How does the Director of Rise of the Planet of the Apes create a sense of Empathy for the Apes through the use of camera angles and sound?

 Red is the device

Blue is the message.

Green is Audience.

Orange is Theory.

The film Rise of the Planet of the Apes is a sci-fi action film set in modern time where a Chimpanzee named Caesar (Andy Serkis) with human-like intelligence and he inherited from his Mother when he was born and he is brought up for 8 years by Will Rodman (James Franco) a scientist on the brink of making a cure for Alzheimer’s the film was made by the production company 20th century fox and directed by Rupert Wyatt in this analyses I will be analysing the opening scene.

At the start of the film there is establishing shot this puts the audience into a god like position. This symbolizes that human beings have been put into a powerful position over the Apes and other animals because it sets up the end of the movie where the Apes finally take over. Humanity see themselves as the dominate and powerful species on the planet.

The diegetic sound at the start of the scene is peaceful it contains the diegetic sound of bird calls. This adds to the audience’s sense of isolation. This peaceful sound at the start of the scene is juxtaposed with the chaotic noise of humans shouting. The ‘unnatural’ and unexpected diegetic noise emphasises the fact that humans are invading a peaceful place.

Also at start there is a long shot of the Apes together this could reflect that they are a family. The director shows them in this type of way to show that they have a good relationship with each other and humanises them in the eyes of the audience. It also adds to the impact when the other Apes are captured. It also shows to the audience that the Apes have a similar way of life and that they need the basic needs in life.

As the Poachers start chasing the Apes the audience are thrown in the Apes perspective when the camera angle is at the same eye level as the Apes this shows that Humans are still a powerful species on the planet. This creates chaos which is another binary opposition because there is a sense of animal versus human.

The close up of the apes screaming shows that Apes fear humans it shows to the Audience that they are frightened and scared. The point of view shot from the Apes perspective shows to the audience that it is being captured because the shot includes Poachers running at the Ape with a net. This makes the audience empathise for the Ape. A Low angle shot is also manipulated because normally the low angle shot looks up to give character power. This shot is manipulated because the director uses this shot to show that the Ape is now powerless because it has been put in a box and this creates the binary opposition of isolation versus freedom because the Ape has being taken away from the rest of the Apes that are still free in the Jungle.

The camera zooms into the Ape’s iris this shows to the audience that there is no hope for the Ape. After a brief moment of darkness which creates an enigma for the audience that leaves us wondering what has happened to the Ape. The non-diegetic sound is a slow drum beat it symbolizes that something bad is going to happen to ape. The diegetic sound of the Ape screaming shows that the Ape is terrified this also heightens empathy for the Ape.

The diegetic sound at the start of the scene chaotic because it got has got the humans shouting clashed with the confusion of the Apes screaming the non-diegetic sound is fading in and as the scene progress the non-diegetic sound turns to a more happy sound because the Ape is in a lab and it is juxtaposed with the Ape locked in a lab doing a puzzle which is a scientific brake through.

The camera zooms out from the Ape’s iris and the iris has changed colour. Once again this creates another enigma for the audience because they wonder why the Ape’s iris has changed. The change in colour could be symbolic of the ape being corrupted by science.

The audience find the Ape in a laboratory being observed by scientist. This scene mirrors the previous shot of the Ape being trapped in a box because it is still captured and not exactly free. This creates a disequilibrium because it challenges science versus nature and the audience suspect that something is out of balance. The Ape is also doing a logical test something that not normal for an Ape. The idea of science taming nature is echoes themes from within our society as we attempt to cure diseases.

A medium shot of the Ape with a collar around the neck this shows that the Ape is imprisoned and a slave. This adds to the inhumanity of using science to tame nature and plays with the audience’s emotions because it makes them think about how we treat animals. The Over the shoulder shot reveals the contrasting clinical setting of the lab of the scientists to a luxury office showing the humans power and greed. The contrast making us feels sympathy for the captive apes foreshadowing the end of the film where humanity loses their power to the Apes.

The non-diegetic sound effect has a more mysterious tone. This adds up to the enigma that has been created and this heightens that the Audience suspect something is out of balance and the clinical setting of the lab. This sound is also a transition the previous shot to get across time has changed and the setting and heightens and keeps the audience active and not passive because they want to understand what has happened in the gap in that space of time.

The Over the shoulder shot in the board meeting when the character Will says through diegetic dialogue “meet chimp 9” this shows that Will has no respect for the Apes further dehumanises them because it has got a number not a name it shows that the scientist do not have respect for them, they are just experiments. But some of the scientist does give them names that are humanising them because the Vet calls the Ape “bright-eyed”. This make the Audience see why the Apes are important in the lab.

The long shot of Ape lying on the table dying shows that the Ape was sacrificing herself to protect something. The glass shattered with a human Mother and Child symbolizes that the Ape has lost something dear to her this could also add to the audience’s emotions that the Ape is dying.

The non-diegetic sound adds to the dramatic irony that the Ape is dying because the Humans see it as a threat when it only wanted to protect its baby it also calms the chaotic score from the previous couple of shots where the Ape escaped because it got the Audience hyped up.

The close up of the baby Ape Subverts the audience expectations that the captured Ape (chimp 9) was the lead protagonist. The death of ‘chimp 9’ can be seen as horrific to the audience as the child ape is left alone and orphaned. Non-diegetic sound is juxtaposed because the Non-diegetic symbolizes that it is sad that the baby ape might be put down but it is also good because the baby ape might of been corrupted by science. The Non-diegetic sound impacts the audience because it mirrors the other shot where the Mother dies because the audience want the baby to live.