



# Lynch Auteur

In Mullholland Drive



## Lynch's Auteur trademarks

**Experimental Auteur** – someone who redefines the common structure of a film in its narrative and style, in a way that is consistent to them.

**Lynch's Auteur trademarks** consist of :

- Uncanniness
- Use of Doppelgangers
- Heightened performances
- Ominous sound design
- Themes of tarnished idealism

In many of his films, such as his first feature film *Eraserhead* (1977) and his TV series *Twin Peaks* (1990 - 2017), he creates a dark underbelly beneath US society, and commonly communicates this through dream like atmosphere, surreal imagery and experimental narrative.



## Uncanniness

**Uncanniness** – Something that is strange and mysterious, especially in an unsettling way.

**Example** – The Garbage Monster appears from nowhere, and is only faintly referred to before hand, which makes it's unnatural features really stand out at the start of the film. It is never seen again until the very end of the film, shown holding the mysterious blue box, which makes the audience question it's importance. It's isolation in the back of the ally way adds to the unsettling feeling.



## Use of doppelgangers

**Doppelgangers** – Two near identical characters

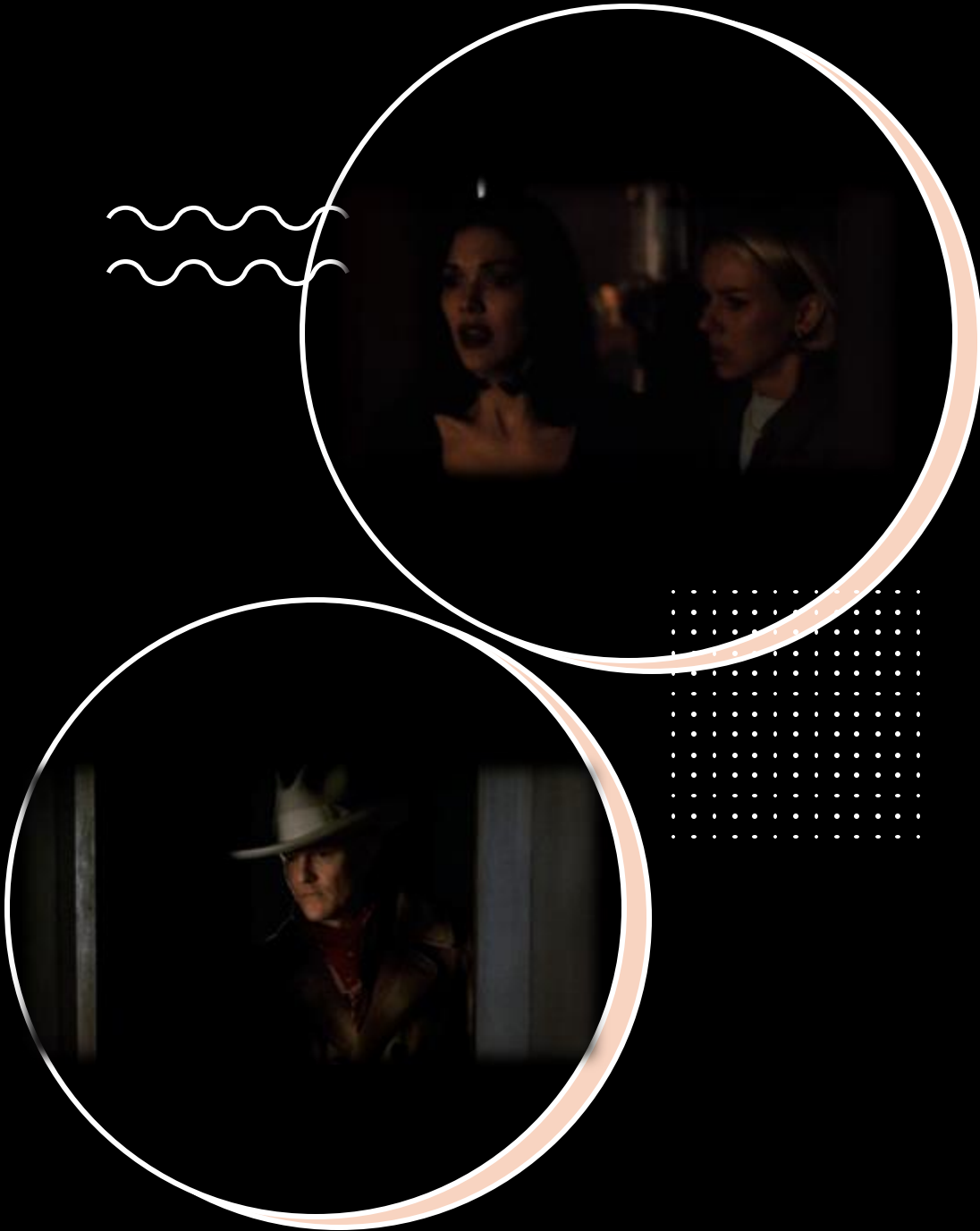
**Example** – 'Diane' and 'Betty' are 'introduced' to each other in the diner, and the audience can see immediately many similarities between the two, which alludes to them being the same person. The parallel between the two are distinctly made again later in the film when Betty is shown in the position of waitress serving Diane in a different situation.



## Heightened performances

**Heightened performances** – Where characters/costumes are exaggerated to portray clear and specific traits.

**Example** – In Club Silencio, everything is meant to be in a dream like state to show Diane's subconscious guilt being buried. Betty/Diane when seeing these performances has quite visceral reactions, like uncontrollable shaking or crying. The costume of the lady singing portrays a tear and highlights her eyes, emphasizing the nae of her song 'crying'.



## Ominous sound design

**Ominous sound design** – deep underscores or other unsettling sounds which pre-empt an unfortunate event.

**Example** – The same low rumble and elongated trumpet sound is used for when Betty and Rita discover Diane's dead body as for when the Cowboy discovers the body too. This acts as a sound motif, that later relates to why Diane committed suicide, and what she did.



## Themes of Tarnished Idealism

**Tarnished idealism** – an innocence that becomes damaged by the environment and the industry

**Example** – Betty/Diane when first introduced gives of a radiating innocence, that of Snow White, however after being beaten down by the industry, being sexualized and thrown away, and cheated on by Camilla, she becomes the more twisted Diane who hires the hit on Camilla out of jealousy and rage.