

A man with a beard and glasses is lying on a patterned rug. He is wearing a grey t-shirt and a light green hoodie. A book and a card are visible on the rug near him.

# The Big Lebowski

Directed by

**ETHAN & JOEL COEN**

1998

A man with long, light-colored hair and a beard is lying on his back on a patterned rug. He is wearing a light-colored t-shirt. His eyes are closed, and he appears to be resting or sleeping. Scattered around him on the rug are several papers and a book. The background is a dense, colorful patterned rug with red, blue, and gold tones.

# POSTMODERNISM

- MID TO **LATE 20TH CENTURY** MOVEMENT INVOLVING ALL TYPE OF CREATIVE ARTS
- REACTION **AGAINST MODERNISM**
- **MODERNISM:**
  - DICTATORSHIP OF THE DIRECTOR: A SINGULAR VISION
  - CHARACTERS PORTRAYED AS TRUE
  - MINIMALISM – precise & simple frames
  - FOCUS ON NARRATIVE
  - DIALOGUES SERVE THE STORY



A man with a beard and glasses is lying on a patterned rug, looking towards the camera. He is wearing a light-colored long-sleeved shirt. Several papers and a small book are scattered on the rug around him. The background is a dark, patterned rug with red, blue, and gold tones.

# POSTMODERNISM

- What does it do?

**SUBVERT MAINSTREAM CONVENTIONS OF NARRATIVE STRUCTURE AND CHARACTERIZATION**

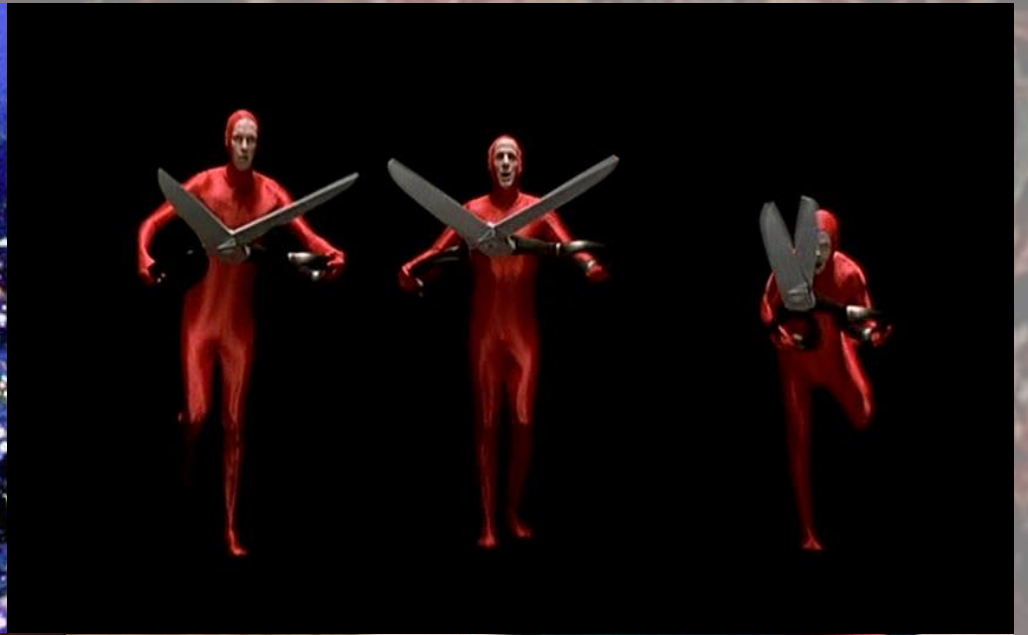
- How?

- **METAFICTION**
- **PASTICHE**
- **DISTORTION OF SPACE AND TIME**

A man with a beard and glasses is lying on a patterned rug, looking towards the camera. He is wearing a grey hoodie. In the background, there are several papers and a book on the rug. The text 'METAFICTION' is overlaid on the image in a large, bold, black font.

