



Mise-en-Scène and Danzón

A Presentation By:
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Mise-en-Scene

- According to Bordwell and Thompson, it can be characterized as signifying “the director’s control over what appears in the film frame”
 - Includes setting, costume and makeup, lighting, staging and movement, and space and time
 - The director stages the event of the scene for the camera
 - Has the power to transcend normal perceptions of reality

Argument

Through the technique of mise-en-scène, the film:

- Generates a character in Julia that progresses from a shy and submissive person into a self-confident, bold woman
- Promotes feminism by allowing a female main character to move into a dominant role over her male costars
- Challenges typical gender roles in film
- Empowers women in film



Setting

- A boat dock
- Women are not often seen here
- A man's place of work
- Wind is realistic; creates movement of costume, hair



Boat Names



AMOR PERDIDO

Love Lost

PURAS ILUSIONES

Pure Illusions

Lighting

- Natural Sunlight
- Naturally illuminates the face and clothing, but not in an unrealistic way
- Causes the dress to be transparent



Costume and Makeup



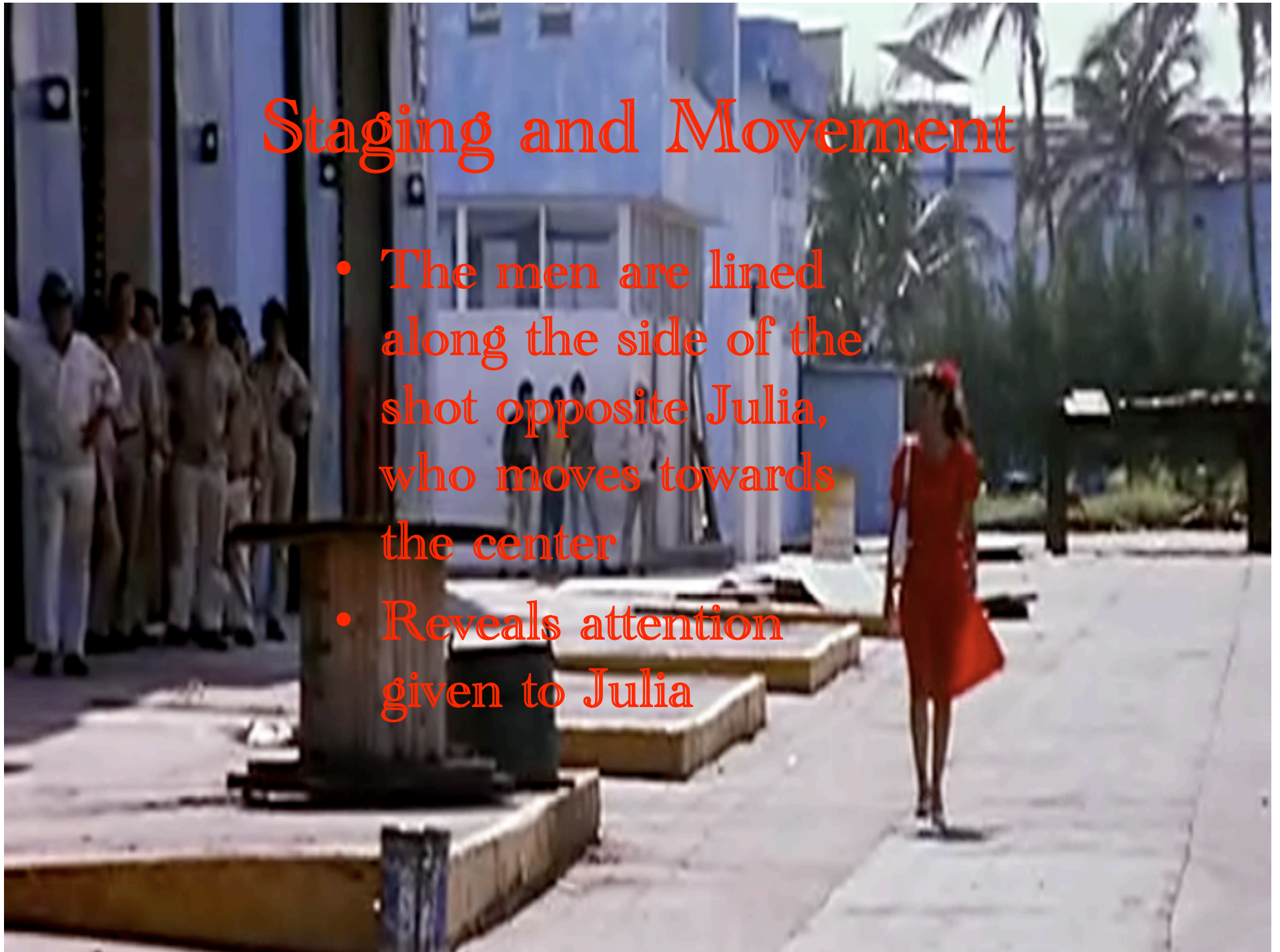
Love is

The red dress over the
white undergarments:
passion covering up
purity



Staging and Movement

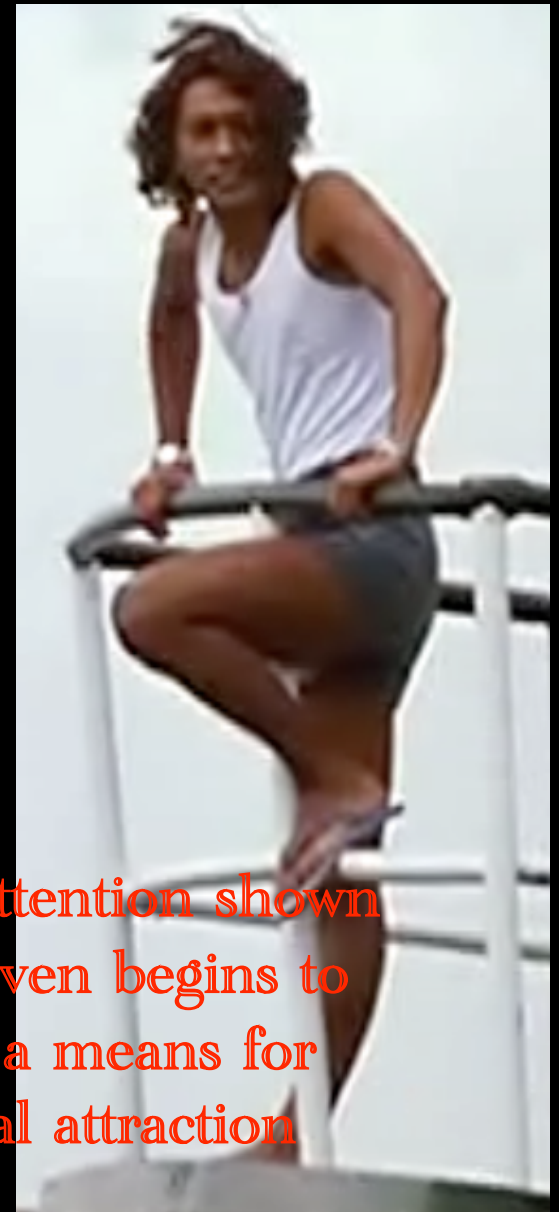
- The men are lined along the side of the shot opposite Julia, who moves towards the center
- Reveals attention given to Julia



The Gaze



Julia no longer shies away from the attention shown her by the males in this scene; she even begins to participate in the gazing herself, as a means for seduction and advertising of mutual attraction



Music

Love is anguish
A question
A luminous doubt
Its wanting to know everything
And at the same time
Fearing to find it out
Love is hearing in your breast
The rush of blood and the tide
But love is also
Closing your eyes
Letting dreams flood your body
Like a river of forgetfulness
And sail aimlessly
Love is after all indolence

Progression: Before



white
flower

“You know, it’s better to be alone. Like you. I’ll find myself a partner just for dancing and that’s it!”

Progression: Transformation



red
flower

red dress

Love is

Progression: After



- Wearing both red, black, and white (pearls not seen)
- Black: maturity, mystery
- Red: persistent passion; sign of change
- Dancing with another man before Carmelo cuts in
- Carmelo still wears white hat and white suit: has not changed
- No communication between the two of them: not important

Conclusion

- Pier scene is an important moment of transition for Julia from submission into self-confidence
- Has found identity in herself
- Progression: dock scene vs opening scene vs ending scene