

Tampopo

This movie is definitely a Japanese classic. For most people, they might not understand the style of movie or the humor it displays. There are three things that can be focused on. One is the cultural nuances shown throughout the film that many people can relate to or notice. Second is the style of camerawork along with how the movie's cinematography is used which is not a modern or classic style, but an individual style used by the director. Last is how many experiences relate to me and how they make me feel. These things will be discussed with an open view and ultimately presented with my personal opinion.

First, the most obvious cultural aspect of the movie is that it's all about food, especially ramen. Ramen is a huge part of the Japanese culture and has been for many years. Many scenes have traditional noodle houses which look very similar to ones hundreds of years ago. There is one particular scene where a group of businessmen are ordering a meal. Most of the men are equal in status as bosses but there is one man that is a subordinate. This scene definitely shows how traditionally if you're a subordinate you should not upstage your bosses to make them look less than you. Another seemingly traditional aspect of the movie is how old, poor men can be seen as masters of their craft, which is a theme seen in many movies. In most restaurants in Japan a traditional greeting is used for the customers and again it is used in this movie. The wardrobe of the characters fits the late eighties style but always there is traditional Japanese style clothing. The cultural and traditional parts of the movie definitely keep the movie's style easy to figure out that's it is a Japanese film but the camerawork might not be that easy to understand.

Second is how the cinematography and the camerawork is used in the film, which is a style not very familiar to a lot of people. The director used an incredible way to transition from one scene to another connecting the story by scene but not by plot. However, each small plot presented did have something to do with food or how food interacts with us all. A classic dream sequence was used on a couple occasions which are a nice touch to interpret what a person is thinking. There was a couple of scenes that used a following camera shot that looks pretty cool, but seems hard because someone has to actually follow the actors while holding a camera. Many close-ups were shot with much exaggerated facial expressions. This technique is very helpful to create comedy and it works very well. Close to the beginning of the film was a scene where a fight breaks out but we never get to see it. The scene just pans to the bystanders but you can hear the sound of someone getting their ass kicked. That scene is likeable because it uses only sound and infers what might be happening by making the audience use their own ideas. Much of the movie has a comedic style and is mirrored with the same style as Buster Keaton. The director had a fondness of Keaton and showed much of that style within his own movie. Many of the locations were of everyday places in Japan for a regular citizen. The sex scene was very bold for a Japanese movie but the scene seemed to be shot to have comedic value with some shock and

awe. Although the camerawork was definitely above normal expectations, sound was used very well to.

Lastly, many moments in the scenes relate to experiences in real life. Just wanting to help someone who is down on their luck should be an experience everyone should have. Driving trucks and eating at restaurants relates so much to me because I did the same thing for a year. Food makes us all comfortable and we all want to try the very best of food too. I love food and food loves me, so my experiences with food have grown over the years where now I appreciate flavors even more with a passion. Eating etiquette is an experience I share because eating habits can and do look horrible from time to time with people, which might not make a meal seem as appetizing as before.

Overall the movie shows humor in a way that suits me and style that I appreciate. It is unfortunate the director died in such a mysterious way because I believe he would have made many movies that would be considered great classics.