

Alejandro Gutierrez

JAPN 310 Japanese Cinema

This film reminded me of someone recording at home. This is probably because most of the time the characters were talking directly at the camera. This type of camera angle made it seem as if the characters were talking to us the audience. Even though I don't know Japanese I got a feeling as if they were scolding me or yelling at me. It also looked like the characters were making eye contact with us. I found this really weird because you seldom see this type of camera angle. I would have to say most avoid this kind of camera angle. For example, when you are recording someone it is said you have to act natural. One of the ways you look natural is by not looking directly at the camera lens. So in a way the film angle looked a tad forced.

Another way the film's filming style was different was by the way in which the director decided to use natural light and shade. When the characters were in the living room or in the kitchen I noticed a lot of natural lighting, making it similar to a regular house scene at any given moment. When regular people record with regular cameras lighting usually tends to become a common issue. The director manages to create a realistic non-staged look to the film. Nowadays contemporary movies don't suffer from poor lighting conditions unless the director is purposefully trying to catch that image. You still can spot this in low-budget films.

I had a hard time keeping up with the film because of its low and still camera angle. So pretty much we see square and in that box characters move about and act. This camera angle made me impatient because I wanted for something else to happen and I became frustrated. In modern films they use a dizzying array of camera angles to make the movies pop but at the same time they make the camera angle move way too fast for your eyes to keep up. This is especially true when you're at the theatre staring a massive screen. Sometimes they move the camera too quick you can't even focus, let alone see everything with complete detail. This camera angle gave the film a calm and relaxed demeanor.

I didn't understand the storyline behind this film. It seemed as though they were just having a conversation the entire time in their house. At the end of the film, the old people go to a distant city but they end up dying. Their family members were going to go see them but it was already too late. Because of the distance or conflict with work they were not able to go see them something like that, so yeah I didn't quite get the storyline. I believe that by concentrating on the subtitles we are robbed of certain aspects that add to the film experience.

I noticed how the old lady and the old man gave the impression of very humble people. I don't know whether it was the way they spoke, a little bit slow, or just the way they presented themselves. They seemed like very nice and kind people. They gave the impression of very positive individuals. Even at their advanced age they stayed optimistic about life. I would have to guess they were not too affluent.

In my personal life, I have only one grandmother left. My other three grandparents have passed away. However, my grandmother lives in Jalisco, Mexico, which is approximately 3,000 miles away from where we live. This means that she were to die, we would not be able to go say the last good bye because of conflict it would bring. Life in The United States is very structured so because of school or even because of work we wouldn't be able to go, unless we are willing to let go of our job or even of our expensive school semester. Moreover, we shouldn't hold grudges particularly with grandparents or family members because you never know when will be the last time you get to see that important person.

I would give this film a 3 out of 5. I don't know but I found the movie a bit boring. It wasn't until the end that the movie picked up steam. This is because I didn't fully comprehend the film's purpose.

