

The Heist Genre

“The Italian Job”

Characters

- Mastermind
- Computer/Technological Geek
- Driver
- Explosives Expert
- Beautiful Woman
- Villain

Setting

- Urban
- Los Angeles, New York, London, Paris, Venice, Rome, Chicago, Las Vegas
- Great vistas or notable landmarks
- Wealthy homes, office buildings, estates, etc.

Plot

- Initial heist and action to create tension and drive adrenaline
- Escape or botched handover
- Unexpected glitches and complications
- Blurring of “good/bad guy” boundaries
- Change of scenes/locations
- Second planning session
- Second heist successfully completed
- Happy ending with lots of moolah!

Iconography

- Cars
- Explosives
- Computers
- High-tech gadgets
- Safe
- Guns
- Warehouses/planning locales

Mood

- High action causes tension with interludes of:
 - Planning, comic relief and romance
- The object of the heist is always within their reach; anything is possible

Cinematic Style

- Long shots to establish setting
- Fast-paced action dotted with switching shots of chase, chaser, and chasee.
- Quick, clean editing cuts
- Use of night shots to connect to the secretiveness of the job
- Extreme close-ups for tension creation during heist
- Tracking shots to follow action

Narrative Themes

- Cheated out of their rightful booty
- Revenge and/or retribution for the past wrong or wrongdoer
- Money will make me happy
- “This is the one to end all jobs; our last job”

Heist Examples

- The Italian Job
- The Thomas Crowne Affair
- Ocean's Eleven
- Ronin
- Sneakers
- Bond movies
- The Sting