

Blade Runner/Ridley Scott/1982/W.B

"Mise en scene, in this as ours of them, refers to the composition of the image elements, the location of objects, people, costumes; the play of light and color, the choice of color, the choice of costumes, the choice of view, as well as the movement within the frame". The complete film dictionary.

The Ridley Scott film Blade Runner, begins with opening credits, these are plain, bold, white text on a black background. This along with quiet music and sudden beats of drums creates a very tense atmosphere and helps with suspense; there is a very military feel to this opening sequence. We are then given an update of events, this tells us the film is set in the future and that it is a time when technology has enabled cyborg human clones, colonisation on planets in outer space and a world dominated by Large Corporations, this tells us that the genre of this film is sci-fi.

The opening sequence shows a vast futuristic urban backdrop, which includes massive towering buildings, fire and space ships. This is the first usage of Mise-en-scene, the key factor here being setting, as with films such as ~~The Matrix~~ ~~Blade Runner~~, the setting of Blade Runner is not an actual place but a created world set in the future, this helps us identify with a world where laws and rules may be different to our own as well as the people in it, and shows a general aspect of sci-fi films.

The lighting is another prominent feature of Mise-en-scene used here, colours such as orange, red and black are very dominant, these along with what looks like smoke or steam help with the atmosphere and are a commonly found in sci-fi films. There is no sign of nature, no greens of trees or blue in the sky, this is perhaps to show that it is set in the future as this is what we may expect due to pollution and urban development. The only factor we can so far relate to our world is the rain, and lightning. These help to add to the atmosphere and gloominess of the film that helps to create the futuristic setting required.

We are then shown a large space ship like building, which size is hard to determine. This again helps us visualise the developments of the world, and that this is a sci-fi film, Mise-en-scene is often used as a definer of genre and therefore this helps to conform to the generic stereotype of Sci-fi films. There is then a change of scene that moves inside this building, a dark room lit by the very dim light from outside which creates a dull blue light. This is a very common form of lighting used in sci-fi films, a sign of darkness or space perhaps. The room is silent apart from the dull drone of a

ceiling fan; there is a tannoy announcement from the background. The room is bare apart from a desk, upon which there is a computer and various other futuristic devices. The room is dull and smokey, looks almost like an institution. These factors are prominent forms of Mise-en-scene that create a futuristic atmosphere, the beeping noises of the computer in the room also add to this. There enters a man dressed in a suit along with one dressed in a gown. There is a very tense atmosphere between them and we are helped to feel this through the Mise-en-scene. An interview begins and the man being tested begins to get anxious, we are made to feel this through a drumming noise, as if it were the man's heartbeat, this increases in speed the tenser the situation becomes. The breaking point being an explosion, the interviewee blasts the interviewer with a gun; this helps us distinguish the genre of the film, as the gun is unlike those that we use.