

o-club

A fictional television series

1. Concept of the Show

“o-club” is supposed to be a show that at first view is about sex, drugs and partying. However, it primarily deals with the issues of young people in a society they do not fit into. In doing so, it reveals the various struggles of different characters. It gives an insight into diverse kinds of views and ways to define one’s own identity. However, the viewer has to keep watching in order to get under the surface of the show’s assumed superficiality.

The series is about four main characters: Sam, Katy, Christian and Gienna. The concept of the show is that it first seems as though the four main characters have not much in common. Their stories are told separately, and all of them start off as independent narrations. Nonetheless, all of the characters start interacting more and more the longer the show goes on.

Sam is kind of the centre point of the show, through which all the other characters get in contact with each other. He has always been successful at managing his life, was good at school and had a well-paid job. But when his mother died in an accident on her holidays, he fell into a depression. After having spent all his savings and being unwilling to go back into his normal job, he starts to sell drugs. The viewer does not know about his history at the beginning of the show, since he is introduced as a drug dealer who seems to be getting on well in his life. However, he will make some bad deals with the wrong people and end up in trouble. One of these people is Franklin (a supporting character), who one day breaks into Sam’s apartment and only finds his girlfriend, who up to that point had no idea about Sam’s activities as a drug dealer. It’s possible, that later on the show, she will kill Franklin by accident (or maybe even on purpose out of fear for herself and her boyfriend’s life). Sam is kind of living a life as a shadow, since nobody is allowed to know about his life or even his full name, in order to decrease the possibilities of getting in trouble with the police. Due to this, the viewer is not able to get to know him fully, which is why he will always be shown from behind. Later on in the series, Sam will find out that his mother, whose body was never found, is said to be still alive. He will start looking for her with the help of Christian.

Katy, one of the four main characters, is introduced as a woman who seems to have a perfect life, with a nice good-looking boyfriend and a beautiful house. However, she increasingly feels that that is not the life she wants, and most notably, that her body is not the body she wants. She starts struggling with her own identity and after not being able to cope with it anymore, leaves her boyfriend in a rush to go somewhere else. She cuts off her hair somewhere on the road and will somehow meet Gienna, with whom she will have an affair. Thanks to Gienna, she gets in contact with Sam, from whom she starts buying illegal hormones. She later on, in order to save money for a gender reassignment, starts working for Sam selling drugs, too.

Gienna is the youngest one of the characters. She still lives with her mother and goes to art school. However, she cannot really connect with her fellow students and always ends up with older men. She meets Sam when one of her older lovers buys drugs from him and after that ends up with her lover in a hotel room, taking drugs for the first time and getting a self-made tattoo. She starts buying drugs from Sam for parties on the weekends, but will later feel as though they help her to be creative at school, for she is very unconfident when it comes to her art work. Later in the show, she will start getting into trouble when one of her lecturers finds out that she was high during a performance. At some point, Gienna will meet Katy by chance and to her own surprise be attracted to her and start an affair. As to how far she accompanies Katy on her way to becoming a man, is not sure yet. It's possible that Gienna keeps seeing older men, making Katy even more insecure about herself.

Christian, the last main character, is a lawyer and overextended at work. Also, he feels like he cannot tell anyone about his being gay, not even his friends, who are not real friends but mostly colleagues. He meets Sam one night at a Bar, and Sam, who sees Christian sitting depressed and alone acts friendly in order to get a new customer. Christian tries one of Sam's drugs and soon has to realize that going to clubs being high is the only way for him to forget about his work and non-existent social life. He will start having trouble keeping reality and his experiences on drugs apart and, therefore, at some point will lose his job. Sam will pay him to help him to find his presumably dead mother.

The show is called "o-club", since, on one side, this is the name of the club where all the characters frequently meet. Officially, the "o" in the name of the club stands for "orchid". However, it is a club at which it is not only possible to party and take drugs, but also to have sex. So, it can also be assumed, that the "o" can be replaced with "orgasm". Furthermore, the "o" in the title is a reference to opium, or opiates in general, since all the characters can somehow be linked to drugs. In addition to this, "orchid" can be seen as a flower that is special in comparison to other flowers. Somehow, all the characters on the show are different in a way that they do not fit into the norm. They are not plain daisies, so to say. Also, in combination, one could think of defloration. And at some point, all of the characters lose their innocence, if not to say their virginity.

2. Concept of the Trailer

The trailer consists of a "previously on" sequence and the opening credits of the show. It is not the first episode of the show, but it takes place sometime at the beginning. However, it is already expected that viewers know the characters. Therefore, it is not explained who the people are.

The "previously on" starts off very conventionally, using the name of the show and the usual voice-over. The colours of the writing are the colours of the orchid, seen later, in purple and white. After that, there is a sequence of four different stories told in several shots. First, Katy is seen, having trouble with her boyfriend, driving away in a car and cutting off her hair. Afterwards, Christian is having a threesome at the club. Then, the sequence shows Gienna at a hotel room, taking drugs with an unknown person and getting a tattoo. She is also seen in the shower after that night, and it seems as though she is having regrets about what happened. Following that, Franklin is seen getting out of a car and breaking into Sam's flat, where he finds Sam's girlfriend. He kicks her in the head with his shoe. This sequence has no voice-over comments and no dialogues; only music is added to it. The viewers have to either have seen the previous episode or to put the pieces together themselves. This is supposed to trigger

a feeling of having a hangover. After having partied all night, there are often only a couple of pictures left as a memory, but no clear words. One has to make up last night's stories by remembering images. The "previously on" sequence is supposed to be similar to that and kind of like a flashback.

The opening credits, which follow directly after the "previously on" sequence, are basically a collage of many different videos. Partly, they show random people at parties who dance and drink, or people who take drugs. Obviously, this is to illustrate the superficial plot of the show. Also, there are scenes of people kissing, which is not only limited to heterosexual contact, as reference to the show's discussion of sexual orientation and gender issues. In between, Sam can be seen, however, always from behind (as explained earlier). He is the only character that appears in the opening titles, since he is the centre point.

The white and purple orchid is used to frame the opening. At first sight, it explodes. Symbolically, this is the feeling one has on drugs. At the end, it shrivels, to illustrate the feeling of getting sober again, which is always a bit like a flower dying.

At the end of the credits, there is a scene, in which a couple is shown having sex. It is first assumed that the second person is a man. However, by looking into the mirror, the viewer will see the naked body of a woman. This is again a reference to the show's sexual discussion but can also be seen as a loss of reality. The picture the characters see of themselves, when they look into a mirror, might not anymore be the picture they want to see anymore.

The names of the cast are placed over the videos in a very conventional way, in purple and white, again like the colours of the orchid. Each name appears in one of the four corners of the frame, for there are four main characters in the series. The names that were used are all those of actors or artists who starred in or made the videos that were used for this trailer. Only found footage was used, mostly from music videos. The song that was added to the video is called "lonely boy" by the black keys, which refers to Sam living a life as a shadow, and simultaneously to all characters, which do not really fit in and have no solid relationships. The song and the opening end with the line "I got a love that keeps me waiting". This can be seen as reference to all the characters' longings that are not fulfilled.