

# Aesthetics in Casablanca

---

# Realism



This film contains elements of propaganda and war themes, and because of that, it had to rely heavily on verisimilitude to create a believable scene of the war and the Nazi soldiers. This was done through the Nazis costume design, the formations and salutes accurate to the time, etc..



Another way in which this was done was through the portrayal of fear against the war, achieved through acting and facial expression. In this shot we see Rick protecting Ilsa by embracing her with very close proximity, while the both look off suddenly out of the window.

# Tone



From the beginning, there is a tone of suspense and anxiety which sets the tone throughout the movie. This is shown when the police force show little mercy when they shoot and kill a member of the resistance running away in public. This tone is kept as we meet Lazlo, another member of the resistance, and worry for his fate.



During Rick's flashbacks to Paris, a romantic and joyous tone is set to contrast with the shot before of Rick on the verge of tears. This tone is set through their facial expressions accompanied by close up camera shots, as well as a montage of shots showing Rick and Ilsa acting like a young playful couple, an ideal relationship.

# Visual style

(Film noir)



During this scene, the tension is very high as Rick and Ilsa discuss the letters, and because of this, a lot of harsh lines are used from the blinds to create this sense that Rick is on edge, and Rick's face is not clearly lit, showing his distrust, and mystery behind what he will do with the letter.



In this scene, Rick goes behind a wall, only leaving behind a shadow that casts onto the wall behind, circled by the archway. This shows a sense of suspense and mystery to Rick's character, as he is quite literally being shadowed in the unknown.