

Carnival of Rust

Absrip

Achievement in Innovation: Winner 2009

The review below may contain spoilers for *Supernatural* up to season 4.

Nicky: Carnival of Rust is such a beautiful vid.

Brad: Overwhelmingly beautiful. Both in terms of mood and visuals, it just immerses me in a way that few other vids have.

Nicky: I think a large part of that is because the presentation is so dramatic: in terms of colouring, added motion, and of course additional graphic work, this vid has added much to the source material. The result of this audacious approach is a surrealistic blur of sound and images which seem to take their cue from the richness and ornateness of Byzantine art.

Brad: As is the case with many memorable vids, I feel almost like this has been wired to my screen straight from the mind of the vidder, without the awkwardness of tech or source limitations getting in the way. Through the presentation and how the different elements are woven together, I feel like I'm seeing the vidder's vision in a very direct way.

Nicky: The key visual theme that pins this vid together is the vidder-generated tarot card graphics. Every time the tarot cards swirl onscreen, I'm so flabbergasted by the beauty of it all that I barely find time to register the level of technical difficulty to achieve such an effect, although I appreciate that it must have taken a lot of time and effort to get it to look so lovely.

Brad: I think it's an enormous credit to the vid that what you think about while watching it is the flow of the visuals and emotion, not what it took to put it together. You're just swept along by it all... but in my opinion it's even more impressive because of that.

Nicky: Thematically, I enjoy the idea that the Winchesters' trials and tribulations have already been set down in paper and ink as though predestined.

Brad: It's a concept that works extremely well with the themes of *Supernatural* as a whole, and that's one reason why the vid comes across as such a cohesive entity despite the fact that it's been created with so much added source and tech.

Nicky: Visually, the tarot graphics are detailed, well composed and just all around gorgeous. The transitions between static graphic and moving video, in particular, is breathtaking in its seamlessness. I'm particularly taken with how the Impala on the card moved into motion at 0:04.

Brad: It's just beautiful, especially when combined with Absrip's masterful use of external motion. And I love the "rust" color that's been added to everything to bring it all together.

There's some extraordinary attention to composition of overlays as well, with images blossoming forth from one to the next in an impossibly organic way. Likewise, text (like at 0:36 and 0:54) is used in a way that looks powerful and evocative.

Nicky: Symbolism plays a huge part in this vid, both from Supernatural source and from external source. I particularly love the Virgin's bleeding eyes at 0:57 carrying through to Alastair and the falling feather, and the water drops at 1:08 and again at 1:18. The overlays and masking of Lilith and the black umbrellas at 1:17 are just gorgeous.

Brad: The arrival of Castiel at 1:04 carries so much impact, it's one of those moments that just leaves you breathless.

Nicky: One of my favourite moments is the dove out of the fire at 1:31. I'm a sucker for surreal symbolism and found that shot in particular is perfectly timed against a lull in the music to achieve fantastic impact. To prolong the effect, the very next shot is a 180 degree close-up and pull-back on one of the most intense tarot graphics of Dean as fallen angel.

Brad: I can honestly say that's one of the most memorable moments of any vid I've seen. You almost can't believe your eyes, not only because the effect is so convincing and so musical, but because it just so perfectly expresses the themes of the vid and the show. I find myself forgetting that this was a *fan's* creation.

Nicky: This fabulous visual is later echoed in the falling shot at 2:19 offset against Uriel on the ground with his wings spread.

Brad: 2:34 is stunning as well, with the rust-colored moon giving way to Sam and Dean in bed, which turns into a tarot card of the image descending into flames, a theme that's reflected again with perhaps even more impact at 3:03.

Nicky: This vid is sumptuous in its detail and flow, the build of symbolism and emotion culminating in gorgeous moments like the 2:44 - 2:50 segment. Paired with Absrip's bold use of warm gold tones, lighting effects, screen composites and dramatic added motion, to me this vid has really achieved yet another level of innovation in terms of fan-generated transformative works.

THE FOURTH WALL