Edward Scissorhands and Corpse Bride

What emotions do you feel when you watch movies? Have you ever watched a movie and forgot that the character wasn’t real? A good movie is one that makes you feel something, or makes the characters seem real by showing us their feelings. If you see Tim Burton’s movies, you could see that he makes you laugh and scared. He also makes his characters seem real by showing us their emotions. This is called mood and tone. Good directors use cinematic elements to create mood and tone, and Burton is one of the best. Tim Burton effectively uses lighting/color, camera/movement, and sound/music to create mood and tone in his movies.

First of all, good directors use lighting and color in different ways to create mood and tone. For example, in Edward Scissorhands, there is dark lighting in the castle when Peg goes inside. This technique creates a scary tone. Burton makes me feel scared when we see Edward Scissorhands for the first time by putting him in the shadows of the corner. When we see him, the darkness makes his hands look like weapons, and we immediately get freaked out. Similarly, Burton uses color in the movie Corpse Bride to create mood. At the beginning of the movie, when we see the land of the living, everything is gray and colorless. This cinematic technique made the characters seem bored and depressed. The director does this to create an unhappy and depressing mood because he wants to compare it to the colorful land of the dead, where the mood is happy and exciting.

Secondly, while lighting and color create mood and tone, the camera angles show the characters’ moods. For example, in Burton’s movie, Edward Scissorhands, when Edward is getting arrested for breaking into Jim’s house, Burton uses the camera to show a frightened
mood. As Edward is exiting the house, the camera zooms in on Edward’s face, then goes behind Edward, showing what he sees. By showing us his scared face, then showing us what he sees that is making him scared, we know that Edward was frightened of the cops. Also, in the Corpse Bride, Burton uses camera angles to create a romantic mood. For example, when Victoria and Victor first saw each other, they made a connection. Burton shows us this connection by zooming the camera in to their faces. The close up shot shows us that they are happy with each other, and shows us a romantic mood.

Finally, while camera angles create mood, sound and music creates tone. For example, In Edward Scissorhands, when Edward’s dad died, Burton creates a sad tone by changing the music from mystical to sad. As the father has a heart attack and begins falling to the floor, we start to get choked up. When the music changed, I felt sad inside even though I knew it was just a movie and not real. An example for Corpse Bride is when we see Emily sitting and crying after Victor tells her he would never marry her. As she cries, sad music starts playing. The sad music makes me feel sorry for her. It made me super sad that she was not going to get married with Victor, even though it’s just a movie and not real.

As you can see, the director, Tim Burton, effectively uses lighting/color, camera/movement, and sound/music to create mood and tone in his music. Tim Burton uses lighting in his movie to create a scary tone when we meet Edward, and a depressing mood in the land of the living. Tim Burton also uses camera/movement to show a frightened mood when Edward gets arrested, and a romantic mood when Victor and Victoria fall in love. Finally, he uses sound/music to make me sad when Edward’s dad died, and Emily got rejected by Victor. If you have not seen these movies, go and rent them today.