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Rhetorical Analysis of a Film – The Shining

Kubrick uses a combination of various rhetorical tools to create an eerie feeling in the audience. Other than the aesthetics the color and sound in the film give the audience, they affect the audience. They develop a sense of discomfort in the audience, as is synonymous with the film's theme.

The relationship between Jack and the bartender is fundamental to the story because it is the bartender who keeps the gate into the Shining open. The relationship between him and Jack was mainly developed by Jack, who spent the better part of his drinking complaining to Lloyd about his family. Lloyd listened to Jack with keen interest, often with a light smile. Before Jack could get a drink, he exclaims that he could sell his soul for a beer. It was at the proclamation of his words that everything changed. It was only after his utterance did he see the bartender. The relationship with the bartender changes everything for Jack and the story. Before he met, he would feel sad, and he was even crying when he thought about hurting his family. However, after the meeting with Lloyd, everything was downhill, and there was a shift in his character (Kubrick).

In the scene where Jack orders a drink from the bartender, the music used in the movie marks the change in Jack's character. He was afraid of hurting his family, but his inhibitions towards his family change after interacting with Lloyd. When Lloyd is introduced, he is wearing red clothes. The color red is used in the film to create a mood that is synonymous with danger. Kubrick uses the red color because of its association with risk and spilling of blood. One could argue that the red color indicated how Lloyd was the force that corrupted Jack.

Works Cited

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Kubrick, Stanley. The Shining. Warner Bros., 1980.