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“To what extent can Quentin Tarantino be considered an Auteur?”

In this essay I will be answering the question, “To what extent can Quentin Tarantino be considered an Auteur?” The Word Auteur comes from the Auteur theory. The word Auteur is a French term but in English it means author. The word Auteur means a director who has their own personal signature style to their films so that their audience know that it is that specific director. They would know that it is their films because their audience would be able to recognize their films because of their signature style. The directors style has to be distinctive. Some directors like to add some of their personality into their films using themes and style. When directors film their movies, they are most likely use the same themes or visuals in their movies. He or she has total control of their work on the movie. The movie that the directors create reflect their vision. For the director to be considered as an Auteur they must keep the “consistency of style and themes across their films”(YouTube & 2016). Directors are the true artist of the movie. Not all directors are auteurs. For directors to be considered as an Auteur they have to follow a set of rules that have been established by Andrew Sarris. In the early 1950s the auteur theory came along. Francois Truffaut was a French film director he had many different roles as well as being a French film director. Francois Truffaut believed that the filmmakers should search the idea of them being creative artists. Francois Truffaut once said that “There are no good or bad movies, only good and bad directors” (The Chicago school of Media theory & 2010) The auteur theory comes from the French film journal called Cahiers due cinema which was created in the year of 1954 where Francois Truffaut was the writer for it. Francois Truffaut worked with many different people on his different films. Francois Truffaut did not work on the auteur theory by himself he worked along with Andrew Sarris who is an American film critic. The auteur theory came to the united states in 1963. Andrew Saris wrote a book called “The American cinema.” Andrew Sarris contribute to the theory. Andrew Sarris created three levels of requirement that a director needs to meet. The first level is that the director must know the technical competence because to be an auteur you need to know the basics. The second level of requirements is the director personal signature style and their signature style being reflected across their films If they do not do this they cannot be considered as an auteur. The third and final level of the requirements is that the director’s personality must show throughout the film. He also worked with another person called Andre Bazin who was also a film critic like Francois Truffaut. Andre Bazin was also a founder and an author on the journal Cahier du cinema. The name Cahier du cinema is a French term but in English it means notebooks on cinema. Alexandre Austruc was the first film maker to write and direct on a higher level. He has control over their artistic addition part of the movies. He was a great influence on the essay “The birth of a new Avant-Garde: Le Camera-Stylo.” “The birth of a new Avant-Garde: Le Camera-Stylo” translate to in English is “The camera pan” The power shifted from the actors, the producers and more but towards the directors. To describe an auteur in a sentence many would say this quote “Consistency of style and themes in the films.”

The essay will focus on Quentin Tarantino and whether he can be an Auteur. He can be an Auteur because he has his personal signature style that he puts in his films. Quentin Tarantino did write before he started directing. He went on to say that “I actually think one of my strengths is my storytelling” (31 highly motivational Quentin Tarantino quotes & 2020). His work shows his qualities as a writer. The script of True romance was sold to Tony Scott. The execution plan was the film, but it depends on the quality of the script. Quentin Tarantino developed his personal signature style by working in theatres. Quentin Tarantino likes to be in his own films for example Reservoir Dogs he played Mr brown. He likes to add his own imagination to his films. He like to use reoccurring themes in his films like violence and revenge. Quentin Tarantino meets the requirements of the word “authorship” meaning that he writes his own screenplays. Quentin Tarantino likes to work with the same crew and actors in his film for example Tim Roth. He does this because they know how he works and that he knows them. Quentin Tarantino likes to connect his films by using the different character or the different objects that he has used in previous films for example in Reservoir Dogs they had a brief case that was also used in Pulp fiction. Another example is that in Pulp fiction Mia hinted at Kill bill by describing it as the pilot she was in. Quentin Tarantino likes to have the characters wear black and white suits as these are there costumes for the films. In Quentin Tarantino he likes to use foul language. With Quentin Tarantino films he likes to keeps his narrative non- linear. Even though Quentin Tarantino uses non-linear narrative in his films he also adds flash backs and flash forwards in the film. In some of his films it won’t make sense or it will because with the narrative it jumps from one point to another point for example in Pulp fiction he starts at the end and finishes at the same point. As the audience he wants the audience to intrigue the audience to watch his films.

