Ford V Ferrari Movie Analysis

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Overview of Ford v Ferrari

Ford v Ferrari is a condensed version of a movie based on a real-life story that hails from the mid-1960s. Undoubtedly, the movie is as solid as a pyramid in terms of its structure, production methodology, various features, and woven story plot. The startup is very manifesting and fabulous. The beginning of the movie leads us toward a furious car race, and suddenly, the camera opens and focuses on the eyes of Carroll Shelby, who is under the observation of a psychologist for treatment. In this concern, the movie revolves around car designers, racers and entrepreneurs with strategic planning in alliance with multiple characters. However, the climax of the movie leads the audience to scenes where American vehicle designer Carroll Shelby and driver Ken Miles battle corporate interference with the aim of overcoming Ferrari in the 1966 24 Hours of Le Mans race. Meanwhile, the skilled racer Ken Miles dies. With respect to its features, the movie was outstanding and proved its worth with multiple awards. However, if we point out one feature that can be improved, it would be lighting. In this aspect, several improvements can be made by fixing the cinematic lighting feature. This piece of writing will explore the features of lighting in terms of illumination, colouring, bouncing, the psychology of characters, the visualisation of the audience, and multiple key lighting in alliance with the backlight, with reference to the Ford vs Ferrari movie (Mangold, 2019; Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, 2020).

Cinematography and the Role of Lighting

Technological aspects can work in coordination, especially regarding filmmaking. In this regard, the main technological figure is the camera. However, the best camera in the world would not be able to capture a perfect picture in filmmaking phenomena if adequate illumination is absent. In this aspect, the lighting is used by the hub of film experts to enhance pictures, providing pictorial depth and support to make a solid alliance of the tone and atmosphere of the story narrated. With reference to the movie under consideration, i.e., Ford vs Ferrari, the improvement can be achieved by focusing on this aspect of cinematographic lighting. For example, the beginning scene of the movie depicts a deficiency where proper illumination does not match the high standards. In other words, the racing scene at the start can be improved by proper cinematographic lighting. The focus of viewers can be achieved with a better sense in this context. The illumination has a direct effect on light bouncing as well as on colouring visualisation (Brown, 2018).

Lighting for Mood Depth and Meaning

Moreover, cinematic lighting has gone beyond the traditional three-point arrangement to enhance the story's main pillars, i.e., drama, depth, and overall atmosphere. So, in modern times, the feature of cinematic lighting involves multiple technical elements, including light bouncing, diffusing, and altering colour temperatures for better results. Regarding the movie Ford vs Ferrari, the coordination and collective effect in some parts can lead to improvement. Such improvements can be made in a scene where Carroll Shelby gives Peter the gift of a wrench. The light bouncing in this aspect leads the audience to the backside of Peter, who is riding a bicycle. The scene needs sympathy for Peter regarding his father's death. However, the bouncing and diffusion of lighting in this specific scene do not match the depicted situation. Such aspects of lighting are an important component of filmmaking because they create a visual mood, ambience, and, especially, a sense of meaning for the audience. In fact, the lighting configuration in this context directs the viewer's attention to a specific performer, prop, or scene element. In other words, such configuration may lead to demonstrating the psychology of the characters in the movie at certain incidents and scenes (Brown, 2018).

Character Psychology and Illumination

Furthermore, the lighting techniques expose the psychology and intention of a character while in action. In other words, the lighting phenomenon reflects and has a great impact on character psychology that prepares the audience to speculate what will happen in the next scene in this accordance. For this purpose, the mixing ratio, amount, size, and intensity of light that surrounds a character can change the scenario, so it can be altered to match the character's mood in alliance with the scene. Such matching in the context of lighting has an improvement option in the said film as well. For example, in a scene where Ken Miles throws the wrench at Carroll Shelby, there are chances to improve the lighting effects to convey the mood of Miles. Such effects can be achieved by using multiple key lighting for various phenomena (Brown, 2018).

Hard and Soft Lighting Techniques

Similarly, regarding improvements in the said movie in terms of lighting, various keys can be applied to play a significant role. The lighting determines the incident from character to character. For a while, hard lighting will make it impossible for a character to hide while being interviewed or being asked difficult reality questions. On the other hand, soft and low-intensity lighting leads the characters towards a relaxing atmosphere. Soft lighting will best convey a similar sensation to the spectator if the characters are acting in calm and pacified situations. Further, the distance between the subject or characters having a conversation and the light can be used to regulate these aspects. In the movie Ford vs Ferrari, such an improvement can be added in a scene where Peter asks for various information regarding multiple questions from his father, Mill. At that specific moment, the

combination of hard and soft light can improve the visualisation of the audience and give it a strong focus on the specific scene.

Backlighting and Key-Light Combinations

In addition, the backlighting of this whole combination has an immense impact on the characters and the incidents of the movie. Similarly, a combination of various key lights according to scene demands can be improved to catch the focus and attention of the audience. It is noteworthy that the lighting impact not only determines the actual mood of the character but also becomes a tool to convey a specific message to the audience. In this aspect, key lighting is used in a variety of ways by cinematographers, who make modifications to achieve various effects. In this way, a single key light is used for a high-contrast scene, especially when the background is dark. For example, practical lighting is used to reflect a light source within a scene. In the scene where Carroll Shelby burns during the race incident, the focus can be improved by improving lighting in this aspect with the utilisation of respective light keys or combinations (American Society of Cinematographers, 2019).

Conclusion on Cinematic Improvement

In a nutshell, we can conclude that Ford vs Ferrari is a fabulous movie. However, various improvements can be added to the lighting feature, including all its elements, keys, and dimensional aspects. The cinematographic lighting has an immense impact and importance on film quality in terms of colouring combinations, key combinations, audience attraction, psychology of characterisation, and improved visualisation with the illumination element. With respect to the said movie Ford vs Ferrari, some reasonable improvements can be made by applying the feature of cinematographic lighting. Various scenes in the movie can be improved with the utilisation of various lighting techniques after deep analysis. In this way, the movie can be improved manifold to benefit all the stakeholders.

References

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