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Digital Video

Film review: "Memento"

Christopher Nolan's movie, Memento, is a brainteasing, confusing movie filled with suspense, action, and confusion.

Leonard (Guy Pearce) is determined to find justice after the rape and loss of his wife. His goal is to find the murderer and kill him/her, but there is something else... Leonard suffers from short-term memory loss. In the scene of the crime, he was beaten by the same man who killed his wife, causing the condition. He goes through a lot of situations and risks his life in order to find justice for the crime that ruined his life. Determined to find him, he gets help from Natalie (Carrie-Anne Moss), who appears to be a friend, and Teddy (Joe Pantoliano), who also claims to be his friend. But Leonard can't and shouldn't trust anyone, not even himself.

#### **Review of all elements:**

- **Acting:** The cast for this movie was great. Every actor seemed to really get into his/her character and this made me believe what they were saying. One character who really stood out to me was "Teddy" (Joe Pantoliano). His acting was so great it confused me. I couldn't decide whether he was lying or telling the truth to Leonard.

- **Camera angles:** They were very various. From Very Wide, to Extremely Close, to Over-The-Shoulder. This was really helpful specially when it comes to the tattoos. We wanted to know what they said.

- **Color:** This was really important if you wanted to understand what was going on and the structure of the movie. The color sequences were alternated with black-and-white sequences. They were all put together in a chronological order. The black and white scenes went in chronological order, while the other went backwards in color (except the very first color scene which was literally backwards).

- **Lighting:** The lighting set the mood for every scene. There was daylight and artificial light (trying to recreate the daylight).

- **Editing decisions:** The movie had a non-linear structure. It was different than other films because it used a combination of two sequences at the same time. The black and white scenes

went in chronological order, while the other went backwards in color. This is different than the majority of other films since they usually keep the order of the film chronological.

**- Music:** They didn't have any background song or anything special. Just the average music that sets the mood of every scene.

**-Narration and dialogue:** Leonard was the own narrator of this movie. This helped us understand more Leonard's situation because he was telling us what he was going through. One part of the dialogue that really stood out to me was when Natalie told Leonard that she was using him. The words, the mood, the way she said it sounded really mean and made me realize that she wasn't who I thought she was.

**-Background Noise and/or Ambient Sounds:** I didn't notice anything special about this. It did have some background noise which helped, but nothing too special.

**-Mis-en-Scene "The World We See, Hear and Feel in the Story" :** In this movie, we see a really tense world with a lot of action going on. I felt really confused, but at the same time, I couldn't stop paying attention to what was going on. It was really interesting and I felt like I had to pay a lot of attention to every little detail so I could understand the movie and not get lost. The alternation between color and black and white scenes really helped and brought the audience closer to his condition by having them actually feel what Leonard was going through. The acting, the camera angles, the editing decisions, everything was amazing. The only thing I would've done differently if I had the chance to is that I would've given more foreshadowing and made the movie a little bit less confusing because this can kind of distract some people. But overall, they did an amazing job in leaving everyone interested in the movie.