However, Quentin Tarantino likes to work with the different themes for his films. He like to work with two main themes with is Revenge and Violence for his films. Revenge is a reoccurring theme in his films. He always gives the characters a reason to get revenge. The reason comes clear from the narrative of the film. Quentin Tarantino makes the character that seeks out revenge strong and motivated. Quentin Tarantino uses violence as a theme in his films by using a severe amount of violence in his films. He likes to use Fighting scenes. In his movies he also likes to use a whole sequence for shoot outs, sword fights, fist fights and torture. In his films his violent scenes went from brutal and cruel to comical and irrelevant. Quentin Tarantino got criticized on the amount of violence he has in his films and for promoting violence in his films so he went on and said this “Violence in real life is terrible; violence in movies can be cool” (31 highly motivational Quentin Tarantino quotes & 2020). Quentin Tarantino likes to use torture in his films by the character either hitting them, punching them or whipping them. Quentin Tarantino likes to use torture and violent scenes to add thrill to his films. He likes to have gore in his movies by having a lot of bloody scenes so that the audience feel a certain way while watch the film. He likes to use violent awakening scenes in his for example Quinten Tarantino uses all theses themes to give the audience shock, humour and many more. Quentin Tarantino films can be unpredictable when the audience watches his films for the first time but when the audience becomes more familiar with his films, they know what to expect in his films. Throughout out Quentin Tarantino’s work, he depicts consistent themes across the various genres.

On the other hand, Quentin Tarantino has used different genres for different films. He has used Western for Django Unchained. He uses the genre crime and martial arts in Kill Bill one and two. The movie Planet Terror uses the genre horror whereas Death Proof uses thriller as its genre. He uses Inglorious Basterds as the genre War. In all these genres he implements the themes violence and revenge. With some of his films he got accused for many different for example they accused him for using inappropriate language and he also got accused for blaxploitation in the film Django unchained. Quentin Tarantino got accused by Spike lee, so Quentin Tarantino went on to say, “I demand the right to write any character in the world that I want to write” (Independent & Wednesday 26 December 2012). Spike lee does not like that the fact that that Quentin Tarantino used Blaxploitation So spike lee went on said “I never said that he cannot use that word – I’ve used that word in many of my films” (Independent & Wednesday 26 December 2012).

Whereas Quentin Tarantino likes to use different camera shots to emphasize the scene. He like to us close ups on feet and when the female is putting lipstick or when the characters are putting a record to play on a record player. He uses close ups shots to point out important scenes. When the characters are either in a car or having a conversation for this scene, he likes to use two shots. He uses Point of view many people would refer to it as Gods eye point of view he used this so the audience was able to see what was happening from a different angle. With point of view he uses it in different way for example when people are looking at a dead body or when they open the trunk of a car. He did this so we get to see a different perspective. He likes to use the 360-tracking shot to follow the characters to where they are going or what they are doing for example the opening diner scene in Reservoir Dogs. He also uses the tracking shot in the movie so that the camera can follow a certain object for example when they are shooting a bullet at another character. He likes to use wide shots in his movies he does that so that he can capture what is going on around the characters. He likes to use different scenes in different location and what the characters are doing for example a bathroom or in a restaurants/ bar. Quentin Tarantino likes to use torture scenes so that the audience can feel a certain way while the character is torturing another character. He likes to apply his skills of being an auteur to attach the audience’s emotions to the film so that they could feel like they can be in the film themselves. He likes to reinvent scenes and play around with different scenes to see what works for the film he is making. Quentin Tarantino plays around with the colours in the movies so that he can find the right colours that fit in the movie. In reservoir dogs Quentin Tarantino doesn’t use the characters actual name but they use colours as there nickname. In all his film he uses bright bold colours that the audience will pick out.

However, Quentin likes to use music in his movies. The music he likes to use in his films is pop music. When it comes to music he knows from the beginning what songs he wants to use. The music creates the atmosphere in the different scenes. The music adds drama, tension or both to the film. The music sets the mood of the movie. He likes to place the music where they are not expected. Quentin Tarantino wants his music to create a memorable scene in his movies. He likes to include dance scenes in his films for example the dance scene between Mia and Vincent Vaga in pulp fiction. Quentin Tarantino uses pop music to play on top of different scenes creates the atmosphere for example when it comes to the violent scenes pop music adds drama and tension to the scene.

In conclusion the audience is able to recognise his films because of his style. He uses two different themes such as revenge and violence as his main themes. He likes to use a lot of different genre for his films. He likes to use many different angles and shots in his films to intrigue the audience. Quentin likes to use pop music for his films but also he likes to choose his music from the beginning. The auteur theory means “The maker of anything, creator, originality.” Quentin Tarantino can be considered an auteur because he has his own personal signature style that he inputs into his movies.