

Jewelry and Accessories on Screen by Clare Lauren Kelly

So this is going to be a really random little essay blurb, that was inspired by a movie that I watched recently which I am not going to name because for the most part I really did not like the movie and didn't understand the point of it. It was meant to be a comedy and while there were some funny moments, I feel like some of them were only funny to me because of my strange and somewhat dark sense of humor. Otherwise, a lot of the humor just didn't work for me, it felt too over the top most of the time, and very much what a group of middle or high school boys would find hilarious. Now I'm not saying there is anything wrong with that type of humor, I'm simply saying it isn't really for me and also just with the movie I felt like they were trying too hard to do something and it just wasn't working for me.

Now the reason I watched it in the first place was I was bored, and there is an actor in it that I enjoy who was playing a criminal, and this actor has played other criminal or "evil" characters in the past and I feel like he does well with them. Now the character was a little silly at times, as it is a comedy movie and there wasn't much that we were meant to take seriously as the characters were not taking things very seriously for the most part. That didn't matter too much to me, I feel like he was actually done well with his dialogue, the ways he was supposed to be funny and how his character was played. One thing that I really loved about the character though, along with his henchmen, is that there were some really cool tattoos and jewelry.

I am a jewelry person, I like rings, bracelets, earrings, necklaces and more, and normally I wear a lot of rings daily along with two necklaces and two bracelets, plus my watch. I also have some tattoos on my arms, some of which are more visible than others since short sleeves don't cover them, but it adds to how I look and what other people will notice about me. With this character in the movie, he had a decent amount of tattoos and wore a variety of jewelry, and while in some cases it might have been considered over the top, it worked for this character with each added bit of jewelry or his accessories playing some part in what the audience thought about him.

While he may not have had the most screen time, he was still more interesting than almost all of the main characters to me, and his jewelry and so on played a bit part in that, same with the characters that were his henchmen. There were three main henchmen characters that

were almost always there when he was on screen, and the other henchmen we see also had various necklaces, rings and bracelets that just added some bling to the scenes that wasn't over the top or randomly added, it all felt fitting. Some of them had more tattoos than the others and some of them had more jewelry, but it all was cool and felt right for their characters. None of them had as much jewelry as the main criminal character that we saw for most of the time, though one of them did seem to have more tattoos.

Or, the jewelry and other accessories just gave you a bit of a sense of the character's style, maybe a little bit of insight into what his personality might be like. Some examples are the mini fixed blade knife earring in one ear, the five different necklaces that were laid over each other with different types of chains, various rings and silver bracelets, or the added bling on some of his teeth that would catch the light as he talked. Took me a moment to realize that he had some metal on some of his teeth, I had to pause the movie when he was smiling to confirm that I wasn't going crazy, and that the light was really reflecting off something inside his mouth. It was clear that he wasn't wearing braces, so it caught me off guard and then my brain decided that I just had to know what it was, and honestly those bits of metal on his teeth added a lot of the performance in my mind which I didn't really expect.

The metal bling made his canine teeth more pronounced since they were the ones with the metal on them, and when he smiled at someone I felt like my eyes were naturally being drawn to the sharper canines in his mouth, which could have been meant to make his character seem more dangerous. There were several times in the film where he was laughing at something or someone, and when he was laughing if the camera was in front of him you got a really good look at the teeth which was cool for me.

Now I feel like I might go down some strong rabbit hole of adding metal to your teeth for fashion or something like that, or I'm going to end us with a character in one of my short stories that also has metal in his mouth in some way. Which might be fun to play around with and write into the plot somehow, give a reason for it to be there like with Bullet Tooth Tony in the film *Snatch* who earned his nickname after being shot six times and surviving, then had the bullets molded into gold with some placed directly into his teeth. Something like that would be pretty cool. Whatever the intention though, the metal on this character's canine teeth was cool. And a

good distraction from how uncomfortable and awkward the actual movie was making me feel at times. I feel like I was focusing more on the tattoos and jewelry than I normally would because of how weird I was feeling about the movie and the plot, and I'm the kind of person that once I start something, once I've started watching a film or episode, I need to finish it.

Each bit of jewelry and each tattoo was deliberate, and there is a part of me that is curious how much of the jewelry and tattoos were the actors idea and how much of it was the props and costumes department deciding what the character should look like. I do need to say, there was a lot of strange clothing in this movie, like clothes that were outdated and meant to be outdated when the character wore them, and there were times the clothing and other factors led to misunderstandings. That was funny at times, but also it could just be weird or uncomfortable depending on the joke that they were trying to pull off.

One thing that bothered me that doesn't have anything to do with the jewelry and stuff, is that the drug dealers, the criminals that we saw as the main antagonists essentially, had basically no moments on screen where they were fighting or showing that they were dangerous. They didn't have any moments where they backed up the threats that they made, whether they were verbal or with their physicality. There are fight scenes in the movie, but it is with the main character fighting someone or multiple people for a battle scene that is meant to be more comedy on top of what they are already trying to do for laughs. The fights were ridiculous and over the top, not meant to be taken seriously. I would have liked to see some of the drug dealers doing some fighting or threatening with more than just their words, no matter how casually the threats were said like they were a normal part of the characters day.

To close this random little essay, I have always enjoyed the little accessories, jewelry, tattoos and scars characters are given in shows and films, because I have always felt like they add to the character. Makes them more realistic in my mind since I am someone who wears a lot of jewelry that can tell someone a lot about me if they just take the time to look and ask me. I definitely recommend to those reading this, to try and pay a little more attention to the smaller details in shows and films when they watch something to look at the jewelry the characters wear, and how it might add to them or give you some hints as to what kind of person they might be. Or just to distract you from how bad whatever you're watching is.