

In the movie "The Dark Knight" the director, Christopher Nolan cleverly forms the movie through different aspects such as camera work, lighting, theme and characters actions. The first scene is a great example with these aspects in it. The reason for choosing this scene was that it caught my attention, and the main character of this scene is, "the Joker" who is my favourite character in this movie.

In this first scene it focuses on a bank robbery. One aspect that stood out for me was the camera work. In this scene there is a close up of the Joker holding a clown mask. This mask was used to symbolize how the Joker has a hidden identity which is evil and twisted. The Joker maintains this hidden identity throughout the whole film. The fact that it was a clown mask emphasizes to the audience the idea that the Joker is chaotic and unpredictable just like a clown but with a twist as his chaotic, unpredictable actions are sinister rather than fun filled like a humorous clown. This creates insecurity in regards to the Joker's actions for the audience – we are wondering who he is going to hurt next. The mask shows the similarities between the Joker and modern day terrorists. For example both use masks or make-up to hide their identity to get away with brutal acts of crime (1).

Another aspect that I looked at in this scene was the lighting. In this film "The Dark Knight", Christopher Nolan used the lighting very cleverly and made it very effective. We see this whenever the Joker appears on the screen, a slight green tinge faintly covers the screen which is associated with the Joker's seaweed coloured hair, how it is greasy, dirty, and all over the place. This shows the audience that the Joker is in control because we associate green with the Joker (2).

The third aspect that I looked at was the theme. The theme of this scene is how easily people are corrupted. An example of how people are corrupted easily in this scene is how the Joker uses the people's greed for money to cause chaos within the group of thieves. The Joker gets one of his accomplices to kill another accomplice when a stage of the job is complete. The reason for this is that the clowns thought that their share in the money was increasing. In the end they were all driven by greed, and they all were eventually killed through the mind games of the Joker. This scene just shows how people are easily corrupted for money and by greed (3).

The final and what I think is the most important aspect of this scene is the characters actions. The characters actions are a crucial part in this scene. For example, the Joker sets up all of his accomplices, who all die. This act shows the ruthlessness of his nature. He has no sense of honour even among thieves. He has no sense of loyalty to anyone, and couldn't care less about anyone who gets in the way of his plan creating chaos in the city of Gotham. Another way his ruthlessness is demonstrated is when we see the Joker and his accomplices stick grenades in people's hands, and also when the Joker sticks a grenade in the bank manager's mouth. This emphasizes how he has no conscience - other people's lives mean nothing to him. It also emphasizes the fact that the Joker is psychotic, he thrives on and enjoys the thrill of others pain and suffering. This is shown in the robbery scene when one of the Joker's accomplices says to one of the hostages as he puts a grenade in the hostage's hand, "obviously we don't want anyone doing anything with your hands, other than holding on for dear life." The dialogue emphasizes how flippant the Joker and his gang treat these people's lives. The

characters actions and the dialogue work together to show how insignificant these people are to the Joker and his gang. The Joker is intensely amused watching them hold onto their lives with their own hands, but ultimately knowing he is in control of whether they live or die. He likes to see fear in their eyes and watch them live their last moments afraid, petrified and alone (4).

In conclusion, looking at the aspects of camera work, lighting, theme and character actions helped me understand the directors portrayal of 'The Joker' and it left me wanting more.



