

THE BEES – “WASH IN THE RAIN”

by Ruben Fleischer

Okay, so I am in full support of the idea of taking The Bees performance in a Let It Be type studio and incorporating graphical elements into the video. I think it would be great to work with the guys who did the album artwork, and try to do a video that evokes the cover of the record.

So first off, here's how I would shoot the performance part... When the song begins, I think we should be close on a guitar being picked. As we watched it being played, the image starts to get a little wavy, like an acid trip or something. We are not sure what it is. Maybe the tv's reception dropped out for a bit? We cut to a wider shot of the full band rocking along in the studio, and we see a fleck of a sign from a slot machine fill a matted space in the frame. These alterations should be really subtle and almost imperceptible. Also, the style should be really organic, and not in any way computer-y. When the band starts singing, we will continue to integrate these animated highlights, hopefully extending some hand drawn cell animation over top of parts of some of our footage. Like during one of the verses, the bassist (in the background) can fade between being hand drawn and live action. The amount that this affects things will continue to subtly build over the course of the video.

At the instrumental break, I think we could potentially transition into a fully animated part that leaves the world of the studio. We could shoot the band on green screen, and film them playing their instruments and rocking out, and then comp them into an illustrated environment. I would like this section of the video to feel real free form and almost trippy. I think that we should draw upon any inspiration we want to include, from Mexican wrestlers, to surf imagery, to Caetano Veloso Brazilian styles, to a fireworks display.

I also think that there is the opportunity to include some really subtle literal references. So, when they sing certain words, we can include them either practically on set, or with an animation. I wouldn't want this to be heavy handed in any way, but instead be an almost bonus aspect, like you got to watch the video six times to even appreciate that we have included these items in the video. And they will only appear in the shot where the line is said. Here are some of the things we could try to incorporate:

- salt & pepper
- a hole
- waves
- pot
- rock

We can also try to maybe use some typography (definitely hand drawn) to try to accentuate some of the lyrics.

Over the course of the video, I think the interior of the room can start to change. I think this should also be introduced subtly and slowly. So, when we begin, the room is a normal studio and pretty barren. But by the end, I would like to see it full of some of the things we see in the album art. Maybe there is a canopy of leaves across the top of the room? Maybe we have placed a few antelopes and other big game animals throughout the studio? Maybe the windows all turn to stained glass with some pretty elaborate designs? Maybe there are some live chickens or owls perched about? So, by the end, the studio has taken on a totally different vibe than when it started, as if The Bees have transformed their environment through the process of playing their song.

Things to consider:

- though I would like to shoot this video on color film (preferably 35mm, but obviously we'll have to wait and see how the budget works out), what if we treat it so it starts out in black and white, and then gradually saturate it, so by the end it is full color? Also, if it is black and white and we add in color elements, they could pop really nicely, as is the case with the album artwork.
- we could shoot some plates of neon and city lights that we could matte in, as in the album artwork.
- what if at the end of the song, it started to rain inside the studio while the band played?
- we might want to avoid the colored background lights, as in the Beatles photos, because that could complicate the animation. A white cyc might be the best way to go.