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Claim

- Humpday is an independent film due to the dynamic narrative aspects, visual intimacy, and self-reflexivity that pushes the boundaries of the typical Hollywood film.

Narrative Elements & Themes

Identity

Masculinity & Sexual Identity

Narrative Structure

How the Narrative is Independent

- As we've defined in our first day of class: aspects of story/theme that make a film independent include
 - Language
 - Localness
 - Structure of film
 - Self-reflexivity
 - Controversial subjects/Implicit meanings

Narrative Structure

- Unusual layout; the pacing is strange
- Ambiguous ending
 - Ben saying he would resolve wife situation; audience left out
 - Andrew not finishing film; goal unaccomplished
- Problems surface midway through the film
- Repetition of bedroom scenes

Identity

- Ben: “Andrew is lost”
- Andrew: “I’m beginning to feel like a total fucking fraud.

I guess that the way I like to think of myself and the way that I am are... maybe more different than I'd like them to be.”



Masculinity and Gender Identity

- The dare
- Ben questioning his own gender identity;
 - the video store clerk



Clip 1 Narrative

- Transcending the sexual boundaries of identity:
 - “It’s beyond gay”



Du och jag, två heterokillar,
som sätter på varandra.

- Masculinity
 - “No, you’re gonna get the shit boned out of you!”

DIY Aesthetic

- Handheld
- Spontaneity
- Improvisation



- Pornography



Filmmaking
Self-reflexivity



Social and Sexual Relationships



Feeling out-of-place



- Sexually Threatened



Anna and Ben



Ben and Andrew





- The Weirdness



Unmasking



Mumblecore

- Ultra-low budget
- Low profile actors
- Post-college male life
- Personal issues of identity
- Makes mundane meaningful
 - Hand-held camera
- Incorporates improvisation into dialogue

Humpday both exists within and pushes on the vague boundaries of this movement.

Expands movement

- Clear Speech
 - instead of “swallowing words” (Taublin)
- Sexuality
 - continuum
- Greater issues than personal discovery
 - Taublin criticizes movement as self-indulgent



Director is female in predominantly male crowd

- Self-referential

- Questions what makes a film significant
- Creation of an independent film
- Pokes fun at Mumblecore convention



“Slackavettes”

- Use of theater actors
- Actors have a say in production



- Improvised dialogue
 - Uses strengths + weakness of the actors
 - Digital Video

Conclusion

- Independent
 - narrative structure
 - self-reflexivity
 - controversial subject
 - expands borders of movement
 - DIY nature of the film

Questions

- What do you think Ben and Andrew wanted to achieve? Did they succeed?

- Do you feel the improvised nature of the film makes it more personal? Do you identify with the characters?

- Do you agree this film questions gender identity?