“Dreams are My Reality”: The Duality in Christopher Nolan’s *Inception*

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Spoilers
Big Picture

• Where do our ideas come from?
• Does this change who we are?
• What are the moral implications of influencing someone’s thoughts and decisions?
What is a Heist Movie?

- Ensemble cast
- Three acts
  - Before
  - During
  - After
Characters

• Allow Us to Root for the Heist to Succeed
• Allow Us to Relate to the Fantastical
Mise-en-Scène: Production Design

• Recurring & Distinctive Sets:
Mise-en-Scène: Production Design

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• Style:
Mise-en-Scène: Production Design

• Makes it Look Good
• Keeps Us in the Story
• Still Plays with the Possibilities of the Dream World
Mise-en-Scène: Costume
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• Characterizes
• Distinguishes One from Another
Mise-en-Scène: Totems
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Mise-en-Scène: Totems

• For Characters: Differentiates Dream and Reality
• For Audience: Blurs the Line
Cinematography: Lighting
Cinematography: Lighting

• Questions the Characters’ Morality
• Echoes Guilt
Editing: Time
Editing: Memory
Editing

• Confuses the Audience Temporarily
• Puts Thoughts in the Back of the Mind to Make Sense Later
Score
Score

- Motifs
- Builds Suspense
So What?

- Makes Us Question Our Thoughts
- Classic Heist Film ➔ Coming-of-Age
- Are We Completely Responsible for the Decisions We Make?
Time to Wake Up