

Example Sentences using Glossary

Wadjda



Aesthetics

Wadjda's aesthetics are characterised by a vibrant and authentic visual style, with a warm colour palette and natural lighting capturing the essence of everyday life in Saudi Arabia.

Auteur

Director Haifaa al-Mansour's authorial stamp is evident throughout Wadjda, with her intimate portrayal of the protagonist's journey and her exploration of social and cultural themes shaping the film's narrative and tone.

Cinematography

The film's cinematography is both intimate and evocative, with handheld camera movements and intimate close-ups capturing the emotional depth and complexity of its characters and setting.

Context

Set in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Wadjda offers a rare glimpse into the lives of Saudi women and girls, exploring themes of gender inequality, tradition, and modernity in a conservative society. The film's setting provides a rich backdrop for its exploration of personal and societal struggles.

Generic Conventions

Wadjda defies many of the conventions of mainstream cinema, with its focus on a female protagonist and its exploration of gender and social issues in a conservative society. However, the film also incorporates elements of coming-of-age and family drama genres, grounding its narrative in universal themes of identity and self-discovery.

Diegetic Non-diegetic Sound

The film's sound design is immersive and atmospheric, with a mix of diegetic and non-diegetic elements that enhance its emotional impact. From the sounds of bustling streets to the strains of traditional music, every auditory detail in Wadjda contributes to its sense of realism and authenticity.

Genre

Wadjda can be classified as a drama, with elements of coming-of-age and social commentary. However, its unique perspective and cultural specificity also align it with the genre of cultural drama, exploring the intersection of tradition and modernity in Saudi society.

Iconography

The film's iconography is rooted in the visual symbols of Saudi culture, with images of traditional dress, religious rituals, and everyday life evoking themes of identity, tradition, and societal expectations. Al-Mansour's use of imagery creates a sense of authenticity and specificity, inviting viewers into the world of the film.

Indie/Independent

Wadjda is an independent film that defies the constraints of mainstream Hollywood, with its bold storytelling and uncompromising vision. Al-Mansour's decision to shoot on location in Saudi Arabia and work with a predominantly Saudi cast and crew reflects the indie spirit of the project, allowing for creative freedom and cultural authenticity.

Key Lighting (High and Low)

The film's lighting design is naturalistic and understated, with high-key lighting used to highlight moments of warmth and intimacy, and low-key lighting employed to underscore moments of tension and conflict. Shadows and highlights play across the characters' faces, reflecting the emotional complexity of their experiences.

Mainstream

While Wadjda may not have enjoyed the same level of mainstream success as some Hollywood blockbusters, its critical acclaim and international recognition have solidified its status as a modern classic. The film's universal themes and powerful performances have earned it a dedicated following and a lasting place in cinematic history.

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Teacher's Standards

Teachers must have an understanding of, and always act within, the statutory frameworks which set out their professional duties and responsibilities.

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Mise-en-scène

The film's mise-en-scène is rich in detail and authenticity, with every aspect of its setting, costume, and props carefully chosen to evoke the mood and tone of the story. From the bustling streets of Riyadh to the intimate interiors of the protagonist's home, every element of Wadjda's mise-en-scène contributes to its sense of realism and cultural specificity.

Motif

A dominant motif in Wadjda is the theme of resilience and defiance, with images of the protagonist's bicycle representing her desire for freedom and independence in a society that seeks to restrict her. Al-Mansour uses this motif to explore themes of empowerment and self-determination, inviting viewers to root for the protagonist as she navigates the challenges of growing up in a conservative society.

Plot

The film's narrative follows a young Saudi girl named Wadjda who dreams of owning a bicycle, despite societal restrictions on women riding bikes. The plot unfolds with warmth and humour, leading to a poignant and uplifting conclusion that celebrates the power of individual agency and determination.

Representation

Wadjda offers a nuanced and authentic representation of life in Saudi Arabia, challenging stereotypes and misconceptions about the country and its people. Through its relatable characters and universal themes, the film invites viewers to empathise with the struggles and aspirations of its protagonist, regardless of their own cultural background.

Screenplay

Wadjda's screenplay, written by Haifaa al-Mansour, lays the groundwork for its compelling storytelling and richly drawn characters. The script's naturalistic dialogue and keen observations of everyday life create a narrative that is both relatable and thought-

provoking, inviting viewers to reflect on the universal challenges of growing up and finding one's place in the world.

Story

At its core, Wadjda is a story of resilience and empowerment, exploring themes of gender equality, tradition, and modernity in Saudi society. Through its heartfelt storytelling and authentic characters, the film offers a powerful meditation on the universal desire for freedom and self-expression.

Shooting Script

The film's shooting script, developed by Haifaa al-Mansour and her team of collaborators, translates the screenplay into visual language, mapping out the camera shots, performances, and other practical elements needed to bring the story to life on screen. Through meticulous planning and creative collaboration, al-Mansour and her team crafted a film that is both visually stunning and thematically rich.

Spectator

As individual members of the audience, viewers bring their own perspectives, experiences, and emotions to their interpretation of Wadjda. While the film's subject matter may be specific to Saudi culture, its universal themes of empowerment and self-discovery have the power to resonate with viewers of all backgrounds and cultures.

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