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Unforgiven Theme

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### Unforgiven Theme

In most of his films, Clint Eastwood embodies not only the masculine myths and suppositions, but also the very nature of living as a criminal in a violent society. However, in this film, he seems to cast away this image and mythology rather than perpetuating it.

As in most of Clint Eastwood's films, the recurring theme in Unforgiven<sup>1</sup> is the cost of vengeance and redemption. These themes are typified through the often-used mythical figure of Jesus Christ. Through the redemption process, Eastwood appears the Christ figure through the roles he plays. However, sometimes this role is juxtaposed with that of a villain through which the character of Eastwood gains redemption. Vengeance as a recurrent theme also is at play as it helps to provide redemption to the characters<sup>2</sup> (Andrew, 1999).

In this film, Eastwood acting as the ultimate avenger pays the price. The Schofield Kid is saved from the violence that pervades in this society though Will Munny is at home with it given his past violent lifestyle. It is in search of redemption that Munny after the sickness occasioned by the deluge of rain and killing, he visits Claudia's grave. Claudia, his wife, would have been his redeemer but unfortunately the violence that he had emerged himself in was too much and he is now unconsciously seeking for the redemption that he missed and forgiving, giving rise to the title of the film, *Unforgiven*. (Eastwood, Kapsis, and coblentz, 2013).

Will Munny, the protagonist had seen it all living a wicked and violent life where killing women and children was the norm. It is only after getting a family and children that life takes a good turn when he buries all his violent past and takes to farming.

#### 1. Unforgiven is

Insert relevant attribution of film in-text. Give the title, director, and year of production. [Lynette Cahill]

#### 2. Vengeance as a recurrent theme also is at play as it helps to provide redemption to the characters

Clear statement of theme.

Be sure to establish a specific claim, argument, or analytical position in your thesis. Your paper should be organized around a thesis statement that focuses on how your chosen feature-length film expresses an overall theme. [Lynette Cahill]

This therefore supports the redemption theme though it brings in another new problem, masculine despair especially at his old age and this is what drives him to reawaken his old self to great violence and brutality (Eastwood, et al, 2013).

The artistic techniques used in this film are understated to a point of being considered invisible. The stylistic elements though fantastic do not attract attention to themselves as everything serves the story's and character's emotions. Those responsible for the lighting and design of the film's setting had done a superb job. The designer and supervisor had rigged the lights in such a way that the desired lighting effect was aptly captured to deliver the desired aspects by the cinematographer.

Lighting also has played a bigger role in the film as it helps evoke deep emotions. The director manipulates it to accommodate his desires for the film. The use of particular colors with the set, costumes, and makeup has a big ramification for the lighting design to produce the desired effects. The juxtaposition for light and dark in many ways help to represent the uncanny and sinister characters on their murderous spree.<sup>1</sup>

With dramatic effect, the producer craftily casts characters into memorable actions that go forth in contributing to the establishment of the theme. A case in point is where Logan complains that after all the shooting no one is dead and<sup>2</sup> this forces Munny to take the gun and shoots at the cowhand who howls for water. The scene, which is excruciatingly long, is a momentous moment in the film (Sterritt, 2014). The director also succeeds in portraying men who can kill without a problem and for pleasure further underlying the violence and brutality that pervades the film.<sup>3</sup>

1. **Lighting also has played a bigger role in the film as it helps evoke deep emotions. The director manipulates it to accommodate his desires for the film. The use of particular colors with the set, costumes, and makeup has a big ramification for the lighting design to produce the desired effects. The juxtaposition for light and dark in many ways help to represent the uncanny and sinister characters on their murderous spree.**

Good illustration showing how this element of design carries forward the narrative theme.

[Lynette Cahill]

## 2. **and**

There is a missing comma in a compound sentence. The following example demonstrates how to correct use a comma in a compound sentence: "Samantha wrote paper, and Anne worked on her math homework." For additional information, please visit the Ashford Writing Center, located at <https://awc.ashford.edu>. Utilize 'Writing Resources', within the main toolbar, to find help in this area. [Lynette Cahill]

3. **succeeds in portraying men who can kill without a problem and for pleasure further underlying the violence and brutality that pervades the film.**

Good job relating artist's role on film to expression of theme. [Lynette Cahill]

Mise-en-scene involves the special arrangement of everything that appears in a frame such as the actors, décor, lights, costumes and the props. This term is further used to describe what is placed on the stage such as the frame and camerawork.

These different elements that are used on stage are artistically used to enhance the set by the professionals involved in the movie making. With the help of the designers, the director is able to incorporate all the different elements to great effect.

The congruency of the design to the whole set and theme of the movie to evoke lasting feelings and not just for particular episodes in the movie, For example, the use of a multi-layered visual design in the movie helps to create an exciting and amazing design.

The other area is the décor, which involves the decorative elements comprising the set and props in the film. The use of these techniques is very effective as it helps bring the bear significance to a deeper level while underlying the themes, meanings, as well as provoking thoughts (Andrew, 1999).

## References

- Andrew, G. (1999). *The Director's Vision: A Concise Guide to the Art of 250 Great Filmmakers*. Chicago: A Cappella.
- Eastwood, C., Kapsis, R. E., & Coblenz, K. (2013). *Clint Eastwood: Interviews*. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi.
- Sterritt, D. (2014). *The cinema of Clint Eastwood: Chronicles of America*.<sup>1</sup>

1. Andrew, G. (1999). The Director's Vision: A Concise Guide to the Art of 250 Great Filmmakers. Chicago: A Cappella.

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