

Antonella Di Graziano

20th Century Dress and Culture

May 17, 2022

Phantom Thread Film Analysis

Fashion has become our daily activity in the world we live in. The field has grown, and now everybody is trying to show their creativity through fashion. Many individuals are trying to show their culture and beliefs through what they wear. In the film *Phantom Thread*, this is demonized. It is a film directed by Paul Thomas Anderson and written by him. After his initial nomination, the director received an Oscar nomination Day-Lewis, Daniel. The movie was dedicated to their late friend Anderson Jonathan Demme. The main actors in the movies are Vicky Krieps, Daniel Day-Lewis, and Lesley Manville. The movie was released on December 25th, 2017 (Essman, 2020). The movie is a historical drama film and is set in 1950s London. In 1954 London, style architect Reynolds Woodcock made dresses for individuals from high society, even eminence. His clients view him as a virtuoso whose manifestations empower them to become the best version of themselves. Yet, his inventiveness and appeal are matched by his over-the-top and controlling character.

The fashion design of the ensembles in *Phantom Thread* assumes a fundamental part in the film. Thinking about the specific situation and setting in the realm of 1950s London couturiers and the account of the film centers around an imaginary fashion. The fashion design of these costumes (the attire, at times, known as closet, worn by an entertainer in a film) adds to the setting. It is an essential component in depicting the picture that the person

is attempting to project (Essman, 2020). The meaning of couture is the plan and production of chic garments to a client's particular prerequisites and estimations. It is attractive to the creative architect who plans and produces the outfits to the chief's particular needs. The costumes in this film are a huge element, and the closet helps tell the film's story and is the fundamental personality of the film, *Apparition Thread*. The fashion used in the movie plays a significant role in showing the background and the characteristics of the period in the 1950s. The character portrayed by the fashion owned by Reynolds Woodcock depicts his religious character. The character requires solitude and silence.

The fashion in the film generates different ideas and communicates different messages. The film depicts the exclusive environment of Reynolds Woodcock's London condo atelier in the 1950s. Many people have weighed in on its legitimacy, from Belgian princesses to Daniel Day-Lewis' pin-pricked fingers. (Essman, 2020). Some of the attire gave ideas on different attire to wear on different occasions. For instance, Daniel went to eat dinner in lavender pajamas made of cotton. The fashion designer used in the movie is Mark Bridges (Porton, 2018). He worked with the main actors to assemble different clothing pieces. The customs used by Alma and Reynolds Woodcock. The film reflects the pull-and-push, unobtrusively, however magnificently, all through the dress Reynolds plans, and Alma wears. As he feels disturbance over the condition of his family, the textures become more obscure and moodier. As Alma becomes more confident, her style becomes more exquisite — even her stance changes.

The main reason why the designer made these customs was that he wanted them to conform to the setting of the film and background. Most of the customs used in the film were used after post-war London and centered the British fashion. All aspects of design, including

harnesses, British fashion, socialites, dames, dressing royalty, and debutants, are present in *The House of Woodcock* (Porton, 2018). The costumes used show are centered on British fashion and represent different characters possessed by the actors. The movie influenced fashion when it was made because the designer did not borrow vintage clothes from the museum; instead, he made his own clothes. In my opinion, the film can be considered a fashion film because most of the components of the film are made up of different sets of fashion from the 1950s.

Fashion is one major component that comprises a movie. Different aspects in the movie and different feelings and moods are clearly shown by fashion. Different occasions have their fashion fitting, and different cultures have their style. Movie directors should consider fashion as the main element in their films.

References

Essman, E. (2020). Phantom Thread directed by Paul Thomas Anderson Annapurna

Pictures and Focus Features: 2017, 130 min. Fort Da, 26(1), 80-86.

Porton, R. (2018). Phantom Thread.