

**"THE IDEA BEHIND THE MASK":  
A CONTENT ANALYSIS OF THE FILM  
V FOR VENDETTA**

**A Research Paper**

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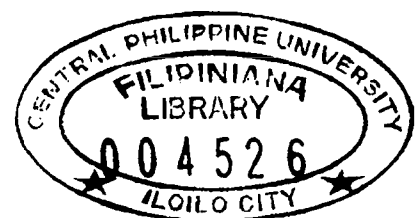
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ABSTRACT

This study is entitled, “The Idea Behind the Mask” A Content Analysis of the Film V for Vendetta. V for Vendetta is a dystopian thriller directed by James McTeigue, starring Hugo Weaving (The Matrix, The Lord of the Rings) and Natalie Portman (Star Wars, Léon: The Professional). It is based on a graphic novel series written by Alan Moore and illustrated by David Lloyd. The film premiered on February 13, 2006 at the Berlin Film Festival and opened in theaters on March 17. V for Vendetta received some awards; Natalie Portman won Best Actress at the 2007 Saturn Awards, the film was nominated for the Hugo Award for Best Dramatic Presentation, Long Form in 2007, V was included on Fandomania’s list of The 100 Greatest Fictional Characters and in 2008, Empire magazine named V for Vendetta the 418<sup>th</sup> greatest movie of all time. The film was analyzed based on the plot and structure, themes, characters, and symbolism. The Two-Step Flow theory was theoretical basis of the study and the use of a coding sheet divided into the plot, themes, characters, and symbolism was employed to identify and analyze the content of the film. It has been concluded that V for Vendetta is a complex film with a very detailed screenplay, a number running themes, complex and diverse characters and strategically revealed forms of symbolism. It is thought provoking and has the power to move the viewers.