

Introduction: Film Review

For Colored Girls is a movie that focuses on women and is written, directed, and produced by Tyler Perry. Perry departed from his usual comical movies such as the Madea Collection and directed the film with a more serious look at the women's problems in America, especially those the black women go through. The main women characters in the film are represented in colors. They include Jo also known as Red, Juanita also named Green, Yasmine named Yellow, Tangie named Orange, Alice named White, Gilda named Gray, Crystal named Brown, Nyla named Purple, and Kelly known as Blue. Each of these characters experiences different personal conflicts ranging from rape, love, abortion, or abandonment to infidelity. One of the main and very important themes developed in the film is 'the abuse of women', and it is developed through cinematography and sound.

Development of the Theme

Cinematography

In the given movie, such technical tool as light develops the theme of abuse of women in a number of ways. For instance, the light intensity used in the movie is somewhat dull. Although the dullness is not obvious throughout the scene, it can be seen in most parts of the movie. This points out that the abuse of women is a dark cloud that hangs around all colored women in this society. Majority of the colored women in the movie have been subjected to both physical and emotional torture and, as a result, they lead dull lives. Therefore, the use of dull light has been used to emphasize this point. For example, when Crystal Wallace's ever drunk husband battered her, the lights go dull. It is also evident that most of the situations when the couple fight are usually at night when there is no natural bright light, but dim one. The lack of light signifies that the unfair treatment of the women brings darkness and unhappiness upon their lives. Dim light is also present when Nyla Adrose goes for abortion at night, indicating that she is aware that her intention and action are wrong. Similarly, the lady procures the abortion in a dimly lit room, signifying that dark cloud hangs around the women who visit her for abortion. Another example is also experienced when Yasmine, also known as Yellow, is raped by her boyfriend at night when the natural light is not available. Lack of light or the use of dim light in these cases helps to develop the theme of abuse of women perpetrated by men.

Sound

Various frightening sound effects bringing throughout the movie develop the theme of women's abuse. For instance, when Bill, Yasmin's boyfriend, switches off the light, some frightening sound effect arises; it immediately plunges Yasmine into fear with the thoughts about what her boyfriend is going to do. Similar sound effects emerge when Bill begins to undress; they indicate that the following events are not good, and demonstrate the feelings and emotions Yasmine is going through. Similarly, when Beau Willie throws two children out of the window, there are also certain sound effects. These background sounds signify the emotional pain that Crystal Wallace, the mother of the children, feels. Finally, the lady in green known as Juanita Sims has an inconsistent and unfaithful husband who keeps leaving her for another woman. The same sound accompanies her walking into their house and calling out his name without response. These sounds signify the emotional torture Juanita undergoes to imagine that her lover has abandoned her yet again.

Conclusion

Understanding how the theme of abuse of women has been developed is crucial for the understanding the entire film. The movie *For Colored Girls* depicts how American women face abuse and mistreatment from their men or counterparts who are very close to them. This theme finds its development through cinematography where dim light is used to indicate darkness and unhappiness of the lives of women. The use of sounds indicates emotional pain because of the abuses. The movie also helps viewers to understand that the social status of a woman does not necessarily protect her from facing abuse and that society should stop such abuses towards women.