

### **Pastiche: 1 minute**

Create and show a ONE-minute film of a person completing a mundane task that has been created in that director's style. It is recommended that students do not act in their own pastiche so they can control the creative choices. School uniforms may not be used as costuming in this film.

### **Introduction:**

Most distinctive amongst the contemporary 'indie' scene, Wes Anderson is a notable filmmaker and screenwriter. Born in Houston, Texas, the American director garnered attention and a cult following through his first debut film titled, "Bottle-Rocket" that came out in (1996) (*Wes Anderson - Biography*, n.d.).

Through aesthetic design choices and film techniques, Wes Anderson often adopts a vintage style through eccentric costuming and the use mise en scene to create a distinctive look to his films as according to (Indie Film Hustle, 2022). Equally, Wes Anderson employs a variety of transition shots and 'vintage' colourisation techniques to complement the tone of his films.

Often, the director will adopt narratives of adolescence, romance and adventure to provide a sense of nostalgia and relatability as stated by (Rotten Tomatoes, n.d). Wes Anderson employs film techniques and conventions to explore character arcs with witty dialogue and visual aesthetics. His stylised films allow the audience to explore intimate scenes with lightheartedness and a sense of sarcasm (Hayes, 2022).

### **Analysis:**

My short film titled, "The diary of Dairy", employs Wes Anderson's style in being a social commentary of a rather mundane task and plot. The short film explores the main character drinking a cup of tea only to go on an adventure to find a toilet as she can't have dairy. The film employs transitions, mise en scene and costuming choices that are reflective of Wes Anderson's style. In portraying socio-cultural representations with an undertone of humour, the film takes inspiration in turning a rather mundane task into an chaotic adventure. Through the use of stylistic choices, the film remains true to the vintage and retro gradient of Wes Anderson's work.

In the first scene the use of a whip pan transition is effective in replicating Wes Anderson's work as he commonly uses camera movement to convey a sense of urgency and disorientation as described by Eyecandy, 2023. By adopting fast camera movements, the short film is able to flow through the change in scenes simultaneously. The transition was used to show the shift from subject to subject 2.

This technique is also seen in Wes Anderson's film, *Grand Budapest* (2014). Where the attention of one character is being changed to the view of the other character, Wes Anderson adopts fast whip pans to transition between the shots in quick succession (Wes Anderson

Camera Movement, n.d). Both my film and the Grand Budapest Hotel employ these transitions to add a pace of action. This technique simulates the feeling of physical movement and therefore creates a sense of energy and urgency (Adobe, n.d).

Similarly the use of a warm and desaturated filter adds to the sense of nostalgia within my film. The use of a warm yellow tone is odd to the child-like acting and plot. In Wes Anderson's film Moonrise Kingdom that came out in 2012, the director employs vivid saturation to convey a message of naivety and passion as stated by Suzy Woltmann, 2023. Connections can be drawn between both my film and Moonrise Kingdom, as the use of colour is to attribute to the film's sense of timelessness (Bedard, 2020). Colourisation has also helped achieve a cohesive look with the costuming and use of mise en scene in my film.

Eccentric props like the tea cup and the all white costume worn by Lily also add to the vintage flair commonly seen in Wes Anderson's own films. In having a distinctive style reflective of the 50's in his newest film, Asteroid city (2023), the director uses props and clothing garments that are a testament to the time but also compliment the tone and theme of the plot. Through visual techniques and properties, Wes Anderson is able to narrate stories with atmosphere and mood. Equally, the music by Jacques Dutronc enhances the chaotic resonance of scenes in which Lily is running for the bathroom. The song is also reflective of how Wes Anderson makes use of unique soundtracks to contribute to the overall theme of film.

Atmosphere and mood is further created in my film through the use of both framing and cropping techniques and the establishment of symmetrical shots. Compositional techniques were adopted to replicate Wes Anderson's still life effect in making characters and the setting appear 2 dimensional as according to Maydson Bracken, 2023. The scene of Lily drinking the tea uses a green screen overlay to make it look like she is being looked at through a binocular lens. An inspiration from the scene of Suzy in Moonrise kingdom, the use of an overlay casted over the scene adds difference and visual interest to the shot. The use of these techniques and overlay help make the shot appear like a diorama.

Distinctive features like the use of colourisation, transitions and design choices in Wes Anderson's films have inspired my pastiche. Employing the use of technical and visual techniques, the film 'The Diary of Dairy' employs Wes Anderson's style to tell a story of chaos and adventure. The film is a blend of lightheartedness and sarcasm.

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