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AP/WRIT1702 A - Becoming a Better Writer: Methods and Models

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## FILM CRITICISM

‘What’s war to an alien’

Wonder Woman(2017) is a movie built around the events of world war 2 and does a great depiction of how brutal a war can be and how little the role of women is during the times. The way an alienated person views war is portrayed beautifully in the movie, How stupid a concept war looks to an alienated like Diana who knows too little about humanity and the vices of men.

Even in today's society, conflict is a recurring theme, and it will continue to be so in the coming years, therefore it was one aspect of the film that I found very compelling. The film begins with a wonderfully refreshing background and environment with contrasting hues on a peaceful island where Diana dwells, but as Wonder Woman's adventure unfolds, the film becomes darker and darker as they travel deeper into war zones. As the film progresses, the lighting, scenery, and soundtrack all become increasingly stressful. Even when Diana is a female, around the 5 minute mark, she is reminded of how horrible war is by being told that "war is nothing to hope for" and only leads to pain. Diana, despite. Even though Diana has an innocent like mind with knowledge of humanity she still has a great level of understanding and strong beliefs and is often seen standing for them.

Patty Jenkins quoted in an interview about how she never viewed Wonder Woman as a dark character which is shown in the start and the last parts of the movie saying, "I came in very definitively only wanting it [to have a lighter tone]. The choice of me [as director] became the choice for that tone. [Making a gritty **Wonder Woman**] probably was a conversation, and I peripherally heard of some of that. I always believed that Wonder Woman is not dark. If ever there's a place for a dark superhero, great. Do it. But that's not Wonder Woman to me. The

portrayal when Wonder Woman narrates her story or her times in shots from island of Themyscira with the slow aerial shots and light backgrounds, but go way darker in the cities laying a foreground for the dark times of wars with scenes from the roads and the industrial view of the London city at that time.

The whole Wonder Woman comic series from the origin were also very women driven and showed around the value of women during the war and how Diana was a women safeguarding the world from male violence not with nurture but with better violence, which is a strong feminist approach throughout the movie too. When Diana enters the council meeting about the war everyone in the room is baffled and the speaker starts stuttering as if he has seen a ghost. A single woman in a room created so much chaos and brought out the insecurity of the men at that time. She is ordered to be kicked out but while going out she gives a strong opinion of her beliefs to the men which leave some of them ashamed and unanswered. Everytime Diana is seen on the fields or anywhere near a battlefield she is frowned upon by men and soldiers as if women don't belong there but to great deal of irony wonder woman being wonder woman stands out and beat everything in her way with sheer brute force leaving the mouths of the soldiers wide open and just praising her. Meanwhile, when Wonder Woman hurls someone across a room and an onlooker comments, "I'm both afraid and aroused," the tension between the excitement of the action, which is what battle is all about, and the objectification, which is what women are all about, is referenced. A word about the fighting: there's a lot of flinging and lassoing, but not as much classic combat, when people punch each other. The Comics counterpart also shows women's place in the war working in the background but somewhat uplifting as a lot of women started working due to the unemployment caused by the war. The guys in the film treat her with sexism and sexualization. Several times in London, the subject of her beauty came up. Steve Trevor compliments her beauty and advises her to dress in clothing that covers her entire body. Steve Trevor's associates also hit on her several times.

Even though there is a feminist narrative to the movie throughout its shown out in a very subtle manner and not thrown out at the audience as a message. Because Wonder Woman herself, Gal Gadot, is a hilarious lady who offers a dominating and droll performance, the film's humor works so effectively. With the ideal blend of resolution and childish innocence, Gadot plays the scenario in which Diana, a

Godlike Amazonian princess, is plunged into frenetic 20th century London. She has no idea how to operate a rotating door, despite her best efforts. She is awestruck by the sight of a baby. She insists on carrying her colossal sword everywhere she goes since she doesn't know how else to survive. The subtle irony, feminism and small aspects like this make the movie very enjoyable but one aspect which is very less talked about is the humor throughout the movie, the savage witty line from Gal Gadot, how she views the world just like a baby, some instances of her calling London 'hideous' on her arrival make the movie a good watch overall

Another part of the movie that is intriguing is how the first few minutes of the movie is portrayed as such that Diana in the present times is telling her story as a first person narrative, and everything is from her point of view from an audience perspective. A first person narrative in my opinion always leaves a sense of bias and not a lot of external factors contribute to it, but the transition of narrative is done beautifully throughout the movie as after a few minutes even though Diana is telling her story the events are shown in a very traditional film style as a 3rd person point of view which leaves a lot of external factors affecting the story and the messages its putting out while making it entertaining which is still the first priority of any film maker. But during the end of the movie the narrative is switched back to a first person narrative where Diana is again telling her story while remembering Steve and her memories of the war and points out her beliefs and a positive opinion on her understanding of humankind which ends the movie on a very lighter and warmer note.

