch is also varied in different parts of the art. Lastly, is harmony, which refers to a combination of pitches into a block, and in this work of Mozart, the harmony can be described as consonance or smooth. Secondly, the musical theatre chosen in this analysis is ‘On the Twentieth Century performed by Kevin Kline, John Cullum, Judy Kaye, and company. The major difference between the two pieces of art is that musical theatre has arias, elements of acting, and drama. Classical opera is performed with the accompaniment of musical instruments different from the musical theatre (Western Michigan University, np). Therefore, the above genres are different based on how they are performed. The genre of Classical opera has captured my attention and I would like to dig deeper into the inspirations behind Classical opera as a work of art.

**Work cited**

Kubrick, Stanley, director. *Paths to Glory*. *Lookmovie*, Lookmovies, 25 Dec. 1957, [https://lookmovie.io/movies/view/paths-of-glory-1957. Accessed 8 Oct. 2021](https://lookmovie.io/movies/view/paths-of-glory-1957.%20Accessed%208%20Oct.%202021).

Mediaknite. 2018, www.mediaknite.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Code-Convention-Booklet.pdf.

Murrieta. "Introduction to Classical, Medieval, and Renaissance Art." Murrieta Valley Unified School District / Overview,

Opera-Arias Composers. "Libretto from Le Nozze Di Figaro." Opera-Arias.com, www.opera-arias.com/mozart/le-nozze-di-figaro/libretto/english/.

Tibor, Tóth, and Kárpáti László. "The Renaissance as the Era of Scientific and Literary Development." (2009).

Western Michigan University. "Elements of Music." Western Michigan University, wmich.edu/mus-gened/mus150/Ch1-elements.pdf.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, composer. *The Marriage of Figaro. YouTube, 1978,* [*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AdONz2rMZpo&ab\_channel=EvgenyAfanasev*](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AdONz2rMZpo&ab_channel=EvgenyAfanasev)

Wscschools. "The Renaissance." [www.wscschools.org/cms/lib/NY02205793/Centricity/Domain/1104/April%206%20Renaissance.pdf](http://www.wscschools.org/cms/lib/NY02205793/Centricity/Domain/1104/April%206%20Renaissance.pdf).