

For my essay I will be exploring the philosophy & art of Absurdism, Existentialism, surrealism and Expressionism it's important to me because its my humor it's what makes me so fun to be around, it gives me a reaction over things the most out of everything else because it's different and when it's different it stands out and more people will pay more attention to it. It relates to my story telling practices because the philosophy I'm discussing is all about producing something different, and with my story concept Shaggyio, it's about a female beast, and having movies about masculine women as the protagonist is something that you don't often see in films stereotypically. And some of the story has a bit that's random to it, (Albert Camus, MS, 21, p.4) I found this quote interesting because Camus is saying that being logical is very absurd but were so use to seeing something being absurd as something random and random is kind of like the opposite of logic and logic has lots of reasoning into it, whilst random has no reason, so things that aren't logical focus more on making you feel certain way rather than getting to a point, and that's what my story tries to do, it's craziness of being random is a way to entertain my audience and make them laugh.

One filmmaker I had in mind that would contribute to my work is Ingmar Bergman, he made a lot of films about dreams and nightmares, and he created things that would happen in films that you wouldn't normally see even within today's modern films. One of those ideas comes from a 1957 film called 'Wild Strawberries' where an old man was walking along the streets alone and in the distance saw another man that turned towards him and his face was all inflated and his head exploded with fake watery blood coming out of his neck lying on the streets. Another scene was seeing a woman laugh in a very wicked way, which I found to be unusual but powerful at the same time and we see this happen again when she has sex with a man or she could be getting raped and if thats so, rather than her screaming for her life which is what where so use to seeing, she laughs like she's the joker and found that to be so empowering in a good way because it outsmarts the audience, and it does give off the vibe that my character that I created would do something like that her herself, as she did sexually assault a priest by chain cracking his testicles (which was also a creative and epic way to kill somebody) and assaulted some middle aged men as well, so it's changing the game in a way as we hear alot in news articles about child abuse, pedophila or priests committing harmful acts towards children, imagine being in a world were children were abusing adults, so the Shaggyio story has some relevance into that.

(Albert Camus, 1951, p.4) I like this quote from Albert Camus because it talks about the world being unfree, and the only way to be equal to everyone else is to become unfree, but that there's nothing stopping me from going ahead and being equal to everyone else by myself rather than getting everyone to be equal in one go, as you can't fix 7 billion people. So in my story when Isabella gets freed by a demon, she ends up becoming a tramp and it was showing that she didn't need to be rich to be free, she had all the money in the world even though she didn't have any, and that the Shaggyio character existed for a reason and a purpose to break free from extreme religious Christian values.

Some things that caught my eye with surrealism is the unconscious where are desires that aren't considered acceptable to society but are hidden away inside ourselves (Andre Breton, 1924, p.4) and how these artist released the unconscious was to use dreams or nightmares as a bridge to introduce to the public, another thing about the dreams was exporting what they dreamed out towards reality and they would promote it even if it's scary or disturbing. I've experienced a similar platform myself through my life of where I've grown up, what I've experienced in life, what I've seen to the public eye and project that onto my work for people to see to have the same experience. The ideas of dreams has factored my story telling because my story has a lot to do on communing with the spirit world, we see this when one of the priests gets killed by Shaggyio as he was overwhelmed by living in a nightmare that he went blind and his eyes started to set on fire, thanks to a bright light that that was so powerful like it messed him up, like a hallucination.

The last but not least philosophy I liked was Expressionism, (Hermann Hesse, 1919, p.4), where you express your work through emotion and experience and was a way used to free yourself from tradition, it gives you something that you want to feel, not what you need to feel, it had a big part of experiencing loneliness because Loneliness is the best time to when your emotions become the most intense, Feelings were the most important thing in Expressionism above all else, that's where the word of expressionism comes from, it's where you express yourself. Link in back with the first and fourth paragraphs, it focuses more on making you feel a certain way therefore it's unexplainable and I contributed it to my story through my own humor. Another thing as the story was set in 1976, I tried to make the story feel very outdated, and stereotypically things that are ten years old or more belongs in charity shops and was trying to give a vibe of being at grandmas in the story, as in my believe things that are so bad that they end up being good, overly bad things are funny and that's the point I try to make this story to be.

Another thing that I like about it is that it exposes the social norm, it always has its eye on focusing on the weak points of society and that it's always exposing the ugly truth of society and does it in a beneficial way because it fills in the missing pieces of society.

Embracing Existentialism and Absurdism is a rejection of the social norm, it's not a place to be if you believe in right and wrong, it's like an religion within itself, but there is no god, you are the god in fact everyone is a god and living under an upside down pyramid, it's an alternative to the meaning of life. It changes the way I write because when I'm interested in these kinds of topics, I'm able to express myself more creatively and powerfully, while also comparing things to another, I always end up writing things that try to push me up without pushing anyone else down as much as possible.

This Philosophy of Existentialism and absurdism doesn't just have to go into artwork but it can also go into language and quotes also, one example of this from Albert Camus is "Should I kill myself, or have a cup of coffee?" (Albert Camus, 1971, p.4) something like this is extremely out of nowhere because suicide or having coffee have nothing in common with each other, having a cup of coffee while killing yourself is something you would never think of doing, unless it's for your last meal before death row. Furthermore with Hal Hartley style he used his absurdness through language rather than what you would see on the screen, so in some of the scenes he used involving 2 couples they would often talk about topics that come out of nowhere, like as if they were being extremely honest that average people wouldn't have the guts to talk about. And with a clip scene of a film called 'Trust', they were trying to prove in a creative way that they love each other and that it wasn't fake love, that they would die for each other by falling off a wall backwards. I think if you're not paying attention to what the characters are talking about then it can be quite boring at times, it's mainly the language that makes Hal Hartley movies powerful, it's not something you can just relax and enjoy, it's something that needs to get your full attention over. Both of these philosophies aren't an Art only thing, Absurd could mean anything, understanding what absurd is, is like understanding what is random.

What I've found to be interesting about the philosophy of the unusual is that it's busiest time of the period happened when facism was on the rise in europe and a lot of artists who were influenced by this philosophy were a really big target to the fascists because they were mentally

strong but physically weak which was the fascist biggest enemy, so a proportion of surrealists were either assassinated or fled their own country.

In conclusion, the four philosophies that I studied were ways of viewing society, and each philosophy views it a different way and therefore creates a different outcome, and seeing how this relates to my work and other filmmakers' work.

### Bibliography:

Here Camus pits himself against science and philosophy, dismissing the claims of all forms of rational analysis: "That universal reason, practical or ethical, that determinism, those categories that explain everything are enough to make a decent man laugh" (Albert Camus, Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, MS, 21).

"The only way to deal with an unfree world is to become so absolutely free that your very existence is an act of rebellion" (Albert Camus, *The Rebel*, 1951).

"Surrealism is based on the belief in the omnipotence of dreams, in the undirected play of thought" (Andre Breton, *British Journal of Photography*, 1924).

"I realize today that nothing in the world is more distasteful to a man than to take the path that leads to himself." (Hermann Hesse, *Demian: Die Geschichte von Emil Sinclairs Jugend*, 1919).

"Should I kill myself, or have a cup of coffee?" (Albert Camus, *A Happy Death*, 1971).