

Le Havre

(Old man takes in young boy) Main themes: multiculturalism, national identity, immigration, power dynamics

- Director had a concern for the problem of refugees attempting to seek safe haven in EU countries had not been addressed.
- Longer shots near beginning, slightly track him through the town with sad music in the background.
- Blue / grey rooms and lighting and town
- Lighting very strong contrast, generally quite dark – mainly one or two lights coming in at specific angles to light the characters' faces and torso but the background in darkness.
- Fewer cuts – camera tends to track the characters.
- Establishing shots for most scenes – showing the surrounding and what is in the room/town at the time.
- A lot of the shots are mid to long shots, becomes a close mid shot when the characters (husband and wife) are speaking to one another.
- Very little sound – mainly that of the action taking place such as the wife scrubbing the husband's shoes at the beginning, the sound of rain, sound of movement etc.
- The deadpan (expressionless) and drollery (curious/unusual) does not undermine the emotional force but rather gives it its sweetness and an ingenuous (honest) simplicity.
- When opening the crate to the people that are living inside the majority of it stays very dark and any background sound (diagetic sound) becomes silent and the shots have a very different tone as the inspectors and police stare at these people – this is then interrupted with the sound of the photographer. Not still shots with no sound of intense eye contact between the two sides. Sound when the boy gets up – music begins to play. Boy runs away but appears very slow movement and shots – not quick like a action movie. (contrast refugees)
- Expected cuts but the shots keep going eg. When the husband goes to get his lunch from the steps, when the two men leave the bar and the camera stays on the empty bar for a few seconds, on the sandwich bag left for the young boy on the steps.
- The audience is informed by the news – we watch the TV. In this way the audience may receive more information about a character's body language or facial expression (eg. The doctor doesn't look hopeful about the news he has just told the husband) or the audience are able to hear more of the diagetic sound eg. The door closing and someone leaving the room – eg. When the boy is left alone in their house which creates loneliness and emptiness within the house.
- Zooming in to the couple in the car as they drive to the hospital – they are in one window and the other woman in the other window – brings them closer together. Lighting strong on their face but not around them.
- Slow tracking of the husband suggests that he is sad and solemn.
- Very silent when he finds boy in his shed. No music, only diagetic sound – takes a while for conversation to begin.
- Brown jacket he wears all the time stands out against the blue background.