

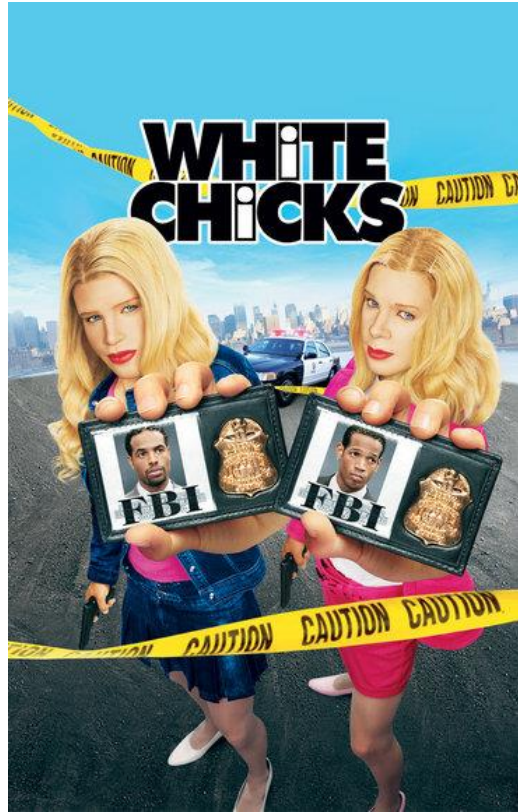
Movie Character Analysis

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Term Project

White Chicks



- A comedy movie in which two African American FBI brothers, Kevin and Marcus Copeland are assigned the duty of protecting two rich white girls from a kidnapping plot.
- When the sisters get a facial scar in an accident, they refuse to leave the hotel and go to a big event in the Hamptons.
- In order to save their jobs, the Copeland brothers had to dress up in their "white girl" drag like the Wilson sisters and imitate them.

Character Background

- Marlon and Shawn Wayans
- Marlon is an American actor, comedian, screenwriter and film producer.
- Shawn is an American actor, DJ, producer, writer, and comedian.
- Both were born in New York and are only 1 year old apart. (1972 & 1973)



How The Copeland Brothers became "White Chicks"

- The whole process of transforming the African-American actors into the Wilson sisters took up to seven hours a day.
- In order to make them look white, they used water-based acrylic paint.
- They also used layers of foam latex to cover their faces and necks.
- They used Revlon Color-Stay foundation for their makeup and to cover the skin with the white acrylic paint.
- Their blonde wigs were really important in hiding the sides of their faces and their necks.
- It took them six weeks of testing to perfect the body makeup alone.

Before and After the transformation



Performing their Roles



- Although after the transformation the Copeland brothers ended up looking slightly different from the Wilson sisters, they were able to manage the people's impressions.
- One way they did that was through their front, in which they had to dress up in a sexual and fashionable way, just like the Wilson sisters.
- Not only was the appearance important for them to perform their roles, but also the way they behaved and spoke in front of people.
- Although the Copeland brothers were not in a high position, working as FBI agents and having interacted with high class people before, gave them a sense of how a typical rich white girl behaves and acts, which they used to perform their role.



Experiencing Role Train

- Role train is when contradictory expectations exist about a given status or when there is a higher number of expectations associated reasonable to meet.
- The Copeland brothers also experienced role strain due to their culture and background.
- Although in the movie, they fulfilled their roles as the Wilson sisters, there were some situations in which they accidentally acted as themselves, even when dressed up like the sisters.
- For instance, in one of the scenes, the Copeland brothers went to a club with the Wilson sisters' best friends and started dancing hip hop making movements that only guys do.
- This was obviously off and caught everyone's attention because the Wilson sisters did not know how to dance hip hop, nor dance in a way that only guys do.

Cont'



- <https://youtu.be/qkj2HhFxPUU?t=2m30s>
- Another example is when they would start talking like guys out of nowhere, basically throwing their roles in the garbage.
- However, although people would find it suspicious, they would find a way to go back into their roles.
- <https://youtu.be/mypmNjNyB38?t=48s>

Status Change



- The Copeland brothers went from middle class FBI agents brothers to high class white sisters.
- In one of the scenes, while playing the Wilson sisters, Kevin Copeland also played a role of a famous rich guy to conquer an attractive television reporter.
- Although he is from a middle-class family, he presented himself as a wealthy high-class man.
- Not only did he pretend to have a lot of money, he also borrowed a luxury car and a mansion to make the reporter believe that he was rich.
- In order to enhance his appearance, he wore a nice suit and a gold watch.



That's family.

Conclusion

- The appearance a person tries to achieve is influenced by many factors, including circumstances in which the person needs to change his/her appearance in order to obtain something.
- In the case of the Copeland brothers, they had to change their appearance and imitate the two rich white girls in order to save their jobs.
- Not only did they changed their appearance including hair, dress and skin color, also they needed to act and behave differently to perform the role of the Wilson sisters.
- Although it was a radical change in appearance for them, they successfully achieved their desired role.

References

- <http://ew.com/article/2004/06/25/how-wayans-brothers-became-white-chicks/>