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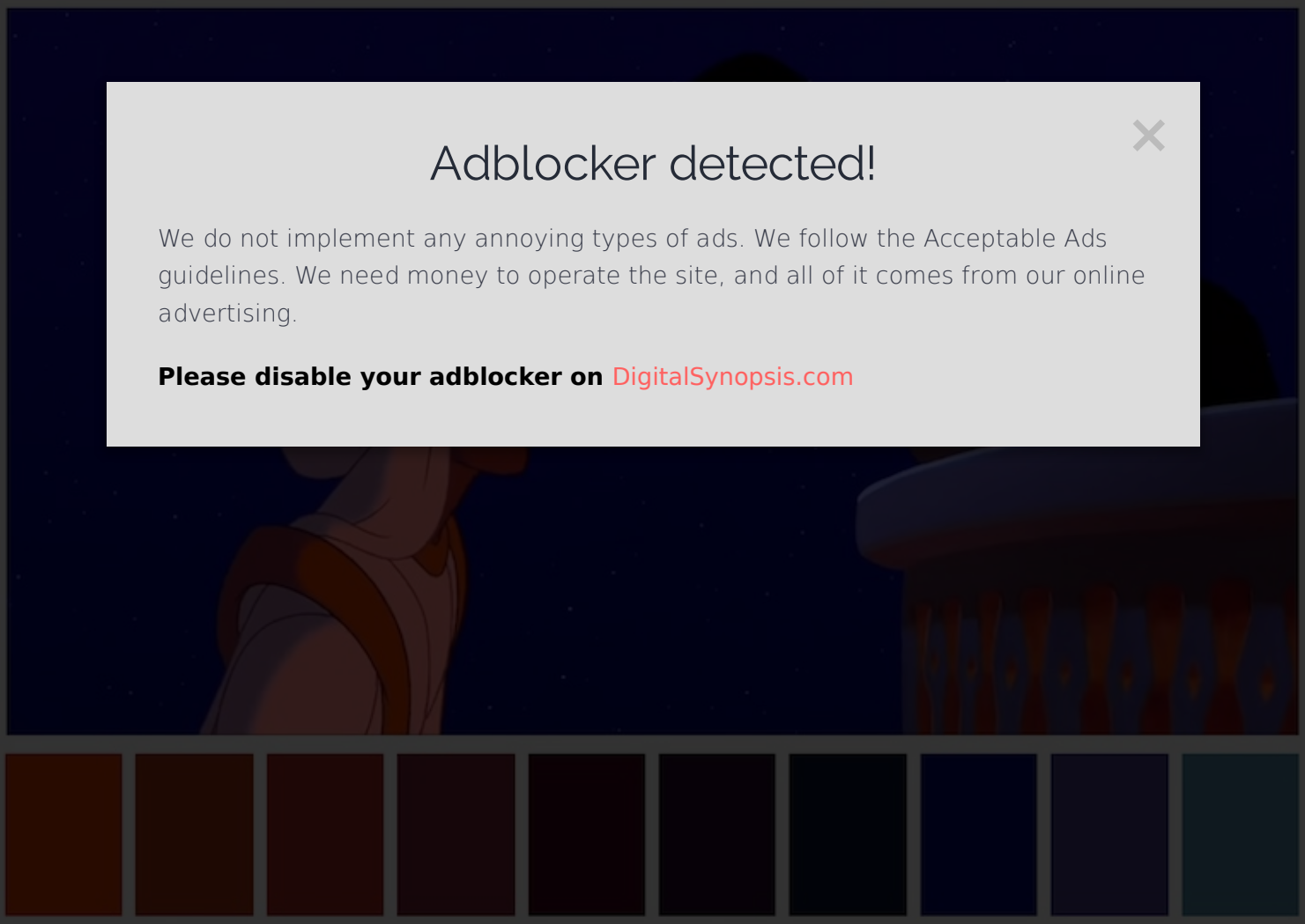
Color Palettes From Famous Movies Show How Colors Set The Mood Of A Film

Color sets the tone and mood of a film before any of the actors have even uttered a word. Directors Lilly and Lana Wachowski used a green tint in *The Matrix* (1999) to create a mood palette that was suggestive of the early monochrome computer monitors. Yellow was used in *Kill Bill* (2003) to depict Uma Thurman's character's madness and instability.

