

# The Whole Truth

## *Odissey*

Achievement in Innovation: Shortlist 2008

The review below may contain spoilers for *Lost*, *Zhou Yu's Train* and *5 Centimeters per Second*.

**Brad:** The tech here is eye-popping, but the thing I admire most about the vid is the way it uses that tech to blend the three fandoms - one of them animated - into a seamless and, yes, beautiful message about personal connection and love lost. In doing so it creates a voice and personality that's new, but that stays true to the heart of the source material. That's especially impressive considering how much the sources have been altered by the vidder.

**Nicky:** I'm not familiar with the sources, so I am not sure whether the plot is intended to be primarily a Sun/Jin AU with external footage as support, or whether it is more of a cross-fandom comparison of several sources. I think it's capable of working both ways, though my personal interpretation is an AU narrative with Sun finding out that Jin was cheating on her. I could be way off the mark here, though.

**Brad:** I lean toward the other reading, but I agree that either way it's effective because of the way in which it's presented.

It almost has more in common with fan graphics than with traditional vids. Nowhere is that more obvious than in the credits which, aside from just being all-around awesome looking, do a tremendous job of establishing the vid's voice, distinctive look, and sense of musicality. It looks and moves like an anime, while integrating shots of the featured actors from the two live-action sources.

**Nicky:** The presentation style is just fascinating. From the gorgeous opening titles to the audacious use of light and colour, to the use photos and freeze-frames, it is really like no other vid that I've seen before. The personality simply shines out of this vid.

**Brad:** "Shines" in a literal sense as well.

The vidder uses brightness and color shifting in conjunction with on-beat external motion to make the transition from anime to live action at 0:40 look so smooth that it took me several rewatches to realize that it was two different sources. That also adds poignancy to the shift to normal color at 0:46 on that lovely little moment of internal motion that echoes "different." Different indeed.

At 0:50 the vidder blends sources by using the in-source lighting to transition to a cherry blossom - signifying love - falling from a hand in the anime. It's just a gorgeous connection. And it's followed immediately by a live-action mask that fades out to reveal the anime in the background for the next transition.

**Nicky:** The blending of the sources is driven by the work on colour and light. I'm particular to the snap on the lights at 0:50, and the colours on the anime footage around the 0:53 - 0:56 segment are just gorgeous, offset soon after by high-contrast black and white.

**Brad:** The chorus feels like full-on fan art, a fully constructed reality. You're seeing the world entirely through the eyes of the characters. Or, more specifically, the vidder.

The smoky black and white is such an evocative way to signify memories, and I love the text at 1:14 that quite literally spells it out.

**Nicky:** My favourite part is the segment from 1:25 to 1:35. The use of small static images against a larger graphic background is so innovative, and I simply *love* the motion that brought all this together. Timed to the sound of the drums, it provides an extremely potent punch in the gut even when you have little context knowledge. How could it not? It's just such an evocative visual. I am wowed by the brilliant snap to colour/framing at 1:31 every time.

And the black and white ending segment feels so beautifully avant-garde - in the best possible sense. To me, it evokes hints of David Lynch and, as you said earlier, elements of certain animes and films which concentrate darkly on atmosphere. It's simply exquisite.

**Brad:** The vid ends with some absolutely stunning masking, added motion, and graphics work that really wrap up the whole statement in a lovely way, continuing the seamless blending of source to the final shot.

It's big and epic, but in an incredibly introspective way.



THE FOURTH WALL

---