**Luc Besson- Auteur’s style**

**Auteur’s style:**

“The auteur theory…holds that the director, who oversees all audio and visual elements of the motion picture, is more to be considered the “author” of the movie than is the writer of the [screenplay](https://www.britannica.com/art/screenplay). In other words, such fundamental visual elements as camera placement, blocking, lighting, and scene length, rather than plot line, convey the message of the film. Supporters of the auteur theory further contend that the most cinematically successful films will bear **the unmistakable personal stamp of the director**.”

<https://www.britannica.com/art/auteur-theory>

**Cinéma du look** was a [French film](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French_film) movement of the 1980s. It classified, [Jean-Jacques Beineix](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jean-Jacques_Beineix) and [Leos Carax](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leos_Carax) as directors of "le look." “These directors were said to favor style over substance, spectacle over narrative.It referred to films that had a slick, gorgeous visual style.”

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cin%C3%A9ma_du_look>

**Luc Besson’s Auteur style**

**Author and film critic, Stuart Fernie** has identified the following characteristics across Luc Besson’s film-making.

<http://www.stuartfernie.com/besson.html>

**Characters:**

* The principal/main characters in Luc Besson’s films often are “loners or outcasts from society.” Outsiders.
* They do not fit easily into the conformist (accepted or established way of doing things) society that is the experience of the majority of citizens
* Principal/main characters (in spite of appearances) often show "integrity" in their corrupt world.
* Actions of principal/main characters are extreme because they want to bring “greater clarity” to their environment.
* The principal/main character is a direct contrast to the dysfunctional authorities in their environment.
* The personal experience of principal/main characters and their growth in their environment is explored in depth.
* Those in authority are “portrayed as ruthless but dedicated to their task.” “They have complete blind faith in the sanctity of their mission
* Authorities are often dysfunctional and ineffective; go through the same motions every day “knowing that they make little real difference to society and its problems.”
* At worst, the “authorities are often young, mindless, and over-confident” believing that they are doing good and “playing the part of the protectors of society.”
* Principal characters appear to develop and grow, the societies in which they evolve appear to deteriorate and decay (morally).

**Setting:**

* Settings are extreme and outside the experience of most.
* The settings presented are often “dark and uncertain places where conventional views of what is right and wrong are challenged” and indeed principal characters (in spite of appearances) show any real "integrity"
* Settings are extreme
* The viewer is often led below the surface of society to see a more distasteful reality.

**Theme/Ideas**

* Conflict between principal characters and the world in which they live.
* Doesn’t always provide answers
* Personal growth and development
* Love promotes personal growth and discovery of one’s true self
* Questions a society’s morality
* The nature and importance of freedom
* Existentialism (we choose who we want to become)