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Film Critique 2- *Baby Driver*

I chose to review the movie *Baby Driver* directed by Edgar Wright for critique number two. The movie does an excellent job of not adapting to the norms of typical heist films by making the movie more about him getting out no matter what the consequences are. It is driven by a cast who work well together leading to some surprises along the way. I think the film does a great job at showcasing the importance of editing while supporting a certain feel to the movie.

In his book *Moving Pictures*, Russell Sharman says that “editing is all about balancing the content curve with the needs of the story and intent of the director for the overall rhythm of each scene and the finished film as a whole.” (Sharman 81). The editing in *Baby Driver* makes the film feel more than just a heist movie with some action. From the panning shots when Baby goes to Doc for help from the song choices that Baby chooses during each heist is an important piece of the story that the director and editor incorporate that make it feel important to the viewers as well. It advances the story in ways that you wouldn’t think and adds to the characters. The continuity is one of the important things that the film just gets right.

Director Edgar Wright and editor Paul Machliss used the music in the film to their advantages. The songs add to the opening sequence when Baby is doing the first heist we see. Paul Machliss does a great job of using the music to guide where the camera is going to cut and makes sure that it is on the beat as well. In a behind the scenes with *The Hollywood*

Reporter, Machliss said “the most enjoyable aspect — how one informed the other. The shots had to work for the edit as much as the edit had to work for the shots. And it’s interesting photographically, but it always pushes the story forward. That was a testament to Edgar’s work.” (Giardina). Overall, the film is edited in a cohesive story thanks to the cooperation between the director and the editor who crafted a film that avoids falling into the tropes of a genre and succeeds more than you could imagine.

Works Cited

Giardina, Carolyn, and Carolyn Giardina. "Behind the Scenes of Editing "Baby Driver."” The Hollywood Reporter, 27 Dec. 2017,
www.hollywoodreporter.com/movies/movie-news/behind-scenes-editing-baby-driver-1070463/

Sharman, Russell Leigh. *Moving Pictures: An Introduction to Cinema*. University of Arkansas, 2020.