

Motionhouse

CHARGE

ELECTRIFYING DANCE CIRCUS



SCENE 9: MEMORIES OF PARIS

Questions

What image fades up in the film?

What genre of music is playing? How can you identify it?

What happens to the energy and mood?

What rituals are the couple performing?

Why are they on the raised platforms, and not the floor?

How does the man interact with the film?

What is happening on the opposite platform?

How does the scene end?

SIGNIFIERS	DESCRIPTION	EFFECTS
VISUALS	Film shows the interior of a tiny two-room bedsit – naturalistic – door, TV, sink, bed. The dancers interact with the film: the TV flicks on in response to a man aiming a remote at it, a drawer opens & a T-shirt flies out and hits the man in the chest; the bed ‘becomes 3D’ when sat on. Opposite: Interior of a club – red light	Strong location & identification with characters. Light relief: humour, wit, playfulness, fun

SIGNIFIERS	DESCRIPTION	EFFECTS
SOUND	A sustained note leads to a complete contrast in the soundtrack: an electric piano, tambourine and maracas play a rhythmic Latin American salsa dance beat. Strings are added then fade and finish with a solo violin and finally a sustained synthesised metallic sound.	Exciting, flirtatious, light & optimistic – the music of youth and nightlife. Empty. A tense reminder of the lightbulb scene & strop duets – foreboding
MOVEMENT	Naturalistic mime actions – getting dressed, doing hair & make-up, checking appearance, watching TV, dancing, bantering & pretending exasperation. Live action interacts with film events. Slow motion dancing vs real time: Becci and Danny return to flat. kiss. He leaves. She pauses, hunches shoulders, hand to head.	Playful, fun: a young couple get ready and head out together to enjoy a night out with friends. Time speeds forwards – the couple are older & she is surprised by sudden severe pains in her head.

Summary of meaning, mood and significance

The faces in the family photograph blur and are slowly replaced by the [image of a bedroom and bathroom](#) in a city bedsit and with the sudden advent of [salsa music](#), the melancholic mood switches abruptly to an upbeat, optimistic and youthful vibe. [A couple enter the room. They are getting ready to go out:](#) she is drying her hair, checking her appearance; his is a more simple routine involving a clean T-shirt and the TV! Their body language is familiar, bantering, suggesting they know each other well and they [dance a few salsa steps](#) playfully before heading out to [join friends](#) who are dancing salsa style steps in unison in a bar across the way. The atmosphere is full of ease and fun; a memory of happy times.

One couple leave the party and those that remain now move and dance in slow motion which sets up a distinct change of mood and suggests a shift away from real time. [Instead of the young carefree couple who left the bedsit, it is Danny and Becci from the strop duets who return to it.](#) They embrace but now, all is not well. Danny leaves and Becci goes to follow but stops in her tracks, as if struck by a [headache and momentarily confused](#). All the liveliness and fun in the action and soundtrack is sucked away and the scene ends on a sombre, foreboding note.