

What Makes WWE So Interesting?

Today I am going to share with you the most interesting concept I have come across in recent times and it's called "Kayfabe".

How WWE "Work"

We all know that WWE is fake but we still enjoy it and make fun of kids who actually think that "The Undertaker" has nine lives and WWE fights are real. The term used for these planned matches is "Work" or they are known as "Worked-matches".

There is more to WWE than these planned matches that makes it so much interesting to watch at times and one of them is Kayfabe.

We are going to take an example of a specific fight between John Cena and R-Truth to make you understand Kayfabe.

John Cena was almost going to win this fight before he was suddenly interrupted by CM Punk, and I think we all know that the interruption was fake too and it still comes under "Work"

How WWE "Shoot" the "Work"

After R-Truth won the match due to CM Punk's interruption, CM Punk took the mic and gave a controversial monologue in which he called out the WWE system, the fans, the CEO Vince McMahon, his daughter and his son-in-law Triple H. This breaking off from the planned scenario or fight is known as the "Shoot".

Let's take a moment and summarise this now:

1. Planned fight: Work.
2. Breaking the planned fight: Shoot.

How WWE Breaks Reality

Now the question is "What if the monologue given by CM Punk was fake too?" or may I say that the whole monologue was actually planned. This is something known as the "Worked-shoot".

Due to this worked-shoot, we can't really know whether the interruption or the monologue by CM Punk was even real or not. The line between reality and fantasy is blurred and as Sharon Mazer explains in her book- "the

audience is believing and disbelieving in what it sees at the same time”.

And now you can understand the google definition of Kayfabe: The fact or convention of presenting staged performances as genuine or authentic in professional wrestling.

I also like this paraphrased definition by Eric Weinstein: It's a fake-fight that appears real because it breaks out of a fake thing.

And this is what makes WWE so interesting and engaging to watch at times. We know that the interruption is fake, but we also know that the fight is fake, so the interruption seems real even though it's not real. This constant struggle between what's fake and what's real keeps us hooked.