

# COILOUTUR

in Alfred Hitchcock's *Vertigo* (1958)



suspicion

go

Green

mystery

superstition

eerie





# Green

- Green is typically associated with disillusion and unusual images
- Hitchcock highlights this disillusion by placing Judy in a green mist (see bottom picture)



# GREEN

The colour green is seen many times throughout Vertigo, this is a technique. On the stage green represents ghosts. Madeleine is a 'ghost' and is often scene in green, so is the car, dresses, stones etc.

This turns out to be an illusion though. The green haze that surrounds the 'resurrected' Madeleine supports the reading of the sequence as a fantasy.



passion

stop

fear

Red

blood

danger

A close-up, high-contrast image of a woman's eye, likely from the movie 'Vertigo'. The eye is heavily shadowed, and the iris is a deep, dark red, suggesting she is wearing red contact lenses. The word 'VERTIGO' is superimposed over the center of the eye in a white, outlined, serif font. The overall color palette is dominated by dark reds and blacks, creating a moody and intense atmosphere.

**VERTIGO**







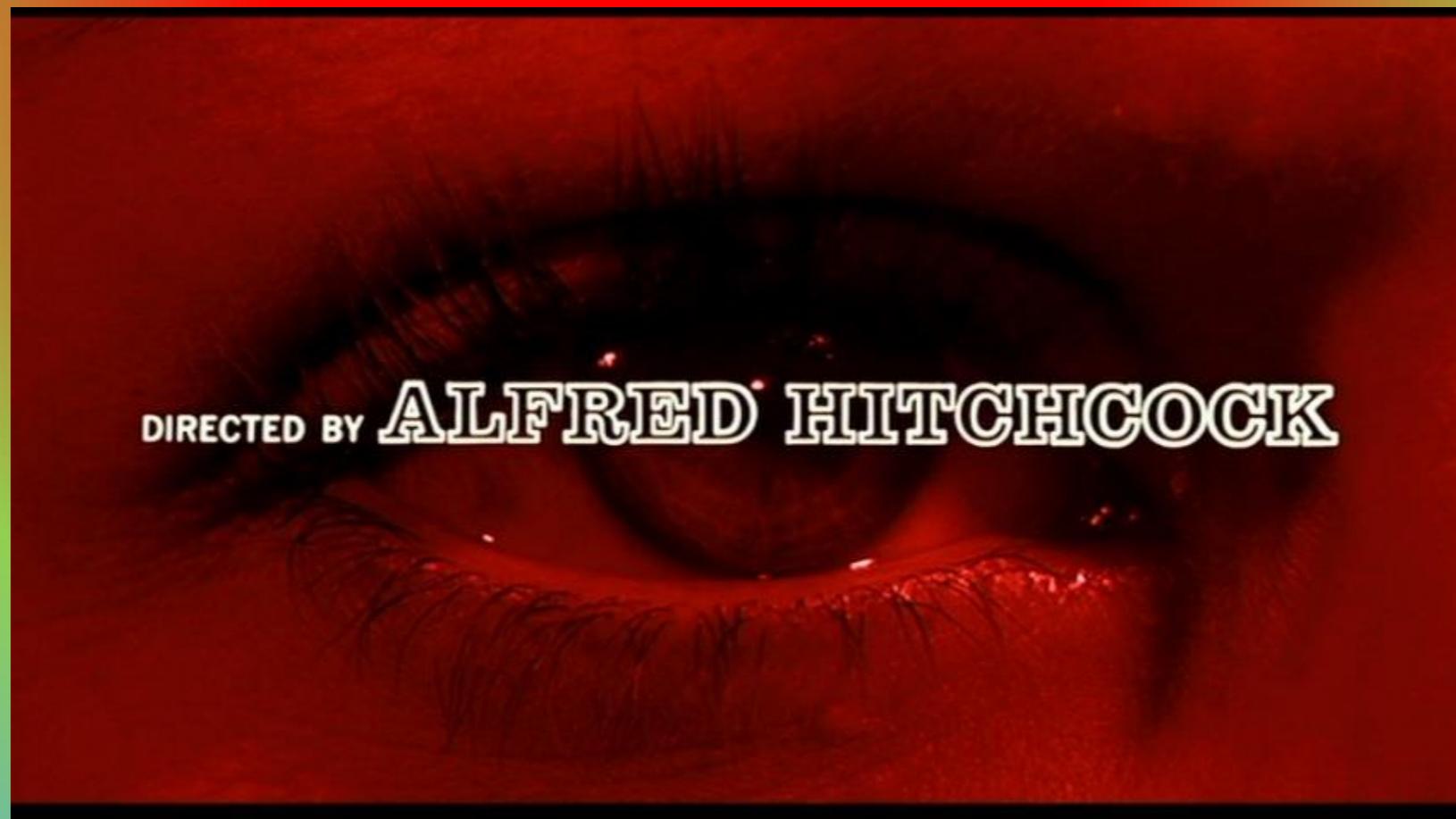
# Red

- Hitchcock predominantly uses red to symbolise, passion, desire, tension and of course, danger
- For example (bottom picture) Hitchcock uses a red overlay to increase tension during graveyard scene



# RED

The colour red is associated with Scottie's vertigo and thus a sense of danger. Uses of the colour include the title in the opening credits; Scottie's nightmare of an open grave, and red roses in his room during his breakdown.



# Red vs. Green



- Possibly the most obvious use of colour by Hitchcock in Vertigo is the polarisation of Red & Green
- Green is also placed opposite to red on the colour chart; Hitchcock makes advantage of this by arranging his composition through so that red & green clash against each other



- A key example: the first sequence in Scottie's flat shows Scottie in green whilst Madeleine in red. The scene is full of deception, illusion, danger and passion





Both Madeleine and Judy are associated by green, emphasising their link and suggesting that neither is quite what Scottie thinks they are





Colour both links and  
differentiates the  
character' two  
personalities

Note the polka dots  
that simultaneously  
link and separate  
the two



# YELLOW

Midge, the character created to represent an alternative of "reality" for Scottie, first appears in a yellow outfit in her yellow apartment.

Yellow seems to be offering stability but its subdued tone suggests dullness.

Her costume colour shifts to a red-orange in the scene where she paints herself into the portrait, suggesting her attempt to attract Scottie's passion is weak compared to the bright red associated with Madeleine in Scottie's dressing gown.



# Blue



Blue is associated with Scottie's guilt or failure – notably in the opening scene where he is first traumatised.

Scottie wears blue in two further scenes where his sense of masculine identity is directly challenged:



His first meeting with Elster



The tribunal, where the judge criticises his failure

We return to blue in the final image, which echoes the trauma of the opening scene



Finally, James Stewart's piercing blue eyes link to the theme of seeing, appearance and comprehending

