

---

---

# Wes Anderson's Influence on the Independent Film Industry

Presented By: Clarise Seguin

---

---

**Wes Anderson's unique style displayed throughout each of his films helps him stand out as a central figure within the independent film industry.**



Image 1

# Who is Wes Anderson?:

- Wes Anderson is owner of the American Empirical Pictures Production Company which is an independent film company
- He is well known within the independent film realm for his use of symmetry and colors throughout all of his films, his quirky themes of the white middle class, and flawed and troubled main characters
- Wes Anderson has been popular ever since his first film was a hit at the Sundance Film festival in 1996 and has been on a rise in popularity since



Image 2:

# Wes Anderson's Inspiration :

- Wes Anderson uses a variety of topics from his own experiences
- Such as his parents Divorce that lead him to have trauma at a young age:  
“The single most traumatic event in his childhood was the divorce of his parents. He returns again and again to the motif of familial dysfunction, conflict and pain.” (Dilley 12).

- His films also follow a common motif of familial dysfunction
- College experiences: Bottle Rocket is a movie made solely based off of Wes Anderson's experiences living with his dorm mate, Owen Wilson in college
- Continuous theme of main male characters fumbling through life



Image 4:



# Wes Anderson's Quirky Aesthetics:

- Each movie tends to have a unique palette consisting of different shades of red, orange, yellow, and blue
- The use of vivid colors and visual symmetry helps him stand apart from other filmmakers due to its quirkiness
- “Anderson is renowned for using symmetry in his films, which creates a sense of harmony and balance... In almost every shot there is symmetry. Those that focus on a single character almost always place them in the centre of the frame, and where there are multiple characters, they often mirror each other on either side of a central point of the composition.” (Morgan 2).



Image 5:



Image 6:



# Wes Anderson's Film Style and Travels:

- During Wes Anderson's time of making films, he traveled across the world taking key components of each place he visited
- He traveled to New York, Rhode Island, England, Germany, and Paris which all lead to lots of visual influence within his work
- While working on his film *Moonrise Kingdom* in Rhode Island, for this film he used real rain, which was a huge expense however he himself described real rain as magical and impossible to recreate with a rain machine

Image 7:



Image 8:

# Underlying Themes of White Privilege and Sexism:

- Wes Anderson's cult followers rush to his defence no matter the scenario however he faces justified criticism due to his exclusion of women leads, and people of color
- In fact, in most of his movies “ Women can be absent or remote as well in Anderson's work- or even, quite commonly deceased.” (Dilley 5).
- Wes Anderson's films also tend to never have inclusion of other races, and if they do they are usually used as a joke and never as a key component or main character. Film critics such as Evangelique Poh have claimed that “Anderson favours white American actors and it has to be said Asians are not the only disadvantaged race in his movies. His films often include no people of color (POC) or if they do, they are the token minority to add ‘colour’ to his films.” (Poh P28). The lack of attention towards people of color and non white cultures is prevalent and almost hard to ignore watching all of his movies.
- While these subjects are important to discuss Wes Anderson still remains a lead figure within the independent film industry, not once acknowledging or correcting the critiques



# Rise in Popularity: A New Fanbase

- When Wes Anderson first began filming and producing his fan base consisted of hipster college level film students who only consumed “post modern” and “anti consumerist works”
- As he grew in popularity the hipster fans saw it as too direct in trying to be quirky and as he began to become more well known the fan base dispersed
- As he began to win awards for MTV and have multiple academic nominations, more people found his works and got interested
- His fanbase turned into children and families which quickly becoming family favorites for them
- He still stands out as important figure, with his own film production company now and continues to inspire others and rise in fame
- He even has a new movie coming out next month on June 16th as he continues to make more works

Image 9:

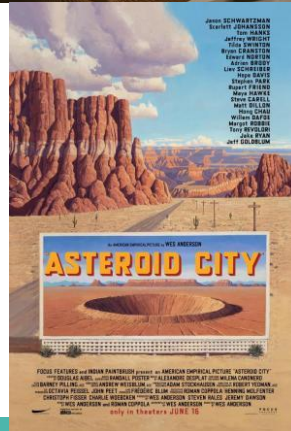


Image 10:

A photograph of a red theater curtain, likely in a theater or cinema. The curtain is closed and has a rich, deep red color. The text "THE END" is printed in a large, black, serif font, centered horizontally and vertically on the curtain. The background behind the curtain is dark, suggesting a theater interior.

