

Keatons film daydreams



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THE EFFECTIVE PURPOSE OF CHASE SEQUENCE IN BUSTER KEATON'S FILM

DAYDREAMS As Keaton's film Daydreams (1922) is often considered as a short silent comedy film, it is certainly expected that the film would handle extreme presentations of comedy that would bring viewers to laughter. It is undeniable then that the said movie of Keaton handled the said element of comedy in portraying the climax of the story in a minute and a half chase sequence. When Renee' (Buster Keaton) was being chased by a policeman and he managed to create several diversions and distractions to the chase along the way, the movie indeed prolonged the laughter of the viewers even though the idea of the chase is quite short that leads to end of the film.

The directors' utilization of the chase sequence is literally handled to prolong the entire film. Considerably, it did its purposes. Instead of sending Renee' back to his girlfriend's house, he had still to deal with different challenges along the way to be able to run past his chasers. Through different points of stops, the director aimed to give the audience a cup of laughter in the middle of every chase. Take for example the scene where Renee managed to pose as a road-side mannequin that appeared to be his disguise from his solo-policeman chaser, later on he manages to get a pair of pants and suit that luckily had some money in it which he used to pay for the said set of garments to the seller completing his cover as an ordinary man while the policeman was watching him standing just right beside him. This particular scene actually made Renee' appear more of an intelligent individual who was able to cut the chase short to an end that served as a prelude to his success in running away and supposedly coming home to his girlfriend with something to show her at least instead of being chased to his death.

However, the cover immediately ended when he lost his pants with the

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policeman still looking at his path. This then continued the chase. Certainly, the chase sequence made the film appear exciting and rather less boring since the sound has been omitted from the presentation. The later events even managed to give an understanding to the viewers about the different attitudes of the character of Renee' especially when he is in the middle a chase that appears to end his dream of spending a lifetime with the woman that she loves. However, even though he intended to succeed in the said chase, he ended up being sent to his girlfriend's house by mail like the letters that he sent her to kill himself with the use of the revolver of her girlfriend's father. He didn't die though as he was just kicked out by his supposed in law outside of their home.

Certainly, from this discussion, it could be observed that the chase sequences managed to prolong the idea of the entire story in presenting the misfortunes of the main character that has primarily resulted from his aim of fulfilling his daydreams. Aside from that, such chase sequences also managed to make the movie more intense than the regular presentation of comedy themed silent flicks. Considerably, this particular film displays the possibility of the character's capability of cutting the chase and finishing off victoriously that probably left the viewers wanting to know what was going to happen next and yet bringing the end of the chase to lead back to his promise of killing himself if he does not end up victoriously in his journey. Certainly, the said element of chase caused the viewers to stay in their seats until the end of the short film.

References:

DAYDREAMS 1922. <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0013055/>. (September 24, 2008)

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