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Mrs. Rutan

February 27, 2017

Othello Movie Paragraph

Tim Nelson made several choices when adapting the play into his film. The two choices he made that stood out the most was his way of modernizing the story and giving Hugo (Iago) a motivation. A major change that Nelson incorporated in order to modernize the film was the language. Most of the characters were high schoolers, therefore they needed to talk like high schoolers. Not much of the original lines from the play were used and instead they were replaced with more current and up-to-date slang. Such as mentioned in Elvis Mitchell's review stating, "White girls are snakes, bro"(Mitchell). However, the same points were made regardless of the language and it did not affect the overall plot. Another way that the director modernized the film was by his choice of music for the cut scenes. Almost every time that the scene would transition or fade into another modern rap music would play in the background showing the time period and the age of the characters. Nelson also chose to update the set design and props within the film. Instead of the movie taking place within some Venetian castle of sorts, the setting was a high school campus. This makes the story feel less formal and more juvenile. But Elvis Mitchell agrees in his review when talking about the whole high school and basketball theme still works stating, "The idea of Shakespeare's mythic black man as an intimidator on the backboards makes sense."(Mitchell). A change in props that he made was that instead of using a dagger or sword at the end for killing everyone, he chose to use a gun because that is the modern day weapon of choice. The other choice that the author made in his film that really stood out to me was giving Hugo (Iago) a motive for his actions. Robert Ebert did a review that talked about all of the parallels that the play and movie had and then goes on to say what was not in the play stating that, "Although the movie creates Hugo's (Iago's) motivation." (Ebert). In the play it was unclear as to what Iago's true motives were, but in the film it was clear that Hugo wanted his dad's attention and to be liked by his father. This added in a new perspective because now the audience knew why Iago was doing what he was doing rather than manipulation and harming others for no apparent reason.