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From Calm to Frantic

In order for a suspense film to be good, the suspense must be presented by evenly juggling the action and the drama to give the audience a proper feel for the characters and the events that take place. In the short film *A Good Shot*, this is performed through the rhythm of the film. To be precise, it is both the non-diegetic music and the camerawork that create the most power behind the film's scenes. Other factors such as the actors and the color don't give as much power since the actors have very little movements and dialogue, and the color changes back and forth from blue to yellow to help change the settings. The film uses very little content to try and create a suspenseful atmosphere, but it still manages to succeed without the use of heavy action or drama.

The first clue that shows how powerful the music and camera work are occurs during the scene where the protagonist is snipping his target. We see the target moving in slow motion to show his calm feeling, not knowing he is about to be shot. As the protagonist aims with his rifle, the speed reverts back to normal. The changing of camera speed combined with the rising sound of the music creates a feeling of tension for the viewers, giving us the thought that he can very well miss his shot and ruin his chances at killing the target. After the assassination, the film goes back to slow motion and the music's pitch and tempo reduce to show that the tension is over and that it is now time to relax. Slow motion is also used when the audience first sees the protagonist's family. We first see them in slow motion combined with cheerful music to show

them in a happy and care-free mood. The music however begins to grow into more of an eerie sound to raise tension in the audience. After his family dies, the music changes to a dramatic sound to create a sad feeling for us, and the camera frantically zooms out of the protagonist's face to show his panic and to dramatize the fact that he has just lost his family. This frantic camera work is used again in the final scene. When the bodyguards realize that their boss has been secretly shot by someone, their panic is shown when the music's tempo rises and the camera zooms out from their faces to a medium close-up shot. After they shoot the suspected waiter, the camera frantically pans left and right, along with zooming in and out to show the panic of all the civilians after hearing the gunfire. This helps show the chaos that has ensued, making the audience wonder whether the protagonist has escaped from the area safely. We then see him calmly walking away from the area, being able to tell he is calm from the less frantic close-up shot on him to show he isn't panicking like the rest of the crowd. After the chaos that was seen, the audience is given a sense of relief that the protagonist is still alive.

The film is able to capture the same atmosphere that a real assassin would be in. It shows that anything could happen to change the calm and peaceful moment they're in, to a panic-driven event in an instant with a rhythm that utilizes very little tools in the process. Other suspense films, such as the Bourne trilogy or the Mission Impossible series, use so much more in terms of action, drama, and dialogue in order to present a stronger atmosphere for a suspense film. It is undoubtedly certain that the Bourne and Mission Impossible movies are preferred over this film; however, it cannot be denied that the film was able to provide a proper atmosphere and good entertainment without the use of overly dramatized effects, which may have been the film's true goal.

Work Cited

A Good Shot. You Tube. 25 Nov. 2007, <https://youtu.be/zCRAvUm5QOY>.