

### Analyse and evaluate how effectively Ridley Scott creates another world in the opening sequences of the film 'Blade Runner'

The film 'Blade Runner' was made in 1982 and Directed by Ridley Scott. It was then re-released as a Directors cut in 1992. It has a mix of genres like thriller, sci-fi and drama. The film starts with the foreword which gives you an understanding of the new world and about the androids within it. The word Blade Runner within this is highlighted in a different font and in a different colour to make it stand out. Scott then jumps you into a long shot of the city, which looks a lot like Los Angeles at night. However, it has been edited with flames and lightning to make it look different. There are also flying cars which adds to the effect of a new futuristic world. From the long shot the camera pans in on the city. There is non-diegetic music that is very relaxing and powerful, however this works to good effect as the picture in front of you is of a busy 'evil' city, that is covered in flames and thunder making the city seem depressing. The music joins with the image of the city and makes the city seem very grand and powerful. The only light in this scene other than natural light is from the flames and lightning bolts, and the lights from buildings. As the camera moves through the city it cuts to an image of an extreme close up of an eye. In the eye you can see the city which shows the eye is looking at the city. This makes you wonder who the eye belongs to and why there looking over the city. The first impression would be that the eye is of someone important as its like the city belongs to the person and he is looking over it. This whole time the same non-diegetic music is still playing. Scott then jumps back to the city and moves through it towards the 'Tyrell Corporation'. The building of the 'Tyrell Corporation' is like a futuristic Mayan temple. It has the shape of a Mayan Temple however it is covered in lights and is metal rather than brick making it look very contemporary. The non-diegetic music takes away the feeling of depression and combines with the beauty and feeling of importance of the Tyrell Corporation and makes the building feel important and large. Also as the city is still very dark, the lights from the building stand out boldly.

As the camera moves around the building it pans in on one particular part and towards a window, this leads to a straight cut into the Tyrell Corporation. In this scene you meet the first character which is Holden, a police officer. The Scene is started with a high shot of an office, looking down at Holden who has his back to the office looking out the window, making him look vulnerable. The room is very smoky which is made to stand out from the light shining across the room. As Leon a 'replicant' walks into the room, the camera angle changes to a mid shot, showing Holden and Leon sitting at a table. As Holden begins setting up the Voight-Kampff test, which is a test to show whether a person is a real human or a 'replicant' by asking questions creating an emotional response. This helps create the new world obviously as there is no Voight-Kampff test in real life as there are no replicants. As Holden starts the dialogue the camera angle changes to shot reverse shot to show each character's speech and facial expressions. As Holden begins to ask Leon questions Leon starts to get nervous and the diegetic sound of the fan above sounds in time with a non-diegetic heart beat of Leon's heart. This gets louder and faster as the suspense builds up to build tension. This is then broken by Holden stopping the questions. However, the next question, although the mood is calm now, makes Leon turn, and shoot Holden. There is a diegetic sound of a gunshot that sounds like a laser gun which adds to the creation of a new world and this is type of gun you would expect in the future. As soon as you hear the gunshot you straight away assume Leon is the criminal and it makes you wonder why he shot Leon.

There is then a straight cut back into the city again, except this time on the city streets.

The city seems to be extremely over crowded and busy with high rise buildings lit up with neon lights everywhere and 'spinners', flying cars. The overcrowded city adds to the new futuristic world as geographers believe city's will become overcrowded with new, larger developments. A large electronic blimp then fly's in-between the high sky scrapers advertising 'Off World'. There is a diegetic narrator from the blimp describing 'Off World'. Scott then makes a camera change to a high shot looking down on a crowded street. As the camera pans in there is a diegetic sound of a flashing dragons tongue made from neon tubes. Also there are other diegetic sounds from the street such as shouting and the rain hitting the road. In the background of the street there is a sign on a wall which is in a strange language, which is not what you would expect to see in Los Angeles. This is also backed up to be a new world as most of the people seem to be Asian, which is strange for an American city. This is the first sight of the people that live in the city and this adds to the feeling of a different world. The ceiling in this street is very low and has large concrete pillars and bright lights, and as the street is full of people it makes it very claustrophobic. As many of the crowd have umbrellas this does not help the feeling. The umbrellas also add to the creation of a new world as they have neon shafts. Also the people are dressed in strange clothes that are a lot different to today's. At this point the camera pans in towards Deckard who stands out through the crowds as he seems to be the only American around. Once the camera gets through the crowd staying at a mid shot, Deckard gets called over to a noodle bar and you hear the diegetic sound of rain hitting the road and his newspaper. When he orders his food you hear diegetic dialogue and diegetic sounds of food cooking and crashing sounds you would expect in a busy kitchen. Also the audience would hear that the noodle bar worker cannot speak English, which is strange as once Deckard gets his noodles an begins eating, two policemen come over and start speaking the same language as the noodle bar worker. This is then confusing as Deckard asks the noodle worker to translate what the policemen are saying. This makes the audience wonder why the noodle worker changed language within seconds. It is here that you find out that Deckard is the 'Blade Runner' as Gaff reveals this to the audience. Ridley Scott puts this part of the scene in into the film to introduce Deckard as 'Blade Runner' but also to make the audience interested as you would expect Deckard to be the hero, not the villain. This scene all helps to create the idea of a new world. Deckard then leaves the bar with the policemen and there is diegetic sound of people running and rain still hitting the road and the spinner. This all makes the city a depressing place and not a great place to live.

