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Advanced Language Arts S1

30 November, 2011

Edward Scissorhands and Big Fish

Tim Burton has an incredibly unique style in the movies he has created. His movies, Edward Scissorhands and Big Fish, show how Tim Burton can create a motion picture that is more abnormal than what a person would usually expect. Both of these movies have similar cinematic techniques that create an effect to make the audience know Tim Burton’s distinctive style. There is no mistaking Burton’s use of strange music and a variety of lighting. He uses music and sound in order to make his audience feel a certain way about the scene’s mood. These cinematic elements are used in Edward Scissorhands and Big Fish because they tie along with what the films are about. Tim Burton uses music and lighting to establish the mood in Edward Scissorhands and Big Fish.

Music was a big part of creating the mood for Edward Scissorhands and Big Fish. In Edward Scissorhands Burton used strange music when showing Edward’s house and when Edward used his scissors for out of the ordinary things. For example, when Peg first entered Edward’s house, the music was creepy and mysterious. This music helped the mood to be slightly uneasy or fearful, which is what Burton wanted. Music was also a key element in Burton’s film, Big Fish. An example would be when the father, Edward, was walking through a dark forest and the music got scarier, that made Burton’s audience sit at the edge of their seats, wondering what was going to happen next. That music helped establish a fearful mood in Big Fish because it made the scene more intense and concentrated on the creepiness of that shot. Both movies, Edward Scissorhands and Big Fish, used specific music to create the right mood Tim Burton was looking for in these films.

Not only did music help establish the mood in Edward Scissorhands and Big Fish, but lighting also played a major role in creating the mood for these movies. Often times in the movie Edward Scissorhands, the lighting was low key to make the mood scary or substantially strange. An example of this would be when Peg, the Avon representative, reached the top of the stairs and saw the figure of Edward’s shadow. The lighting in that shot was low key and this helped create the mood to be suspenseful and fearful. Lighting was also used in Big Fish. However, this lighting was different from the way it was used in Edward Scissorhands. The lighting in Big Fish was usually high key or neutral because it was not a movie that was meant to be scary. For example, when Edward enters the small town where he had “arrived early,” the lighting was high key to show the intention of friendliness for that town. The high key lighting in this scene lightened up the mood, made the shot more upbeat, and foreshadowed that this town would be enthusiastic and kind. Though Edward Scissorhands and Big Fish used different lighting for different reasons, both low key and high key lighting helped in establishing the appropriate mood for these films.

Tim Burton used many different ways to express his style in the films, Edward Scissorhands and Big Fish. His distinct use of music and lighting establish the mood in the stories perfectly. Tim Burton used creepy and strange music to make his audience fearful and on edge. This music sometimes foreshadowed what was going to happen later in the movie and reflected Burton‘s true style. Burton mainly used low key lighting in Edward Scissorhands to set the mood as suspenseful. However, he used high key lighting in Big Fish to show that the mood was meant to be more upbeat and not so intense, different from his usual style. When Burton used the lighting he chose, it fit throughout the films and that made them all the better because of his unique style. Tim Burton used music and lighting to create the mood in Edward Scissorhands and Big Fish.