

Breathless Task

Breathless is a French Film released in 1960 and served as one of the earliest and most influential examples of the French New Wave film movement. The movement was started when many French filmmakers wanted to reject the traditional film conventions that were dominating France at the time. This included experimenting with editing, visual style and narrative.



The filmmaking in Breathless was presented very similarly to a documentary. This included the use of portable equipment and film stock that required less light than others. This was because the film was relatively low budget, meaning sets could not be constructed and that the film had to be shot on location in Paris. Additionally, traditional film equipment took time to set up so for the entirety of the film, portable cameras are used. This helped Breathless distance itself from other traditional western films and helped it become unique. Similarly, the film utilised the direct sound on set, further attributing to the documentary style. The film also utilises different editing techniques compared to traditional western films. For example, the film features many fragmented shots filled with jump cuts as well as discontinuous editing and long takes. The bedroom scene is the longest scene in and takes up almost half of the entire film. It is composed of many long-takes and some jump cuts and the scene revolves around the main character trying to persuade his love interest to sleep with him. This specific scene really helps to distance the film apart from others as well as give it a similar style to documentaries due to the fact that it features barely any cuts and a large amount of long-shots.



Finally, the film innovation and style has inspired the style and narrative structure of many films to date. A fantastic example is Pulp Fiction, starring Samuel L. Jackson and John Travolta. The film shares similar styles of editing, for example the heavy use of long-takes and jump cuts as well as direct sound from the set being used in the film.

