

Christopher Nolan's "Memento" (2000) is an earlier film that's definitely worth watching.

The central theme of the movie is revenge, but the protagonist's condition makes it particularly interesting. The main character suffers from anterograde amnesia due to brain damage.

This condition causes him to forget events that occur after the onset of his illness, losing the ability to form new short-term memories. This type of amnesia was first identified in 1957 in a patient known as H.M., who, despite normal intelligence and expressive abilities, couldn't learn new words or about new things. Such patients often repeat the same questions and forget things told to them just minutes before, constantly "updating" their memory but unable to retain it.

Thus, in the film, the protagonist relies on photos, notes, and tattooed messages as a form of memo to himself, using these fragmented memories to piece together the "reality" of events. However, the question arises: is the reality reconstructed from these external pieces of information truly the "truth" he seeks?

Nolan's editing brilliantly conveys the protagonist's chaotic psychological state and the actual dilemma faced by those suffering from this disorder—fragmented and disordered memory.

I won't delve into the finer details of the plot here; please refer to the analysis provided:

<https://screenrant.com/memento-timeline-ending-leonard-sammy-explained/>

Movie strengths: A suspense film that exercises logical thinking exceptionally well. due to its intertwining narrative of color and black-and-white threads, which is quite intriguing.

Movie weaknesses: In order to lower the viewing threshold, the overall plot may feel somewhat lengthy and less believable. For instance, Teddy had ample opportunities to take the \$200,000 without repeatedly engaging with the protagonist. Even if he did engage, there was no necessity for him to speak so much irrelevant dialogue. Many of these dialogues are actually designed to arrange and draw out the central ideas of the film from the protagonist. For example, during the lunch Teddy arranges for the protagonist midway through, some of their conversations serve this purpose.

While some may argue against films shot in a non-linear fashion, claiming they overly mystify the movie and deprive it of being understood by the majority, or even going so far as to label such filmmaking techniques as heretical, I believe that despite some flaws compared to Nolan's later works, this early film remains remarkably impressive.

Rating: 4/5