

Short Film Analysis
COMM 314
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The film *INSEPARABLE* starts out with Joe and Jean waking up and then Joe leaving the house in a suit seemingly as if he were going to work. He then is shown in a hospital having a brain scan explained to him by a medical professional. After he receives these results he gets in his car and gets really worked up about what he was told. We then are introduced to Charlie, who is the striking image of Joe but is shaggier in appearance, he is at a dog race track getting beat up. Then we see Joe and Charlie meet at a small coffee shop and have a conversation. The two men then make themselves look the same and trade clothes to switch lives. Then they are shown standing on a hillside saying goodbye to each other. It ends out with Charlie, impersonating Joe, seeing Jean and the young boy.

[Physical Appearance]

Joe looks very formally dressed as he heads out of the house leading on that he may be going to work, or somewhere of importance. His wife Jean is in jeans and a long sleeve shirt making it seem as if she stays home watching and taking care of their son. After Joe leaves the hospital, and is shown sitting in his car, his shirt is now unbuttoned and he is no longer wearing his glasses. This resembles how distraught he is over the information he has just received. When we are introduced to Charlie he looks almost homeless. His hair is not groomed, he has not shaved, his clothes look dirty and old. He seems like he doesn't have his life together like Joe does.

When Charlie and Joe meet in the coffee shop Joe's shirt is now buttoned up again. This seems to portray the seriousness of the matter at hand and the discussion that is going to be had. After their conversation, when they head into the locker room, Charlie shaves his beard and cuts his hair to mimic the way Joe looks. They appear to be the mirror image of each other after the grooming. They have switched clothes, which gives lets the audience know they are going to be

switching places and lives. Due to the information Joe had received at the hospital. As they stand on the hill you can officially tell that they have switched clothes because of the burse by Charlie's eye from where he had been punched earlier. As Charlie puts on the glasses he is committing to his new role as "Joe." Charlie, unlike Joe, leaves his shirt slightly unbuttoned still showing his laidback attitude towards life. That he showed when wearing his actual clothes. Before he gets to Joe and Jean's house he buttons up the shirt and suit. In order to look more put together like Joe did.

[Gestures/ Movements]

In the beginning of the film *INSEPARABLE* Jean wraps her arms around Joe. This is an emblem used to show her closeness to him, her deep care for him, and her love for him. Joe moves his hand to hold Jean's acknowledging her support, care, and love. When Joe is in the hospital the man taking to him starts off with his arms folded as if he is thinking of how to phrase his next words carefully. Then then moves closer to Joe and sits down to reach Joe's eye level in attempt to get to a more personal level. When the man is walking over he is "object-focused" (Morgan, 2019) because he is twirling and clicking the pen that is in his hand. Most likely to help him find the right words to say. He goes to straighten his tie when he sits down. This shows that he is nervous and uneasy about what he is about to say. The man will open his arms giving inviting nonverbal signals but then he will slightly cross his arms right after, giving off the signal that he is slightly uncomfortable. when Joe is told the news, he removes his glasses with a shaky hand. This could show his disbelief and worry about the situation he has found himself in. when the man hands Joe his results his movements to take the paper and put his glasses back on are very slow, smooth, and contracted representing, as Remland says, sadness (Morgan, 2019).

When Joe is in the coffee shop waiting on Charlie he is slowly stirring his coffee which again shows his sadness towards the news from the hospital. When Charlie walks into the coffee shop he is stumbling into the restaurant. Giving the audience the impression that he is still weak from being beaten up, intoxicated, or generally unstable. When Charlie sits down Joe grabs the paper containing the results and sides it out of sight and reach from Charlie. Showing avoidance behavior towards Charlie. Giving off the impression that it is not good news. When they are grooming themselves, and changing clothes in order to trade places they do so in a very slow manner. Yet again showing the sadness of the situation. At the very end of the film Joe puts his hand on Charlie's shoulder to console him and as an emblem let him know that everything is going to be alright. They then pull each other into a tight embrace signaling to the audience their closeness.

