

CULTURE VULTURE



An overview of Wes Anderson film

Grace Jappy explores what makes Wes Anderson's style so distinctive.

Many people online are recreating Wes Anderson's signature style to document their lives. But what really is this undoubtedly distinct style?

Wes Anderson is an American filmmaker. His films are known for their eccentricity and unique visual and narrative styles. They often contain themes of grief, loss of innocence, and dysfunctional families. It is often argued that the point of Wes Anderson is to have visual interest in the composition and stillness of things which aren't usually considered interesting or thrilling.

Wes Anderson's style is one of the most distinctive in contemporary cinema. So much so that viewers can recognise his work from a single image, whether it's animation and live action. While vintage flair, bold colour schemes and keen costume design are obvious components in this unique aesthetic there are numerous subtle ways he creates his distinctive look. And, it's not all visual. The style of his cinematography evidences a particular warmth, as well as a sense of escapism and adventure, akin to reading by torchlight under the duvet covers at night.

Anderson's colour palettes are exaggerated and prominent, instilling a sense of nostalgia and harking back to his 1980s childhood. The other effect of his elaborate use of colour is that he creates a world far removed from reality. This means he can get away with a more fanciful plot and outlandish storylines because it all takes place within what is perceptively a contrived reality.

Anderson is also renowned for using symmetry in his films, which creates an incredible sense of harmony and balance. While pleasant to watch, this kind of composition also contributes to the fanciful, beguiling appearance of his films. In almost every shot there is the symmetry.

This attention to symmetry also helps a tableau effect, making shots seem nearly two-dimensional and appear like a series of paintings, which is key to creating Anderson signature style. He makes liberal use of the planimetric composition technique, referring to making backgrounds seem flat in contrast to central focal points, heightening the highly constructed feel to his films.

To better understand the wonderfully unique look of Wes Anderson movies, it's important to look at the inspirations that he found. Anderson has modelled some of the themes of his films on the absurdism rife in the work of French New Wave directors Francois Truffaut and Jean-Luc Godard. He has also stated that he was very influenced by Roman Polanski's particular style of staging and shooting scenes. He was able to learn from these masters of film making in order to hone his own style, as well as paying due homage to the directors who shaped him.

I'm sure we can all recognise it easily by now, but how exactly can we describe Wes Anderson's film style? Firstly, his work falls into the category of postmodernism. This can be defined as the intentional mixing of styles from different time periods, with a thematic focus on capitalism and over consumerism.

The anachronistic props we see in his movies, like the retro televisions, typewriters and photo booths mixed with art deco interiors, all contribute to this blend of styles, characteristic of postmodernism. Another key word used to describe Wes Anderson style is formalism. The opposite of realism, this refers to a more stylised form of film making that uses lighting, sound, music, set design and colour to help tell the story. As we already know, Anderson relies heavily on colour and setting to illustrate his narrative and is probably one of the best known formalistic directors of our time.

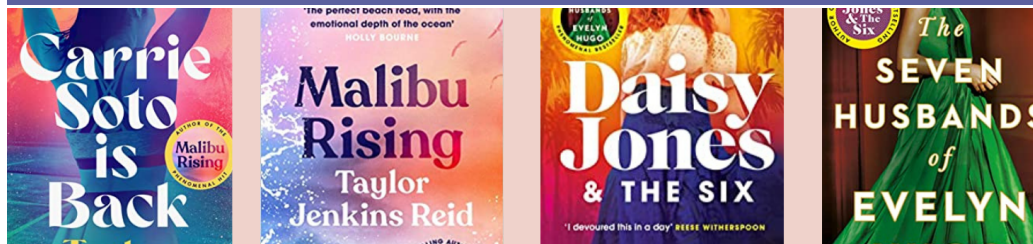
LAST WEEK'S SONNET:

What do you mean?

Justin Bieber

Can you guess the pop song from the Shakespearean sonnet? Correct answer in next week's Culture Vulture!