# METAFICTION

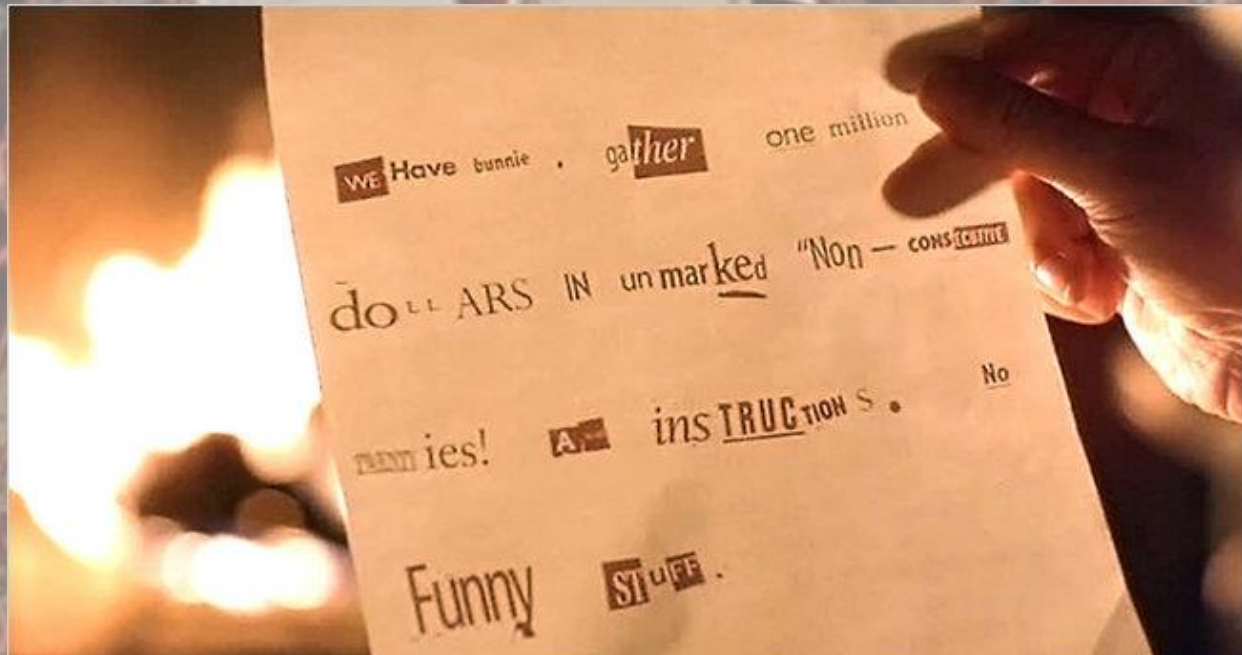
- METAFICTION REMINDS THE AUDIENCE THEY ARE WATCHING A WORK OF **FICTION**
- IT IS USED AS A **FORM OF PARODY** OR AS A TOOL TO UNDERMINE CONVENTIONS
- KEY NOTION OF **MISE EN ABYME**



A man with a beard and glasses is lying on a patterned rug, wearing a light-colored jacket. He is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. A book and some papers are scattered on the rug around him.

# PASTICHE

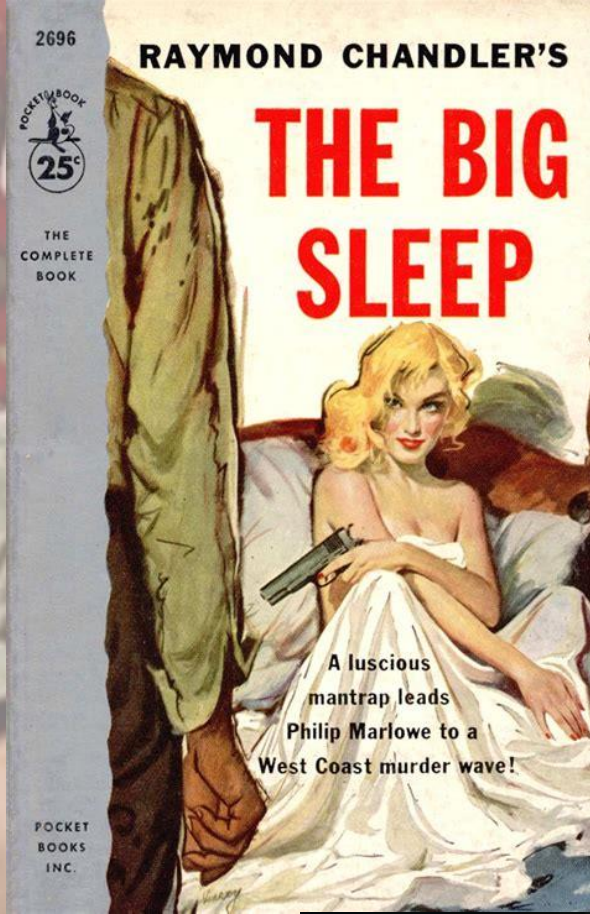
- **PAY HOMAGE TO DIFFERENT GENRES**
  - **FILM NOIR:** mystery, private eye, femme fatale
  - **WESTERN MOVIES:** tumbleweed, California, the narrator
  - **ROMANTIC COMEDY:** the Dude and Maude Lebowski



A photograph of a man with a beard and long hair, wearing a grey hoodie, lying on a patterned rug. He is looking towards the camera with a neutral expression. A book and some papers are scattered on the rug near his head.

# PASTICHE

- **INTERTEXTUALITY:** references to other movies, characters
  - **The Big Sleep**, Raymond Chandler 1939
  - **Jeff Dowd**, born 1949, member of the « Seattle Seven »
  - **Carolee Schneemann**, (1939-2019) visual experimental artist
- **MIXING Highbrow (intellectual) AND Lowbrow (popular) Culture**
  - Nihilism VS Bowling
  - Maude VS the Dude



# DISTORTION OF SPACE AND TIME

- NOSTALGIA FOR A GOLDEN AGE
- MIXING REALITY AND DREAMS
- ABSENCE OF LINEAR NARRATION, flashback
- PROFUSION OF SECONDARY CHARACTERS

→ **PERPLEXED AUDIENCE**



A man with a beard and glasses is lying on a patterned rug, looking distressed. He is wearing a grey t-shirt and a light green jacket. A book and some papers are scattered on the rug near him. The word "CONCLUSION" is written in large, bold, black letters across the top of the image.

# CONCLUSION

- **CONFUSION**
- **DECEPTIVE NARRATIVE**
- **FOCUS ON CHARACTERS**
- **OPEN ENDING**

