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BONNIE & CLYDE (1967) VS. RUN LOLA RUN (1998)

Theme of robbery, Misfortune & violence in “Bonnie & Clyde and “Run Lola Run

Bonnie & Clyde is one of the greatest American films in 1967. In this film, robbery and extreme violence are depicted as ways of lives of a given sect of gangsters. Run Lola Run is on the other hand a German film most paramount in 1998 when it was first released. Unlike in Bonnie & Clyde film which is basically a violent movie with a few other themes slotted in, Run Lola Run is a thrilling film masterpiece characterized by the theme of love, violence and tragedies. Albeit in both cases, there are tragedies and violence, and to a minimal extent, they also share the theme of love and romance.

This paper investigates further into the differences and similarities between these two films, concentrating on the theme of violence and tragedy common in both cases, and how this might have helped develop the films. Use of violence has been a common style used in many of the German and American films dating from as early as 1960s (Giannetti, & Eyman, 307). There is thus a concern in this paper that the two films in question were not short of the prevailing techniques.

Violence, Misfortune and Robbery in Run Lola Run Film (1998)

The film "Run Lola Run" is divided into three major phases, referred to as "the three runs". The three runs all start at the same point but develop and end differently. Every one of the runs is composed of a sequence of flash-backs "showing how the lives of the people that Lola bumps into develops after the encounters" (David, 160).

In the first run, Lola encounters a dog in staircase. He runs faster along the streets of Berlin. On his way to the father's bank, Lola causes an accident. The man involved in this accident is his father's colleague. Arriving at the bank, his father refuses to help with the money he needs to replace his boss's money he lost. He is struggling to do it before the boss knows about it. Lola's father alleges he is not appreciated at home by both Lola and his wife for having a mistress. He also claims he isn't Lola's father, so he doesn't help Lola with the money (David, 160-169). This is Lola's first misfortune.

Lola leaves to meet Manni his girlfriend pretty late and when Manni's robbery plan had just started. He joins her in robbing a store and the two as they attempt to run away with money, they are rounded up by the police. The second misfortune is evidenced. The police shot him at the chest and the movie fades off as Lola and Minni are in bed, with Minni asking Lola if he loves her (David, 160-169).

In the second run, Lola is tripped by a punk with a dog, harming her leg which consequently makes her limp. She is yet again complicated in an accident involving her father's colleague. Because she is also injured in the leg, she could not sprint faster, arriving at her father's bank late. She overhears the conversation between her father and his mistress regarding pregnancy, making her infuriated and leading her to rob her

father's bank using a gun snatched from a security personnel at the bank. Violence and robbery manifested here. The scene fades after Lola and Minni are in bed, with Minni asking Lola if he loves him (David, 160-169).

Scene three which constitutes the third and the last run is built on a reverse role of the two. Here, she is the one running, misses her father and keeps on running. She enters Casino where, wins two subsequent bets and uses the money to rescue Lola. Her father's security guard has suffered a heart attack and is being ferried with an ambulance. This is a misfortune. Towards the end of the film, the man who varnished with the money resurfaces, Manni tires to chase the man, consequently causing a car accident which leads to the death of Lola's father who is also revealed to be the man who stole the money. He gets his money back and the film concludes as Manni is questioning Lola what is in the bag (David, 160-169)!

Violence, Misfortune and Robbery in Bonnie & Clyde

It was in the midlist of the Great Depression. Clyde and Bonnie encounters each other for the first time when Clyde was just on the act of attempting to rob a car belonging to Bonnie's mother. Bonnie, rather too bored by being a waitress is pleased with the theft tricks played by Clyde. She makes up her mind and joins Clyde, becoming his partner in committing the crime (Giannetti, & Eyman, 307-368).

The now "duo crime spree" takes their crime maneuvers to a new level by hooking up with another party, "a dim-witted gas station attendant" named C.W Moss in this film. Buck, Clyde's elder brother together with his wife also joins the crew. Other characters introduced as the film picks on top gear are Blanche, a daughter to a

preacher. Blanche and Buck's wife seems to dislike each other from the beginning of the film. Their antagonism escalates as the film proceeds (Giannetti, & Eyman, 307-368).

Clyde and Bonnie become exploitive and violent bank robbers. As C.W. takes on a bank robbery by means of "a parallel gateway car", Clyde gets more violent, shooting a bank manager in the forehead (Giannetti, & Eyman, 307-368). This film generates more violence as it scenically unfolds. The two, that is, Clyde, C.W together with their other colleagues are now in a robbery gang. The gang is chased by law enforcement crews, featuring the Texas Ranger who they rounds up, humiliates before setting him free (Giannetti, & Eyman, 307-368).

The gang is however no so lucky in their tragic maneuvers. Buck, one of the members in the gang, is pursued and mortally wounded by the law enforcement crew. He is shot in the forehead. Also slightly attacked and injured is Blanche, the rest of the gang members, including Clyde, Bonnie and C.W fled away, narrowly escaping the trap. This is the first instance of misfortune the gang encounters. Blanche is arrested and is in the police custody, where Harmer plays tricks on her until she discloses C.W, one of the gang members still at large (Giannetti, & Eyman, 307-368).

The Texas Ranger is now after C.W together with his colleagues, Bonnie and Clyde. The Ranger manages to trace C.W'S domicile where they catch up with his father. Ivan Moss, C.W's father sets a trap for the gang after some bargaining with Harmer to have some leniency on his boy C.W in exchange for the rest of the gang members. Moss then sets a trap for Bonnie and Clyde, the most wanted criminals (Giannetti, & Eyman, 307-368).

As Clyde and Bonnie moves forward, stopping by the roadside to help Moss fix his punctured tire, and not knowing this was a trap set by Moss, they fall for the ambush. The police hiding in the bushes by the roadside pulls the gun triggers, opening the fires, “riddling Bonnie and Clyde`s bodies with bullets in a bloodbath” (Giannetti, & Eyman, 307-368).The uninterrupted “real-time fusillade” develops into a captivating end amounting to one of the bloodiest theatric deaths in the history cinemas”.

Discussions and Conclusion

Apparently from these two films, “Bonnie & Clyde” and “Run Lola Run”, the theme of violence is vibrantly evidenced. There are, however, more serious and bloody violence in “Bonnie & Clyde film” as compared to “Run Lola Run”. On the same note, there are instances of misfortunes. The misfortunes are prevalent but less bloody in “Run Lola Run”. They are a few but very bloody misfortunes in “Bonnie and Clyde”.

There is a sharp difference in the way the violence and robbery have been executed in the two films. In “Run Lola Run”, Lola and Manni are not actually gangsters, but out to accomplish a given mission. Their mission is to find money to replace the amount they lost which belongs to Lola`s boss. They want to do it as agent as possible so that the boss never notices.

On the other hand, in Bonnie and Clyde film, the gang members are out to rob violently, and kill where necessary, even though in most cases they do it in self defense. Their mission is to accumulate wealth through crime, and not to accomplish a specific triggered desire. In conclusion, both films are characterized by violence, robbery and misfortunes, but the crimes are staid in “Bonnie and Clyde” film.

Works Cited

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Giannetti, Louis, & Eyman, Scott. *Bonnie & Clyde: Flashback: A Brief History of Film*. 4th Ed. Prentice Hall. 1999. 307-367. ISBN 978-0130186621.