

Mise-en-scene; the element of submerging one into a movie's cinematic world. When we think of mise-en-scene, we picture sets on a stage, music to fit the time period, specific hairstyles or clothing, anything that captures the essence of when and where the story takes place. Curtis Handson and his team went above and beyond when considering mise-en-scene while making *LA Confidential*.

Handson's movie perfectly captures the essence of 50's Hollywood, LAPD's dirty inmates, and even dirtier policemen. From the basic costuming down to books on the shelf in the background of a few scenes, everything was era-accurate. Everything about the movie draws you in, makes you feel like you're catching a glimpse into what city life of the 50s was. The cars on the street, the names of the diners, the storefronts, the people in passing, nothing was out of place. Even the characters held themselves in such a way that how they delivered lines and interacted with one another was capturing.

The language used and with what attitudes is what really made this movie stand out. The actors perfectly captured that underlying aggression that comes with working in such a violent field and how it can seep into their everyday life. A police officer who takes pleasure in saving women from abuse is betrayed one time and suddenly becomes the very thing he hates most; an abuser. Police officer Wendell 'Bud' White's aggression coming out in the form of violence against his lover Lynn Bracken after admitting to her the childhood trauma he carries with him revolving around the abuse of his mother is the most jaw dropping thing about this movie. It absolutely astounds the audience, and with the mix of costumes, language, and scenery, you could've felt you were there in that LA townhouse. It made the film feel *real*.

New limits were created when this movie hit the big screens, Curtis Handson and the writers were visionaries. I can honestly admit this is the first movie I've seen where the characters played such a big part in the mise-en-scene, it was captivating. *LA Confidential* took the standard to a whole new level, and Hollywood has been reaching for it ever since.