THE END

# Citations: (NOT FINISHED!)

Image 1: Wes Anderson photo by NurPhoto. Graphic by Martine Ehrhart. <https://pitchfork.com/features/article/how-wes-anderson-perfected-the-music-nerd-soundtrack/>

Image 2: Wes Anderson, Moonrise Kingdom (2012), <https://www.curzon.com/journal/unpacking-wes-anderson-s-cinematic-style/>

<https://www.hollywood.com/celebrities/8-actors-directors-practically-unstoppable-60404332>

<https://www.sprezza.xyz/p/having-a-uniform-like-wes-anderson>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fq4sN2vqKq4&t=1s>

[https://www.theepochtimes.com/movie-review-moonrise-kingdom\\_1485168.html](https://www.theepochtimes.com/movie-review-moonrise-kingdom_1485168.html)

<http://www.lumousmakeup.com/blog/2014/11/12/moonrise-kingdom>

<https://talkfilmsociety.com/articles/the-shorts-and-commercials-of-wes-anderson>

<https://www.syfy.com/syfy-wire/wes-anderson-fantastic-mr-fox-stop-motion-streaming>

<https://www.filmaffinity.com/us/film382515.html>

# Citations Part 2: (NOT FINISHED!)

Whitney Crothers. "The Cinema of Wes Anderson." *Bringing Nostalgia to Life*, 2017, pg (2-12)

Morgan, Zoe. "Unpacking Wes Anderson's Cinematic Style", 2021

<https://www.curzon.com/journal/unpacking-wes-anderson-s-cinematic-style/#:~:text=Symmetry,shot%20there%20is%20this%20symmetry.>

Dark, Alexa. "How to Dress Like a Wes Anderson Movie According to the Spring/Summer 2021 Runways"

<https://www.lofficielusa.com/fashion/wes-anderson-color-palettes-movies-spring-2021-runways>

Browning, Mark. "Wes Anderson; Why His Movies Matter", 2011, pg 121

Dow, Georgia Cameron. "Is Wes Anderson an auteur?", 2020

<https://gcamerondow.medium.com/is-wes-anderson-an-auteur-bca6894993a1#:~:text=He%20is%2C%20by%20textbook%20definition,across%20all%20of%20his%20films.>

Keating, Gina. "Economic Downturn Hits Disney", 2008 (p3)

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-disney/economic-downturn-hits-disney-shares-slide-idUSTRE4A58PN20081107>

Mayshark, Jesse Fox. "Post Pop Cinema: The Search for Meaning in New American Film", 2007, pg (118)

Anderson, Wes. "Moonrise Kingdom", 2012, pg (1)

Pearson, Caleb. "Breaking Down Wes Anderson's Distinct Style", 2020

<https://topsheet.io/blog/wes-anderson-style>

Albarran, Majo. "Eleven Years of Fantastic Mr. Fox", 2020

<https://stopmotionmagazine.com/eleven-years-of-fantastic-mr-fox/>

Poh, Evangelique. "Dissecting The Racial Undertones in Wes Anderson's Filmography", 2020

<https://www.sinema.sg/2020/11/03/wes-anderson-analysis/>

Dean, Jonathan. "WHAT'S IT LIKE TO WORK WITH THE GENIUS WES ANDERSON? The director treats the biggest stars like family and makes everyone eat together. Bill Murray, Lea Seydoux and Jarvis Cocker reveal the fun and foibles of life on set.", 2021

[https://go.gale.com/ps/i.do?p=GIC&u=milin\\_w\\_berkcc&id=GALE|A679168653&v=2.1&it=r&sid=ebSCO](https://go.gale.com/ps/i.do?p=GIC&u=milin_w_berkcc&id=GALE|A679168653&v=2.1&it=r&sid=ebSCO)