

## **Research Title or Question**

Balancing Realism and Spectacle: The Dilemma of Modern VFX in Film

## **Abstract**

This critical report delves into the intricate balance between realism and spectacle in VFX-driven films, using case studies such as Blade Runner 2049, Interstellar, and Avatar. It explores how filmmakers navigate this tension to ensure that visual grandeur enhances rather than detracts from narrative coherence. By analyzing the approaches taken in these films, this report offers insights into the evolving landscape of VFX in contemporary cinema.

## **Keywords Searched**

VFX, cinematography, realism, spectacle, narrative coherence, film, Blade Runner, Interstellar, Avatar.

## **A structure indicating chapter headings and subheadings**

1. Introduction
2. Literature Review
3. Case Studies on Blade Runner 2049
4. Case Studies on Interstellar
5. Case Studies on Avatar
6. Conclusion
7. Bibliography
8. Image List

## **Draft Literature Review**

4. Case Studies of Interstellar

### **Interstellar (2014)**

Christopher Nolan's Interstellar explores themes of space travel, black holes, and time dilation, requiring sophisticated VFX to visualize complex scientific concepts.

**Realism:** Nolan's commitment to realism is evident in his collaboration with physicist Kip Thorne, who provided theoretical models for the film's depiction of black holes and wormholes. The VFX team, led by Double Negative, used Thorne's equations to create scientifically accurate visualizations, particularly the portrayal of the black hole Gargantua. This approach ensures that the fantastical elements of the story are grounded in plausible science, making the film's speculative aspects more believable.

**Spectacle:** Interstellar also features breathtaking visual sequences, such as the traversal through the wormhole and the depiction of alien planets. These moments are designed to evoke a sense of wonder and awe, reinforcing the film's epic scope and emotional stakes.

Nolan balances realism and spectacle by using scientifically accurate VFX to underpin the film's more extravagant visual elements, ensuring that the spectacle serves the narrative's thematic and emotional depth.

**Indicative Bibliography**

1. *Blade Runner 2049* (2017) Directed by Denis Villeneuve. North America: Warner Bros.
2. *Interstellar* (2014) Directed by Christopher Nolan. North America: Paramount Pictures
3. *Avatar* (2012) Directed by James Cameron. United States: 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox