



Alamein



Describe Character

Alamein is the father of two sons; Boy and Rocky whom he has never spent actual quality time with until he was released from jail after robbing a gas station, he is a wannabe gang member and is the leader of the gang called “Crazy Horses” which only has 3 members; Chuppa, Juju and Alamein himself. Being the “leader” of the gang, he treats his members harshly with no respect whatsoever, resulting to them leaving the gang in the end.

Alamein has been an absent and neglectful father throughout the lives of both Boy and Rocky an example being, not being present when Rocky was born which lead to the death of his wife. In the film, Alamein is seen as a selfish character who only had eyes for money, drugs and alcohol and only cared for the things that benefited him. He struggles to form a proper fatherly-son relationship with his sons, especially Rocky, because he was basically the cause of his wife’s death as well as not being able to take proper responsibility of the boys. He also ends up being a bad influence on Boy which results in the loss of his innocence. Alamein was not a father that the boys could look up to and was the embodiment of toxic masculinity.

Events that show qualities of character

- The events showcased in 'Boy' that express the qualities of Alamein was when Alamein had returned home and talked to his mother on the phone, he asked for some money but his mother refused, so to show he deserved the money he would show how capable he was of being a father to his two kids. In reality Alamein wasn't interested in forming a relationship with his sons.
- Another example of Alamein showing his qualities was when Alamein had encouraged Boy to drink beer, stirring him in the direction of Boy losing his innocence more and more. Boy looked up to Alamein as a hero so therefore it was relatively easy for Alamein to have an extensive amount of control over Boy's actions. This is a type of dysfunctional relationship because Alamein ran away from his home away from his sons and avoided taking responsibility for Rocky and Boy. This outlines the weak bond Alamein has with his children.
- Drugs and alcohol took a toll on how Alamein acted throughout the movie, he motivated Boy to try beer and smoke weed. This also factored in when Boy took weed and showed his dad, Alamein didn't stop this act instead he influenced Boy to steal weed for Alamein's benefit.

Techniques



This is a mid angle shot of Alamein, it shows Alamein from the knee's up. In the shot he has come home from prison with “presents” for Boy and his younger brother Rocky. Natural lighting with slight warm tones are included in the scene.



This is a mid angle shot of Alamein getting into a car that is not his as he is getting into the car from the window instead of the door after dropping Boy off to hang out with his friends who are seen in the back, this creates a comedic and awkward scene. The lighting in this shot is natural.



This is a wide angle shot of Alamein with Holden and Kingi, it shows Alamein pinning Holden who is the older brother up against a tree as a way to threaten him, which is an example of him trying to act like a “good dad”. This shot also looks awkward because Kingi just stands there looking at them the whole time.

How do we relate to the characters or how it relates to society

Throughout the movie there are many factors with play along with societal issues. Drugs and alcohol being one. Alamein is shown using substances such as weed and alcohol. This plays into society because many adults including parents abuse the power of drugs and alcohol without thinking about their children's well-being. Toxic masculinity was shown various times in the movie, it was shown when the presence of Boy and Rocky's mother was absent, that's when it was informed their mother had passed away from giving birth to Rocky. Alamein did not grieve the death of his partner because of the idea that men can not cry nor show any saddening emotions. It's shown that Alamein had tattoos on both his knuckles showing the words "Love and Hate", this was to express fighting. For men, especially in New Zealand, this was a way of expressing emotions. Fighting was violent and was seen as a male being tough. It was a standard that most of society believed that men being vulnerable was them being too soft. Boy was an orphan and was living with his Nan. Alamein had never been there for his children nor did he take any responsibility in caring for his sons. Boy and his family is also an example of those who live on the "Fringes of society" as he family was poor or living in poverty and boy himself was an orphan. Abandonment was shown in the film as we see Boy taking care of his cousins and his brother, he did not have a father figure or a parent to rely on even though his dad was still very much alive. Many children are placed into the foster care system and most of whom are Maori. Boy and Rocky was fortunate to have a Nan to take care of him though they didn't have their father to take full responsibility for them. The way Alamein did not want any part in his sons lives, influenced Boy to lose his innocence, we can see after Alamein had left, Boy smoked a cigarette and drank beer.