[Facial and Eye Behavior]

In the short film *INSEPARABLE*, we first see a facial expression from Joe before he leaves the house. He looks worried and hesitant to go to his destination. When Joe is in the hospital listening to his test results, he appears to become worried when he purses his lips and keeps his gaze focused on the floor. Insinuating that he is in deep thought about what he has just been told. After he is handed the paper with his results he appears to be neutralize his face to avoid showing how he is really feeling. He shows a blank face with no expression of any kind on it. However, as soon as Joe gets into his car he lets his emotions loose. The corners of his lips turn down, signifying that he is sad (Morgan, 2019). Then as he begins to cry his face contorts and scrunches up, with his eyebrows raised at the inner corners. Yet again showing his sadness and how upset he is without him saying a word.

When they pan over to Charlie he appears to be very focused as his eyes appear to be focused strongly on something. After showing the dogs running they pan back to Charlie's face, but this time he is yelling and appears to be angry. His eyebrows are pulled down, his upper lids are pulled up while his lower lids are pulled down, and his nose is crinkled by the way his mouth is opened. These all show the aggression and frustration within Charlie. After this initial anger his face changes quickly. His eye lids are still pulled up but now his brow is relaxed and his mouth hangs open in shock. He seems surprised by whatever events he has just witnessed.

The next scene is of Joe waiting in the coffee shop for Charlie. His eyes are focused and his brow is pushed together giving off the impression that he is in deep thought and very focused. When Charlie walked in the two share a mutual gaze as Charlie makes his way to the table. That mutual gaze instigated by Joe was a signifier for Charlie to join him at the table. The way in which Charlie initially looks at Joe when he sits down, with his eyes in somewhat of a scowl and his brow narrowed, makes him seem annoyed or unhappy to be there. Then as he looks down at the paper with Joe's results on them his expression turns to concern, as Joe slides the paper out of his sight. During their conversation Charlie says something and a slight side smile [a listener response smile to let Charlie know Joe is paying attention (Morgan, 2019)] crosses Joe's face. Due to this we can assume that Charlie has just told a joke to lighten the sad mood.

They are next shown in a locker room and both their faces seem to be very serious, with brows pressed, cold eyes, and lip corners turned down. You can tell that whatever they are doing is a very serious matter and is not to be taken lightly. After they are done grooming and changing they look at each other. Charlie's face shows partly confusion and part sadness. You can see this because he has one eyebrow raised while the other is raised at the inner corner, and he also has his lips pursed together. Joe looks shocked at how striking Charlie's resemblance is to him. His

eyebrows are raised, his eyes are wider, and his mouth hangs open, all signifiers of surprise. As they stand on the hill saying goodbye they both again show sadness as they embrace and begin to cry. Charlie's face is filled with only sadness as he watches Joe walk away. Once Charlie gets to Joe and Jean's house she opens the door. Her face is initially met with joy as her cheeks are raised, the corners of her lips tilt up, and her eyes tighten. Charlie then smiles back at her but it is not a real smile. It is a qualifier smile to mimic Jean's in an attempt at facial mimicry (Morgan, 2019). This does not work on Jean because as soon as he smiles back at her the look on her face changes. Her brows narrow and are pulled down, her smile fades and her lip corners tilt down, but her eyes stay open with confusion and worry. Her mouth then drops open in shock leading us to believe she has figured out that this is not her husband. As the little boy runs out Charlie picks him up and then as he tells him something he looks at Jean with concern, because he hopes she has not figured out that he is not actually Joe.

[Conclusion]

In conclusion, when you put all of these nonverbal behaviors together the film speaks for itself. Joe is a married man who has a beautiful wife and son. He goes to the hospital to get test results back; these results are not good. He gets in contact with a friend, or brother, Charlie and the two share a striking resemblance. They trade places because Joe cannot face his family after these results. He sends Charlie to take his place, but when Charlie gets "home" Jean (Joe's wife) realizes it's not Joe and that the results must have been bad and she has now lost her husband. When you read into the nonverbal behaviors you can understand the story line of this short film without any words or sounds. Just purely based on the characters movements, eye and face behaviors, and how they physically represent themselves. The aspect that aided the most in

understanding this film was the facial and eye behaviors. The eyes are truly the “windows of the soul” (Morgan, 2019).

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