

Trainspotting



Aesthetics in Trainspotting and This is England

Social Realism - Trainspotting

- In Trainspotting, Danny Boyle presents social realism through Begbie. Due to his lower social class, Begbie is willing to do anything to get hold of money, including buying and selling on drugs. He even backstabs Renton in order to get the money, by going through his bank statements to see if he could afford the heroin. The impact this has on the audience is that they see just how low the character of Begbie will go for the idea of having a large sum of money, and eventually see it crashing down once Renton takes the money from the group.



Social Realism – This is England

- One way social realism is shown in This is England is through Shaun at the beginning of the film, who is bullied and isolated by the people around him that are in higher social classes for things which are out of his control, such as the size of his trousers. The effect this has on the audience is intended to be that they should feel sympathy for Shaun.



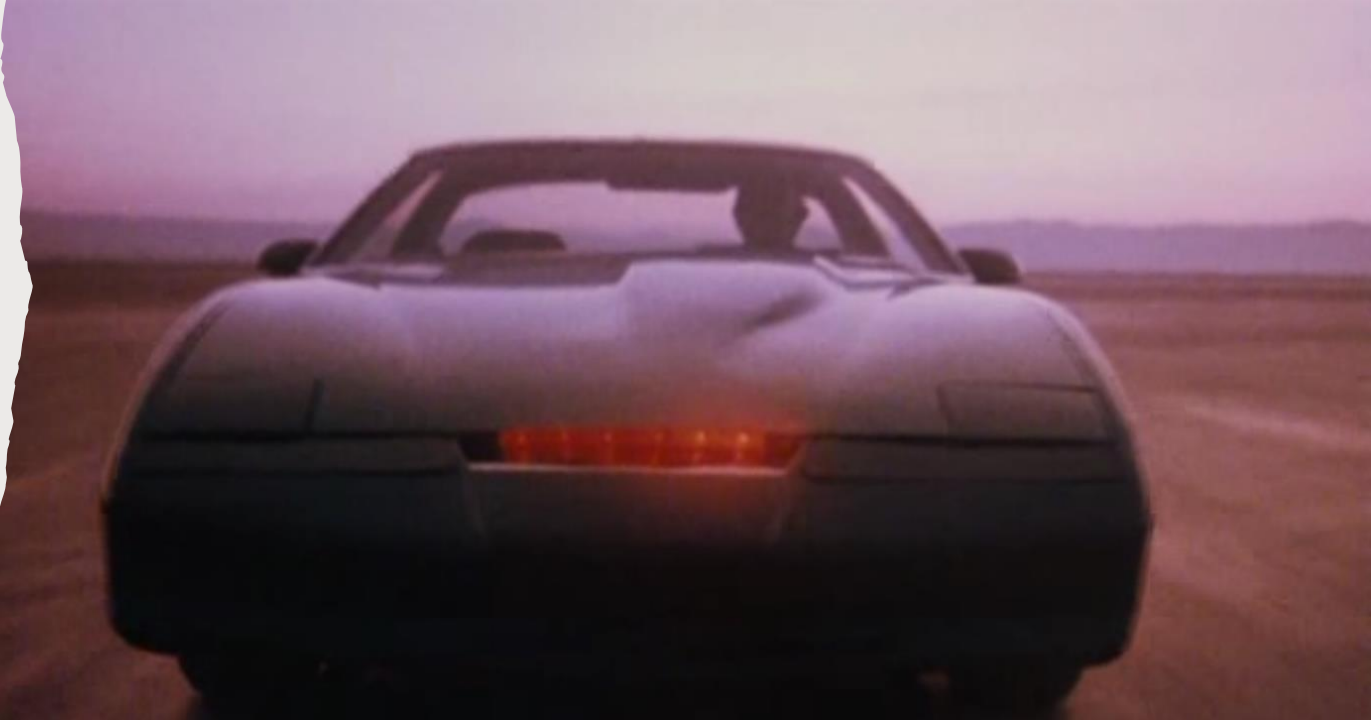
Iconography - Trainspotting

- Iconography relating to London is used in Trainspotting when Renton moves to the capital city. The camera shots used, such as low angles, make London appear grandiose and monumental, juxtaposing the Scottish locations used earlier in the film. The impact on the spectator here is that they realize Renton is much happier in London as opposed to Scotland, and a new chapter of his life is beginning.



Iconography – This is England

- The opening montage of This is England uses iconography related to the decade of the 80s, such as the car from the tv series Knight Rider and the wedding of Prince Charles and Princess Diana. This has an impact on the audience's understanding of when the film takes place if they were unsure before watching.



Suspense - Trainspotting

- Suspense is built towards the end of Trainspotting, as the group attempts to sell heroin to a dealer. As the dealer enters another room to try the drugs, the audience are left with the likes of Begbie and Renton who anxiously await their money. This is effective as it causes spectators to question whether their plan will be successful or fall through completely.



Suspense – This is England

- This is England also builds suspense near the end of the film, as Combo questions Milky on details about his family and his quality of life. Spectators see Combo, a previously established racist, grow more and more agitated until he reaches breaking point and starts using racially motivated hate speech against him, and then proceeds to beat him up. This is effective as the audience know what the outcome will likely be and watch on helplessly as Combo gets more and more aggressive.

