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**When Time Stops and Time is Never Ending. In The Mood For Love and Four Quartets**

The critical consensus on *In The Mood For Love* insists that, however gorgeous, Wong Kar-wai's film depicts a relationship that fails. This paper proposes that, on the contrary, Wong Kar-wai offers his viewers something quite different. His project in this film is nothing less than the creation of a perfect memory — perfect in the sense of complete, and therefore timeless.

Described by one critic as "a melodrama about love and romance" (Stephen Teo), *In The Mood For Love* represents an altogether different strategy, sidestepping the linearity of traditional narrative and the circular story based on mythic models in favour of the creation of a moment, or a series of moments, outside time, frequently employing techniques closer to those of poetry than of cinema. The paper explores how comparison with literary works such as T.S. Eliot's *Four Quartets*, itself a meditation on time, can illuminate this unique film.