

## Reading Response

### Male gaze and tv

One of my all time favorite TV shows is Scrubs. There are so many things that could be analyzed in every single episode of this long series, but I shall not bore you, I will simply analyze and point out some of Mulvey's ideas that appear in this pilot episode. If you are at all familiar with Scrubs then you will know exactly what I'm talking about, but if not then I strongly encourage you to check it out and watch an episode or two. It is very funny in a childish way that I relate to very well. It has a lot of unrealistic situations as well as a lot that could happen every day. Most of the unrealistic situations are stretched to their limits, some having stereotypes or things of the common male gaze, but most stay in the realm of funny and not overplayed.

The basic plot to Scrubs is: A young attending physician and his fellow doctors practice mischief and medicine while learning life lessons at the Sacred Heart teaching hospital (taken straight from Netflix). When you get farther and farther into the show you actually feel as though you know the characters on a personal basis; and that's why I like it... anyways enjoy.

I'll start from the absolute beginning of the episode; the opening credit sequence. "I'm no superman," perfectly represents the show because of the fact that they can't and don't save every patient that they are assigned to treat. But what is unique about this opening credit sequence is that the people keep switching back and forth between every main doctor and nurse, whether it is male female or whatever, it doesn't matter. This gives us a sense of equality from the show that I know that I like. It portrays that a woman can do the things a man can and visa versa; a kind of reverse male gaze.

Soon after the equality of the opening credits comes the first incidence of emphasized sexuality. "Your butt looks like two Pringles hugging," (says JD in his head) accompanied with a nice long butt shot of Dr. Elliot Reed. This is a classic case of segmental accentuation. The shot along with the words plays exactly into Mulvey's idea of the male gaze, or how we see women for what they look like and not what they say or do. Men are known for being lookers and women are known for their looked at-ness (being looked at).

Shortly after this (like 10 seconds), Eliot challenges him to race to their destination, well JD takes this to the extreme and sees this as a challenge of his manhood and that he must prove his manliness by beating her. This patriarchy thinking makes JD feel like if and when he wins then the girl will be his for the taking... well that was all in his imagination because really she just laughs at him and forgets it.

JD has a wild imagination and always imagines situations going to the extreme, in a certain case about a third the way in to the episode he imagines Eliot ripping of her blouse and then straddling him. This is emphasizing a male fantasy of what a woman should live up to, basically exploiting women's sexuality; the most basic of all male gazes. This also leads us to think that of we help a girl just once then we are entitled to a "happy ending," which is rarely the case.

The Tod is the basic symbol of hegemonic masculinity in Scrubs. Whenever he is around the other men act a front as if they are the cool "joc" type person as well. This is both a male gaze and a female gaze because this is certainly the way we are all seeing ourselves or others and 'bro' interactions. The gaze in this case is not a sexual gaze, its just how we are being trained to think about interactions between men now.

Later in the episode, DR. ELLIOT REED complains to nurse Carla about getting the stereotypically comments about a female health care provider: sweetheart, hun, darlings, and NURSE. When you see a female in a hospital what would you assume? A doctor? A nurse? Well, most of America would assume a nurse because we have a preconception the all females in hospitals are nurses and the males are doctors. This is showing us a falsified male gaze, she yells at the offender for calling her a nurse because that's how he sees the females in the hospital.

I could go on and on of examples from the show, but I have limited time and you are probably tired of reading about this... So I shall wrap up and say that male and female gazes are present in everyday life as well as our media, TV included. Though this show has a lot of examples, it really is a good show and I still think that you should toon in for an episode or two.