

THE WOMEN IN THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR WORKSHOP
MAIN SCENE PREP NOTES

DIRECTOR:	ANNE KMETYKO
MAIN SCENE TITLE:	MEET UP
AS OF DATE:	January 4 th , 2013
SCENE DESCRIPTION:	
<p>Gabriel, a veteran journalist who covers international conflicts return to his hometown of Montréal when his younger brother Jordan is brutally murdered on a downtown street.</p> <p>For the first time, Gabriel meets his brother girlfriend Vivian. She is young and pregnant and carrying Jordan's baby. He meets with her to learn more about his brother and discuss what her plans will be now. This first meeting takes place in an old "vintage" style greasy spoon.</p>	
LOCATION WITHIN THE NARRATIVE: (what happens just before and just after this scene)	
<p>Just Before: Gabriel has just returned to Montréal in the last 24 hours. He is staying with his sister Natalie, who is the middle child in their family. Natalie has been the main caregiver for their father for several years and was somewhat close to Jordan.</p> <p>In the scene just before, Gabriel learns from Natalie about Jordan's girlfriend. He contacts Vivian and asks to meet with her. He is still a bit jet lagged, not sleeping well and a bit shook up by everything.</p> <p>The next morning, they meet at "Le Club Sandwich". It's been over a week since Jordan's murder and several days still before the memorial. Gabriel wants to discuss what happened before and since Jordan's death and what she will do now.</p> <p>Just After: Gabriel and Vivian leave together they head to visit Natalie back at her apartment.</p>	
CHARACTER BIOS	
Character #1 Gabriel:	<p>Early thirties, tall and slim, in good physical shape. His family is French Canadian, but he has no accent at all. He is a photojournalist who covers international conflicts. He moved away from Montréal 10 years ago, and is estranged from his family, which now consists of his sister and his father. He has had issues with alcohol/dope in the past.</p>
Character #2 Vivian:	<p>Early twenties, an Anglophone. She is not shy. Outspoken about her ideas, she's pretty and knows it. She works part time at the box office for a XXX Cinéma L'Amour in the Plateau neighbourhood while pursuing her studies.</p> <p>Jordan, her boyfriend has just been killed in a random act of urban violence in the streets of downtown Montréal. She is five months pregnant. She has a bit of a bohemian Grunge looks to her. Her mom is a single parent, and a recovering drug addict.</p>
Character #3 Waitress	<p>Early twenties, sharp tongued, with several years of experience as a waitress. She's seen it all. She attended the same high school as Gabriel. Likes to wear tight fitting clothing to show off her curves.</p>

MOOD and TONE:

A feeling of lingering nostalgia permeates this story and this film. Nostalgia for the past, lost and gone but not forgotten.

The feeling is retro in the greasy spoon restaurant. The mood is one I would call "Post-American" realism.

The tone seems at first to start light but quickly moves into a more heavy and emotional tone. Ending on a positive and hopeful conclusion.

The mood is positive in the beginning, moving to negative in the middle, with despair and doubt and then more neutral and by the end of this scene there is an opening for some sense of hope.

This is a story/film where the people characters are dissatisfied with their circumstances, with life, where everything isn't beautiful. And yet.... Something is out there, Hope it may only be a glimmer, and it's not too far and it can be reached.

LOCATION /SETTING:

Located in downtown Montréal, this neighbourhood greasy spoon is somewhat vintage in it's look. The place has been around for over 30 years and not much has changed inside those walls over the years. The place has a worn in feel.

Fries, Burgers, and Coca Cola are the main staple, little Juke Boxes at the tables, Heinz ketchup on the tables. Bottomless cups of coffee are served till late at night.

Although the restaurant is starting up for the day, there would be few some late night partygoers still lingering.

SEASON / WEATHER / TIME OF DAY:

It's morning, in the first week of July, right after Canada Day. Nice, balmy warm summer weather. The sun shines in brightly through the windows, creating contrast with light and shadows.

VISUAL STYLES / IMAGES:

The visual influences for me for this project are several. The cinematography of Roger Deakins (No Country for Old Men, True Grit, In the Valley of Elah, The Company of Men, Skyfall) and Rodrigo Prieto (Babel, Brokeback Mountain, Argo). I would like to capture a bit of the look of the films of the 70's in the colors and the mood with strong bright colours and with predominantly very naturally lighting.

SOUND / MUSIC INSPIRATIONS:

Retro musical of the 70's and Rock and Roll type music plays in the background.

OTHER NOTES (props, wardrobe, special effects, etc.):SET PIECES: A diner counter with stools

A couple of small tables and chairs for atmosphere

A door in a frame for coming and going in and out

Washroom door to Ladie's room for Vivian.

Any type of Neon light, CocaCola signage, Vintage styling etc....

PROPS:

Vivian:

Fairly large purse, gum, Sunglasses

Foam prosthetic insert for 5 month pregnant stomach

MP3 Player with headset or headphones TBD

Scarf

Gabriel:

Leather jacket light coloured, Motorcycle helmet, keys and sunglasses. Watch, Rangefinder type camera if possible, Money.

Waitress

Light coloured or dark shirt or uniform/neutral style of looking top.

Diner

Small bell on the door, various Diner accessories and furnishings, menus, cash register, pay phone? Dishes, soft drinks and coffee etc....