

An inspiring piece of creative media

Cinema is the creative medium that inspires me the most and with which I have most often been confronted, first as a regular spectator, then as a passionate one and, for some years now, as a student discovering its making, from both theoretical and practical points of view. However, until last year, I didn't really know what kind of cinema I would prefer to practice, in what field I would like to express myself.

Chloé Zhao's film 'The Rider', which I went to see last year, enlightened me from the very first viewing, about a cinematographic genre that inspires me a lot. The Rider is a film actually built between fiction and documentary, between imagination and reality. The character, Brady Jandreau, is not an actor: he plays his own story. In this sense, this film is not built like a documentary film insofar as takes are not authentic, they are played. However, facts are the real ones, played by their true protagonists, which makes the authenticity of expressions, actions and characters so genuine. Not being actors but the real characters, feelings of the audience are touched by their story as subtly as they would be by a documentary. This seems to me the perfect compromise: the ultimate sincerity of characters and reality of facts, but the aesthetics as clear and elaborated as for fiction films. Much more organized than a documentary, it obviously requires a scenario, a technical breakdown, detailed shooting scripts and a perfect sense of character direction.

It is this authenticity, and the resulting emotional truth, which definitely seduced me and that I even unintentionally approached in my short film "Voilà, la Rose". Indeed, while my class-friend and I had built a detailed scenario and meticulously prepared the scenes, we realized during the shooting and editing that the footage we liked to use the most were some of when the actors were improvising. We weren't really directing them, but would just let the camera run while they didn't know. These takes became much more authentic than if we had respected our initial project.

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