

## Resenhas

### **REVIEW FILM CHOCOLAT: AN ANALYSIS OF HOW THE DIRECTOR PRESENTS AN IDEA OF CONFLICT USING THE PRODUCTION FEATURES**

#### **RESENHA FILME CHOCOLATE: UMA ANÁLISE DE COMO O DIRETOR APRESENTA A IDEIA DE CONFLITO USANDO OS RECURSOS DE PRODUÇÃO**

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**Obra:** CHOCOLAT. Direction: Lasse Hallstrom. Production: David Brown; Leslie Holleran. United Kingdom; United States: Miramax Films; David Brown Productions; Fat Free Limited, 2000. 1 DVD (121 min).

In the film *Chocolat* by Lasse Hallstrom, an important idea is the conflict which arises because of the different views of truth held by the characters. Those conflicts come when Vianne (protagonist) and the north wind arrive at the little village in France where people believe in tranquility.

The director purpose was to show the audience the conflicts and how they affect people from the village, so Hallstrom uses lots of techniques to show the impact. Since the first scene is possible to see and feel some of them: the camera shot, that at this point is high to show the audience the place film roll; the music that starts with the camera showing the village, is not a sad song, given us to understand that nothing bad is happening that moment; the voice over that at the beginnings starts tells us how the village plays and all your characteristics.

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In the early scenes we are given the impression that people have different views about life. The first scene at the church when the priest (P. Henri) gives his first sermon and asks “where can we find the truth?” is one of the most impressive that allows the unfolding of the whole story – that’s the stage for what unfolds in the rest of the film. That means that we are posed with this question.

Still at this first scene, it’s possible to notice another technique that help us to understand the characters at their individualities, when in the church scene the director uses the camera shots with movements going by most of characters and already showing some particulars. When the voice over says that in the village ‘what wasn’t suppose to see you look away’, and then at the same time Luc sees the old Sr. with the dog in his jacket at the church, that wasn’t suppose to be there, but then we realize how everything works at the village. At this point the techniques used was voice over, camera angle (not too far that goes Luc plus the old Sr. and dog), clothes (jacket with the purpose to hide the dog), body language (when Luc looks away and the old men keeping the dog hidden).

At the church yet we can see that something could go wrong, and it’s when the conflict is about to start.

The sounds used make us feel that a strong wind is blowing and when arrives the big door churches were wild open. However, the Comte from the village stands and closes the door with bad expression (seen by camera shot that is close) – he shuts the door from the wind, the north wind that brings Vianne to experience the new, to the wind.

The first moment audience sees Vianne different it’s when she and Anouk (her daughter) first arrives at the village to rent a house wearing red capes and saying the many places she lived before. Vianne had a gipsy lifestyle, she is wonderer and kind, creative and she already starts doing changes since the beginning. Showing the audiencia how she is different she starts changing and painting the rent house with a kind and happy color (blue). The techniques used this time was light color, different design draws, Maya’s statues that makes reference to her culture and how this kind of thing makes the store with a curious air.

The real first conflict appear when Reynaud goes to her to introduce himself and welcome her and her daughter, and Vianne happen to do some “mistakes”. At the first place at this scene the camera shot is at Anouk playing with pirates’ attack and goes to Reynaud when she through something on him. This angle goes first to his shoes, tidy and shine black elegant. The dialogue created for them in this scene makes Vianne say things that let Reynaud kind of mad. She says that she does not attend to church and that she is not married, but still have a child. Also, says to Reynaud that is the big men and the principal who takes care of the village and knows everything that her narrative it’s a surprise.

At this dialogue, it is possible to analyses the difference between Vianne and Reynaud by the techniques: she is wearing a dress with a red tie on her hair, red lips and gold earrings while he wears all black. That shows how self-independent and confident Vianne is, also not religious. The opposite from Reynaud – religious men, conservator and controlling.

This brief about the early scenes of the movie provides us to identify nuances about conflict that *Chocolat* wants to give us. The conflict at this movie arrives because of the different point of views about the truth and, in order to do this Lasse Hallstrom rises a heap of production features (production techniques) which include voice over, work, selected iconography such as costuming, music, lightening sound, angle camera etc.

Have been able to show the effect of the production features provides the audience the sense and the feeling of conflict through the screen, and these different views about truth is shown by the experiences of a number of characters – Reynaud and Vianne; Serge and Josephine; Caroline and Armade. Also extends to others int the community including a visit by the “view river rats”.

The conflict is both between characters (external conflict) and within the characters (internal). That point its possible to see also in ich particularity of characters that is been part of production features as well. Vianne, for example, has some qualities such as: determinate, independent, copes, gipsy lifestyle, non-conformist, wanderer, compassionate, kind, thoughtful, creative, talented, articulate, inclusive, patient, brave, no

judges not religious. Comte Reynaud, on the contrary, is placed on the film as controlling, power hungry, demand obedience, critical, hypocrite, not truthful, determinate, conformist, lost, deeply religious (internal conflict), nasty, cares about the village and it's a character that makes assumptions with no proof about what he appears to live a life spread. Josephine, in another hand, is also a character that makes us feel her independence and that she is not attached, marches to her own time, is kinky, determinate and supports Vianne, however she is afraid of her husband and his rules.

Identify the different ways the director has used the production features to show the idea of conflict is important to see how amazing and deep the movie direction can be. This is just the first tape of the movie, but getting these characteristics and applying to overall it's a rich process of understanding the details of conflict that arrives at the village and how this movie rolls.

Finally, worth mentioning the theme movie goes around conflict and reflect to the audience that conflict is an important idea that occurs in different ways, for different views, through different perspectives and characters and directive features that affects different people in different ways. So, the conflict arises as a result of different views about truth, different traditions and ways of living. Because, conformity and non-conformity is a major issue in the movie we find all the character affected by it in various way that's worth bring the reflection to our own life.

## **Referências**

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