

Alejandro Gutiérrez

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JAPN 310 Japanese Cinema

Departures

I noticed how everybody in the Japanese culture expects everyone to have a high paying executive-like job. Even the guy who was interested in the job couldn't believe what the task actuality consisted of. He assumed it was a traveling agency position but in reality it turned out to be a departure, to the other world, type of job. Personally, I don't get why people are just so nosy. If you generally enjoy the job you are performing why is it that people who surround you have to approve of your own decision. People should worry about their own job not about other people's professions. The guy played it off so well he even hid his job from his girlfriend. I find this super interesting because she sure loves the money he receives but she doesn't support his job. Even the town started critiquing the guy's vocation. In the end the guy learns to love his job and ends up learning a lot from it.

I liked the lighting the director used in this film. Throughout the film you can see natural looking lighting in all of the scenes. All this natural lighting made the film seem more realistic. It made the film seem not all that staged. In the scene where they enter an old lady's home you get the feeling you are really entering the house with both gentlemen. What helps this feeling quite a bit was the sound they used like the humming of the flies. Also all the expressive face expressions the young male would do aided in us getting a feeling of the wretched stench. Even the interior of the house looked like what you would find in an ill old person's residence. In addition the lighting that managed to filter in through the windows was an extra nice touch.

I liked the use of the cello in this film. The harmonious sound produced by the cello is both sophisticated as well as enchanting. The playing of the cello created a special type of mood in the film. Even though he loses his cello-playing job he is reminded about his father thanks to the cello he used to play when he was a little boy. This made the cello extra important for the

young lad. It seemed as though he would play the cello when he was either worried or sad. The cello prevented him from emotionally collapsing.

I rather enjoyed how at first the young man is totally uneasy about his profession. However as time progressed he gets used to what he has to do. He eventually gets quite good at what he does. Moreover at first he doesn't talk too much with the coworker lady and his boss. As the movie develops he becomes attached to both his boss and the female coworker. It's as if they become his dad and his mom because in a way the lady and the older man give him advice and support him. Whenever I start a new semester at CSUMB I feel a tad anxious because everything changes from the previous semester including professors, classes, as well as class mates. However as days pass you get used to your new routine.

This movie reminded me of the fact that even if you have the job you dreamed of having you can easily lose it because of many different reasons. The film shows us that all is not lost and everything has a solution. There are people who kill their families when they realized they have just lost their job because losing a job can severely impact one's livelihood. For instance, even Toyota is moving their Headquarters from California to Texas. I know of people who have lost or will lose their job because a company decides to move their operations by moving to a different state or even to a different country because of labor cost issues. Maybe a connection the directors wanted to make was the losing of a job and how it directly related to some people dying because of this.

I would give this movie 5 stars. I liked it a lot because it's not Hollywood-like. I don't normally like Hollywood films. This film reminded me of certain Spanish and Mexican films I've watched. It's a nice film about death and all the processes involved that make us uneasy.