

QUEER SHAME IN TWO LITTLE BOYS SHORT FILM

ABS-ICOLLITE-25038

ELVIA VANIA PUTRI,
UNIVERSITAS PADJADJARAN.

INTRODUCTION

- Queer identity is often seen as something wrong or different in a society that follows heteronormative rules.
- Queer shame doesn't come from inside a person, but is placed on them by social norms (Ahmed, 2004).
- This feeling of shame affects how queer people see themselves and how they move through the world (Ahmed, 2006).
- Many films show homonormative stories that ask queer people to look “normal” so they can be accepted (Gaffney, 2022).

LITERATURE REVIEW

Queer shame is not an internal emotional failure, but rather a socially produced affect embedded in queer bodies through dominant heteronormative norms (Ahmed, 2004). These norms regulate which desires are valid and which lives are worth living. Ahmed (2006) further theorizes this through queer phenomenology, showing how queer bodies experience disorientation in a world designed for straightness.

Kevin Gaffney (2022) contributes to this by introducing the concept of the queer camera as a visual resistance to neat, digestible homonormative narratives. Rather than affirming identity, queer cinema can reveal unresolved tension, unspoken shame, and love without place.

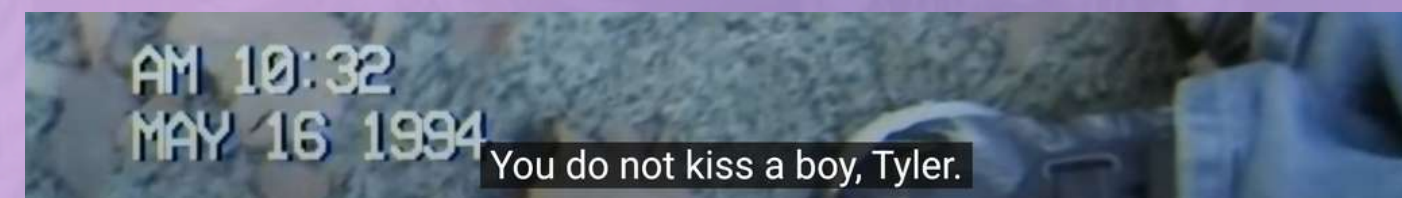
METHOD

Qualitative method with a critical discourse analysis approach.

- Data collection was conducted by repeatedly watching the short film Two Little Boys (2021), identifying key scenes involving emotional and spatial queer disorientation.
- Analytical framework
- Data analysis used visual semiotics and discourse analysis to interpret how queer shame is constructed narratively and visually.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

1. Heteronormative Social Pressure



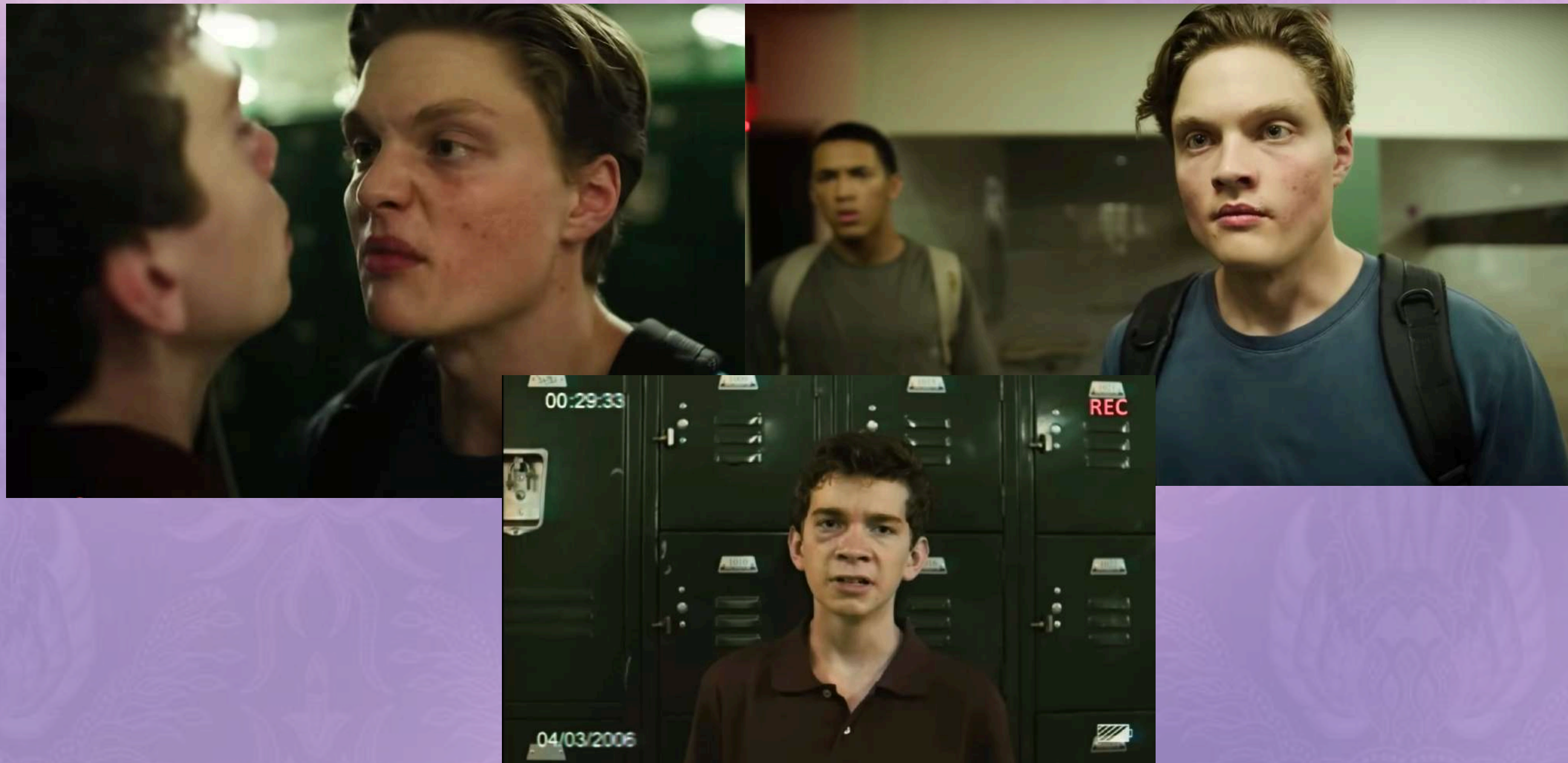
FINDING AND DISCUSSION

2. Queer Bodily Disorientation



FINDING AND DISCUSSION

3. Visual Discomfort and the Queer Camera



CONCLUSION

- The film illustrates that queer shame is constructed through:
 - heteronormative social pressure,
 - bodily disorientation, and
 - visual discomfort representing shame and repression.
- Queer shame is not an internal emotion, but a social product of heteronormative norms.
- The accumulated shame experienced by Tyler turns into violence toward the very object of his affection.
- The queer camera visualizes shame through quiet, ambiguous, and uncomfortable imagery.
- Visual techniques such as static framing, confined spaces, and silent atmospheres intensify the experience of shame.

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THANK YOU!