Romantic comedies use pastel shades like beige, pink and lilac. Sci-fi and cyborg films use shades of blue, grey, and green. Teal and orange seem to be the trend in Hollywood nowadays, especially in movie adaptations of graphic novels and comic books.

To highlight the significance of color in films, UK-based designer Gaby Smith has come up with an interesting project called Cinema Palettes, that features color palettes derived from memorable scenes of famous movies. So far, Gaby has compiled more than 250 palettes, some of which might even give you **color ideas for your next design project**. Check them out below.

1. Aladdin (1992)



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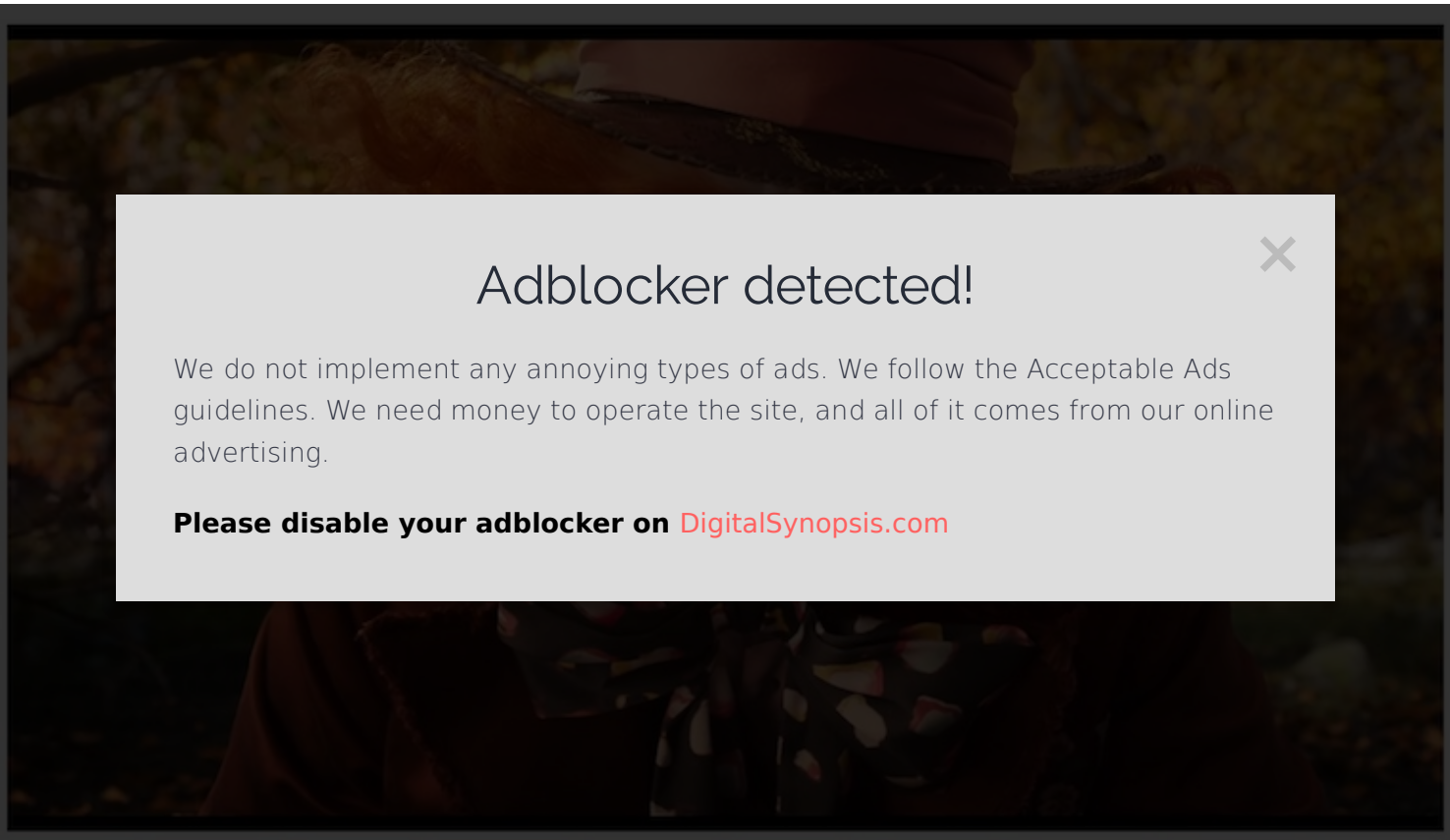
Directors: Ron Clements, John Musker