When age hath taken movement from thy hips
and strength from these two arms to bear thy load,
wilt thou remember th' texture of my lips
from youthful kisses I had once bestow'd?
I know for certain I'll love thee as well
when I am aged as I do today;
my heart shall fall for thee just as it fell
when first I did thy stunning face survey.
Yea, love is most mysterious in its grace -
the touch of hands can passions fierce ignite.
Pray take me once again in thy embrace
and kiss me well beneath celestial light.
Tis more than a mere daydream thought aloud:
we have been with a romance pure endow'd.



The TJR Multiverse

Miss Ramsay explores the secrets in Taylor Jenkins Reid's most famous publications

Taylor Jenkins Reid first hit the bookshelves with her 2013 novel *Forever, Interrupted*, followed in quick succession with *After I Do* (2014), *Maybe in Another Life* (2015) and *One True Loves* (2016). Set in present day, the books all had their own nuances and clever twists, making her a standout writer compared to the typical boy-meets-girl genre.

However, Reid really rose to fame with the release of her 2017 novel *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo*. Set in a hazy Californian landscape, oscillating between the decadence of the 60s 70s & 80s and a modern day recount, this novel broke boundaries of form, content and genre. The world that Reid created was just an iteration of ours; all the characters in the novel had their own life which, although fiction, took their own corporeal form.

Reid carried this idea on in her further novels, in a multiverse to rival Marvels. Her next publication - *Daisy Jones and The Six* (2019) - once again tested the form of the modern novel, with the entire storyline being told through interview. Set in the same time frame as Evelyn Hugo, this novel sees crossovers of character and discussion. Mick Riva - Evelyn's third husband - goes to Daisy Jones' pool party.

This crossover happens once again in *Malibu Rising* (2021) which follows the story of Mick Riva's children. And surprise, surprise, Reid links this book to her next when husband of Nina Riva, Brandon Randall has an affair with Carrie Soto who is the eponymous heroine of...

Carrie Soto is Back (2022).

Reid's links are subtle, and you don't need to have read any of her other works to enjoy the tales she tells. However, the small crossovers between each novel (as small as Carrie Soto reading the Daisy Jones & The Six biography before a tennis match) mean that the world Reid has created is so well informed, the reader feels as though they are truly immersed in the sun, sex and scandal of sunny California.

Recommended by a student:

Daisy Jones and The Six (Amazon Prime Original)

"Huge seventies fan so this hits the spot. It's loosely based on the story of Stevie Nicks & Fleetwood Mac. What makes this show even better is the fact that it has an entire album to accompany it with music that even my grandparents thought was original 70s music."



Soundtrack to the week:

This week's soundtrack to the week has been built by editors and readers. If you would like to have your say, follow the QR code on page 5!

MONDAY: Recommended by Miss Ramsay

Only Angel - Harry Styles



TUESDAY:

Recommended by Mrs Holland

Formal Wear - Clemencie



WEDNESDAY:

Recommended by a student

Black mascara - RAYE



WEDNESDAY:

Recommended by a student

Say My Name - The Lathums



FRIDAY: Recommended by Bertie Williams

Jungle - Fred Again



SATURDAY:

Recommended by Jonathan Wyatt

Little Red Corvette - Prince



SUNDAY: Recommended by a student

Normal Girl - SZA



WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

As the weeks progress, we are hoping Culture Vulture will become jam-packed with student articles, recommendations and reviews. If you would like to make your own creative suggestion, or have a piece of work that you would like to see in the next magazine, scan the QR code.



Alternatively, if you would like to contribute an article, film, album, book or podcast review, or have an itching to write a features piece about a current cultural affair, email aramsay@gordanoschool.org.uk with your idea and they can point you in the right direction. Who knows - you may see your name in print!

Make sure to encourage your tutors and friends to get involved, and let's make creativity central to the Gordano Sixth Form experience!

