

Inception

Study Notes



©Warner Bros. Entertainment

Directed by: Christopher Nolan

Certificate: 12

Running time: 148 mins

Release date: 16 July 2010

Synopsis:

Cobb (Leonardo DiCaprio) is an expert at the dangerous, rarely performed skill of inception – infiltrating people’s dreams to plant an idea that may change their actions or ideologies when they wake. He is also in exile from his home in the US, hunted across the globe for allegedly murdering his wife. When Cobb and his team of ‘extractors’ are offered the deadly task of performing inception upon the heir to a business conglomerate, he sees the last chance to earn the privilege of returning home. Risking everything, Cobb ventures deep into the dream world where anything can happen, minutes last decades, and the line between the subconscious and reality becomes increasingly blurred...

Genre: Sci-Fi Thriller

As we have already discussed, a thriller is a film that revolves around anticipation and suspense. The aim for thrillers is to keep the audience alert and on the edge of their seats.

There are many conventions of film that make the thriller genre unique:

- Sound

- Music

- Lighting

- Plot

- Characters

- Prop

- Editing

As any film, in order to generate excitement for its release trailers are made.

Pre-Viewing: Teaser Trailer

The purpose of a teaser trailer is less to tell the audience about a movie's content than simply to let them know that the movie is coming up in the near future, and to add to the hype of the upcoming release. Teaser trailers are often made while the film is still in production or being edited and as a result they may feature scenes or alternate versions of scenes that are not in the finished film.

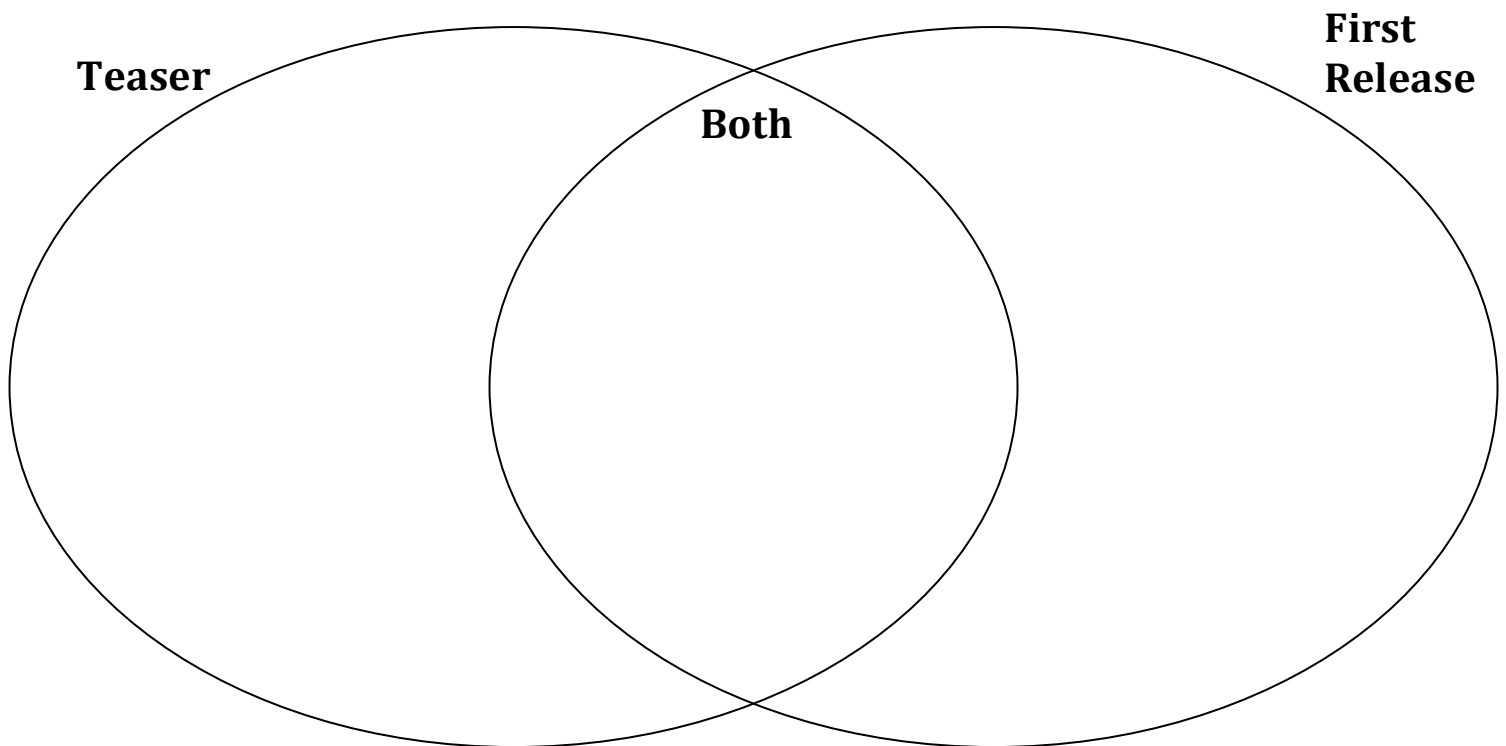
*What should be included in a **thriller's** teaser trailer to build excitement and anticipation?*

*What should **NOT** be included in a **thriller's** teaser trailer in order to build excitement and anticipation?*

Inception Teaser Trailer: While viewing, reflect on whether or not the trailer “fit” our idea of what should be included in a teaser. Do you think this trailer is effective? Why or why not? What techniques of film were used to build suspense?

Pre-Viewing: **First Release Trailer**

Trailers consist of a series selected shots from the film being advertised. Since the purpose of the trailer is to attract an audience to the film, these excerpts are usually drawn from the most exciting, funny, or otherwise noteworthy parts of the film but in abbreviated form and usually without producing spoilers. For this purpose the scenes are not necessarily in the order in which they appear in the film. A trailer has to achieve that in less than 2 minutes and 30 seconds, the maximum length allowed by the Motion Picture Association of America. First and second release trailers are different from teasers, in that they provide more information. Fill in the Venn Diagram to identify key similarities and differences between teaser trailers and first release trailers.



The trailer for *Inception* garnered huge attention as it highlighted the film's unique look, mind-bending concepts and Hans Zimmer's memorable, grinding score.

1. *Inception* quickly became known as a film with a complicated plot, but to what extent does the trailer for *Inception* indicate that the film has an incredibly complex story?
2. What elements of the film does the trailer seem to emphasise?
3. Does the trailer call to mind the look or influence of any other films?
4. To what extent does the trailer suggest *Inception* is a mainstream blockbuster?