2. Alice Through the Looking Glass (2016)



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Director: James Bobin

3. American Beauty (1999)

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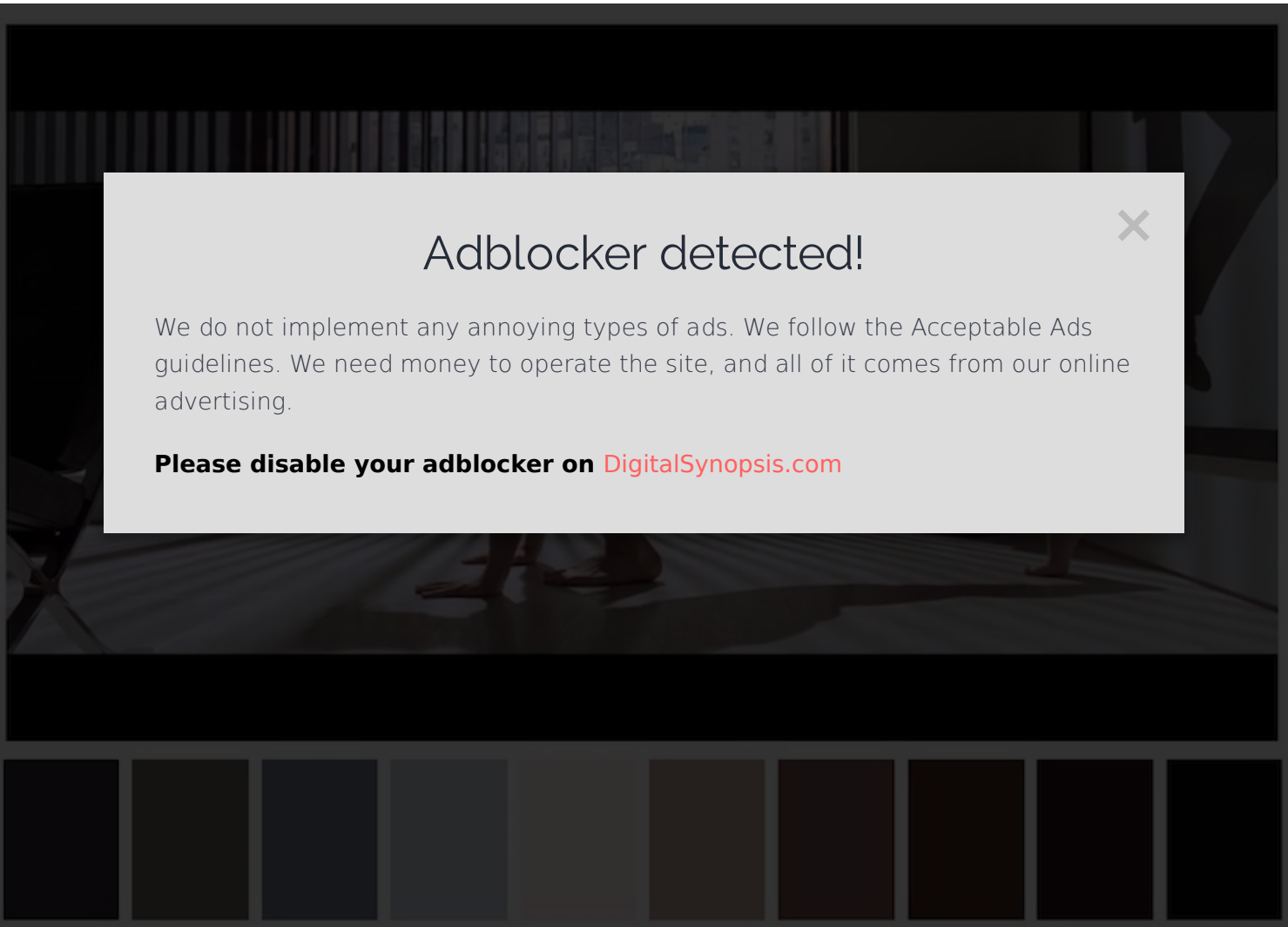
