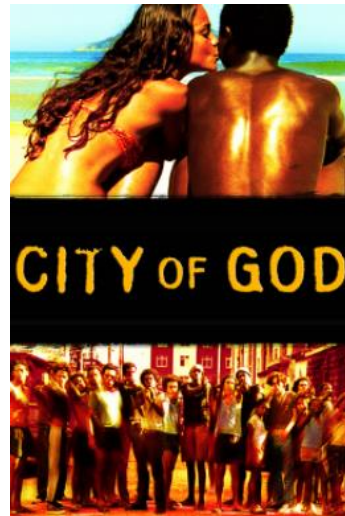


# *City of God*

(Meirelles, Brazil, 2002)



Viewing booklet

## 'The Flying Chicken' opening scene and credits

**Editing**

What is the impact of the editing from the outset?

**Sound**

What mood/atmosphere does the sound create?

**Cinematography**

How are the audience first introduced to Rocket? Consider the mise-en-scene

How are the audience first introduced to L'il Ze? What are we encouraged to feel about him?

Key themes:

# The first standoff

Mise-en-scene

Dialogue

Cinematography

Editing

How is L'il Ze represented?

Comment on the pace of the scene? How does that impact our reading?

What is the effect of the voice over?

How is the environment represented?

Key themes:

# The Sixties – The Story of the Tender Trio

Mise-en-scene/cinematography

Sound/Dialogue

Colour palette

Contextual links:

How does the voice over juxtapose the action?

What are our first impressions of Dice (L'il Ze)? How is this constructed?

How is the environment represented?

What aesthetic is created in this scene? How?

Key themes:

## The Sixties – The Story of the Tender Trio (gas truck)

Mise-en-scene

Cinematography

Editing

How are the police represented?

How are the audience encouraged to feel about The Tender Trio?

Political links (how do The Tender Trio reflect the emerging left wing Government of the time?):

Key themes:

## The Sixties – The motel massacre

**Dialogue**

**Editing**

**Set/location**

**Cinematography**

Why might Dice have suggested the hold-up at the motel?

What is the importance of religion here?

How is masculinity represented in this scene?

Why the change of pace at the end of the scene?

How does the scene reflect the social and economic context of Brazil?

Key themes:

## The Sixties – The massacre aftermath

Mise-en-scene

Editing

How does the voice over serve as a narrative device?

How are the police represented?

Contextual links:

Key themes:

## The Sixties – Bernice

Cinematography

Dialogue

How is Bernice represented?

How is the role of the female presented?

# The Seventies

Mise-en-scene

Sound

Colour palette

How has the slum changed?

The camera is recurring aesthetic motif – what role does it play in this scene?

Why use the beach as a location?

Contextual links – how is Rocket's camera reflective of *cinema novo*?

Key themes:



# The Story of the Apartment

Mise-en-scene

Cinematography

Editing

How does the camerawork differ in this scene? Why?

How is editing used as a narrative device in this scene?

What is the role of the audience here and how does that differ from the rest of the film?

What is the purpose of the voice-over here?

Key themes:

# The Story of Li'l Ze

Mise-en-scene

Sound

Editing

How is Li'l Ze represented?

What is the effect of his laughter on the audience?

How is cinematography used to construct Li'l Ze?

Key themes:

Contextual links:

# The Runts

Mise-en-scene

Sound

Cinematography

How are the runts initially represented?

How are the audience encouraged to feel throughout the scene? How is an emotional/visceral reaction created?

How does this represent a shift in Li'l Ze's character?

Key themes:

Contextual links:

## The Nightclub – Benny's Farewell

Mise-en-scene

Sound

Editing

Cinematography

How is Angelica represented throughout? How does the scene in the bedroom contrast with the nightclub?

How is lighting and editing used together to represent the shooting?

Why might the songs have been chosen for the scene?

What insight do we get into Li'l Ze here? What might his motivation for violence be?

Key themes:

## The assault on Knockout Ned, his girlfriend and his family

**Cinematography**

**Editing**

**Mise-en-scene**

**Sound**

How is editing used to heighten the tension in the rape scene?

How are the audience positioned to feel?

How is masculinity represented here?

How is sound used?

How do these events set Knockout Ned on a different path? How is his motivation differ from that of Li'l Ze?

Key themes:

## Rocket as reporter

Mise-en-scene

Editing

Sound

Why is it important that Rocket becomes a reporter?

Why is the camera motif so important here in relation to Li'l Ze? Why is he not angry when the photos appear in the paper?

Why does Marina's apartment play an important role?

Contextual links – how is Rocket a symbol of Brazil?

Key themes:

# The Beginning of the End

Mise-en-scene

Cinematography

Sound

Editing

Key themes:

Contextual links - discuss the camera in relation to the filmmakers vision