Once Deckard and Gaff are in the spinner there is diegetic sound of the engine of the spinner and also the rain hitting hard against the window. However as the spinner begins to rise there is the introduction of non-diegetic music that makes the process of the spinner taking off very peaceful and relaxing and the takes over from the diegetic sounds. During the spinner journey the camera is of a close up of Deckard's face which occasionally switch's to look outside the spinner. The higher the spinner goes there also seems to be a bit more light adding to the more relaxing feeling. As the spinner lands on top of the police station the building seems to be very modern and contemporary. However as the camera cut from a high shot looking down at the spinner landing to a high shot inside the police station, the station looks very old and not modern at all. The camera then moves through the roof of Captain Bryant's office and into the office, which also looks old rather than modern as the roof is very dusty and dirty. This scene helps link up the other scenes as you find out that Deckard wasn't actually arrested but he was in fact brought in to do a job. Also you find out who Leon is and why he shot Holden as Bryant goes through a slide show with Deckard. This helps the audience

understand more about the new world and the technical specialist language used helps create the new world. In the room where Bryant is going through the slide show the only light is from the projector and this makes the smoke from there cigarettes stand out and makes the scene very much like a typical detectives briefing of a crime. The camera is at a close up switching from both Deckard's and Bryant's faces when they are speaking. The light being only a small strip occasionally shines across one of there faces making it look mysterious. There is only dialogue in this scene from Deckard and Bryant and also from the slide show, but there is also diegetic sound of the projector changing slides.

In the spinner once more there is very peaceful non-diegetic music as they fly to Tyrell Corporation. The spinners are made to look very elegant as they fly. The camera is either of a long shot looking across at the group of spinners or a close up inside the spinner where there is diegetic dialogue as Deckard is playing the recording of Holden's death. As the camera changes to show the Tyrell Corporation it is made to look large and important as it did in the earlier scene. Once inside the building Deckard is in a very large beautiful room which has a very peaceful and expensive feel to it. The room has very high ceilings and small gold pillars. Most of the room seems to be made from gold and it is filled with gold ornaments. The only light is from a large balcony filled with the sun. There is once again smooth flowing relaxing music combining with the glistening of the room to make it seem a wonderful place. Rachael then walks in and adds to the perfect feel of the room as she looks inhuman as she is too perfect. Her hair and clothes also shine as she walks towards Deckard and the sun. This part of the scene is all at a mid shot with non-diegetic music. A replicated owl then fly's across the room and there is diegetic sound of the owls wings. This adds to the creation of the new world as it shows not only humans are being replicated. There is then dialogue between Rachael and Deckard before it is interrupted by the entrance of Dr Tyrell. Tyrell then asks Deckard to do a Voight-Kampff test on Rachael. Deckard then asks Tyrell to dim the lights so he made a electronic sheet come down over the balcony to partially block the light, this shows that the Voight-Kampff test has to be undertaken in little light. As Rachael begins smoking, the smoke swirls in the light and makes it seem a bit less peaceful and more like a detective interview. Rachael is then made to look less perfect because of some of her harsh responses to Deckard's questions. Deckard takes exceptionally long to work out if Rachael is a replicant or not because Tyrell hadn't told her she was a replicant so she thought she was human. This shows how much depth Ridley Scott goes to, to create this new world.

Overall I think Ridley Scott creates an new dystopian world very effectively using clever film techniques. However for an audience today it would not seem very futuristic as a lot of the technology is not as advanced as it is now and many of the characters are dressed in 50s style clothing. However when it was first released in 1982, the audience then would have a different perspective of the future than what we have today.