

21 Grams, directed by Alejandro Innaritu, 2003, 125 minutes

On p. 196, in the section entitled “The Structure Of Human Agency,” concerning Heidegger’s notion of *dasein*, the editors claim that “This conception of the being of the self as defined by concrete agency in the world leads to a way of understanding action that is quite different from traditional conceptions of human agency.” Please explain what the editors mean and then use as examples the three main characters in the film 21 Grams. Each character undergoes a radically change in their conception of themselves. For each of these three characters, outline who they are before and after the tragic event. Concerning their transformations after the event, outline the different paths of actions that are outlined to them by their friends and family and outline which paths of actions each performs. Illustrate how for each character that this latter path of action is not simply a path taken by their same former self, but how it constitutes a radically different self.

Fade, directed by Christopher Beer, 2006, 70 minutes

1. What are your impressions of the film concerning how it was shot?
2. What apparent existentialist themes do you see in this film?
3. Do you think the message of the film is influenced by the following “casting” decisions? (a) the main character is a person of color; (b) in the outside world, the only person Chloe meets is dressed in a burdensome, protective gear; (c) the leader is a small child.
4. How would you characterize the distinction between the “underground city” and ‘it,’ i.e., the outside world.
5. In an article on the premiere of this film, the director is quoted as saying "I've noticed some people get it, and some people really get it. And some people just get lost." Which best describes your reaction and why?

Please send your answers to Fade also to Christopher Beer at chrisbeer13@msn.com