Jenkins and her collaborators created a Wonder Woman film that is inspiring, blistering, and compassionate, in ways that honor what has made this character an icon and do justice to her huge past achievements.

## CITATIONS

1)

Magazine, Smithsonian. "The Surprising Origin Story of Wonder Woman." *Smithsonian.com*, Smithsonian Institution, 1 Oct. 2014, <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/arts-culture/origin-story-wonder-woman-180952710/>.

2)

**Jenkins, Patty.** Wonder Woman. Warner Bros., 2017.

3) Keaney, Q. (2017, August 31). *For Patty Jenkins, making Wonder Woman was literally a dream come true*. POPSUGAR Entertainment. Retrieved March 28, 2022, from <https://www.popsugar.com/entertainment/Patty-Jenkins-Wonder-Woman-Interview-August-2017-43946910>

ROUGH DRAFT

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### Rough draft 1

Wonder Woman(2017) is a movie built around the events of world war 2 and does a great depiction of how brutal a war can be and how little the role of women is during the times. The way an alienated person views war is portrayed beautifully in the movie, How stupid a concept war looks to an alienated like Diana who knows too little about humanity and the vices of men. Even in today's world war is a persistent issue and will be for the coming years too making it an element of the film that stood out to me. The movie starts with a very refreshing background and scenery with contrasting colors in a harmonious island where Diana lives, but as Wonder Woman progresses her journey the movie gets darker and darker as they go deep into the war territories. The lighting, the backgrounds, even the music keeps getting tense and tense as the movie proceeds. Even in the first few mins around the 5 minute mark when Diana is a child she is reminded how bad war is by quoting " War is nothing to hope for" and only leads to misery. Even though Diana has an innocent like mind with knowledge of humanity she still has a great level of understanding and strong beliefs and is often seen standing for them. The whole Wonder Woman comic series from the origin were also very women driven and showed around the value of women during the war and how Diana was a women safeguarding the world from male violence not with nurture but with better violence, which is a strong feminist approach throughout the movie too. When Diana enters the council meeting about the war everyone in the room is baffled and the speaker starts stuttering as if he has seen a ghost. A single woman in a room created so much chaos and brought out the insecurity of the men at that time. She is ordered to be kicked out but while going out she gives a strong opinion of her beliefs to the men which leave some of them ashamed and unanswered. Everytime Diana is seen on the fields or anywhere near a battlefield she is frowned upon by men and soldiers as if women don't belong there but to great deal of irony wonder woman being wonder woman stands out and beat everything in her way with sheer brute force leaving the mouths of the soldiers wide open and just praising her. Meanwhile, when Wonder Woman hurls someone across a room and an onlooker comments, "I'm both afraid and aroused," the tension between the excitement of

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IN QUOTE CITATIONS FROM MOVIE SCENES AND PANELS STILL TO BE  
ADDED AS THIS IS JUST A ROUGH DRAFT CITATIONS

1) Magazine, Smithsonian. "The Surprising Origin Story of Wonder Woman." Smithsonian.com, Smithsonian Institution, 1 Oct. 2014, <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/arts-culture/origin-story-wonder-woman180952710/>. 2) Jenkins, Patty. Wonder Woman. Warner Bros., 2017

### Reflection of becoming

Writing this essay was a fun job as a big fan of superhero movies be it marvel or dc , watching Wonder Woman again was a joy as I kept remembering the scene that I jumped at the time I watched it first. This was the first essay that I wrote a comprehensive draft for in my life, which was almost complete as an essay as I knew i had other work to do during the final submission, and Making a draft left me so much of a burden while writing the final essay leaving me with so much of ample time for revisions too.

Another part that I enjoyed while writing this was the research part watching behind the scenes and interviews of directors which I didn't really end up using a lot but made me wonder more about the other side of films. How small details and aspects get overlooked sometimes while so much effort is given to nail them. Watching a movie in depth and noticing every detail made it a very different exercise as I was just not watching it for entertainment but reviewing what is actually happening and what might happen while I connected the dots.

Overall the exercise was very enjoyable and made me realize more how helpful writing drafts and research notes in the early stage can be.