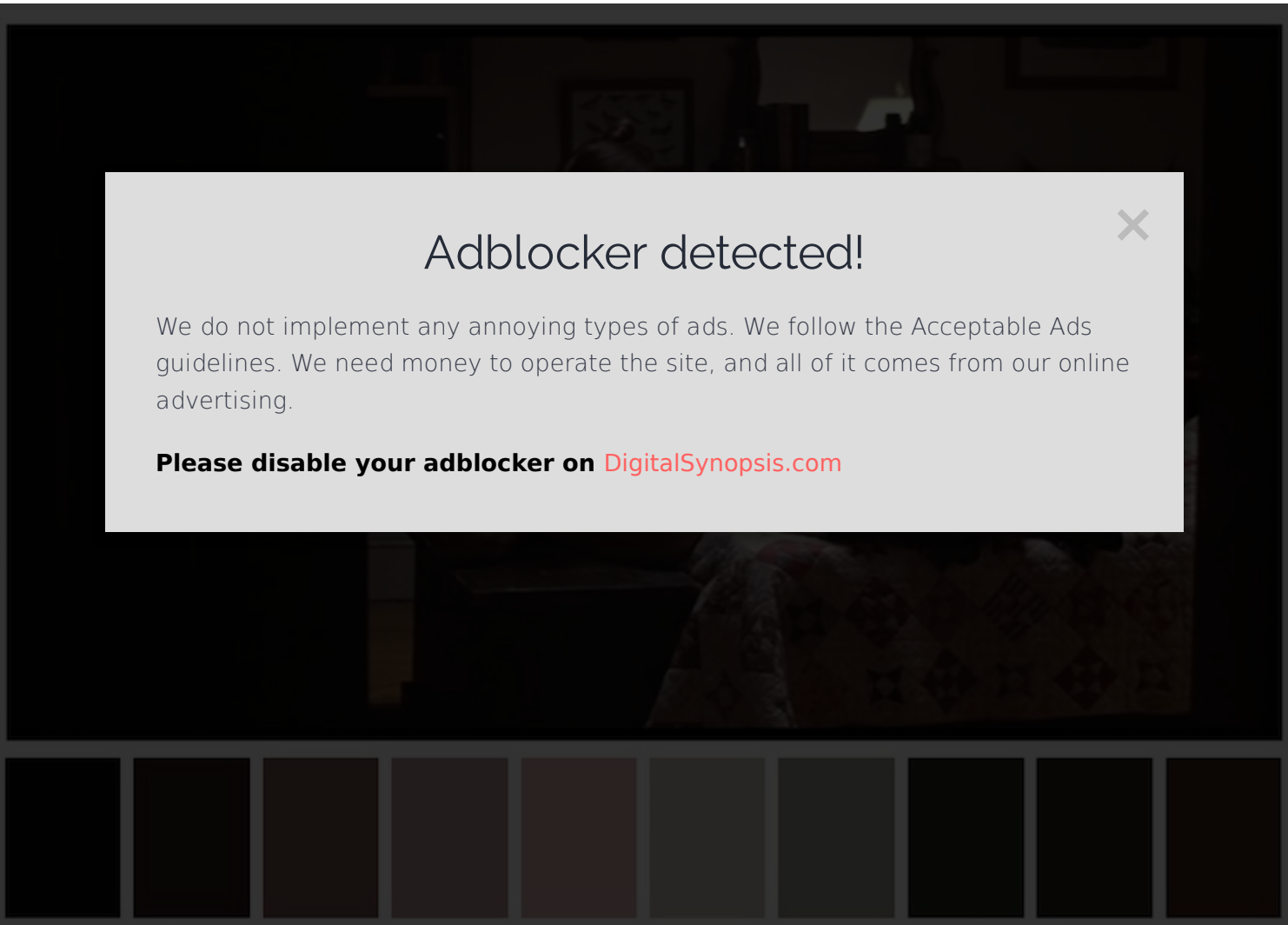
Director: Sam Mendes

4. American Psycho (2000)



Director: Mary Harron

5. Annie Hall (1977)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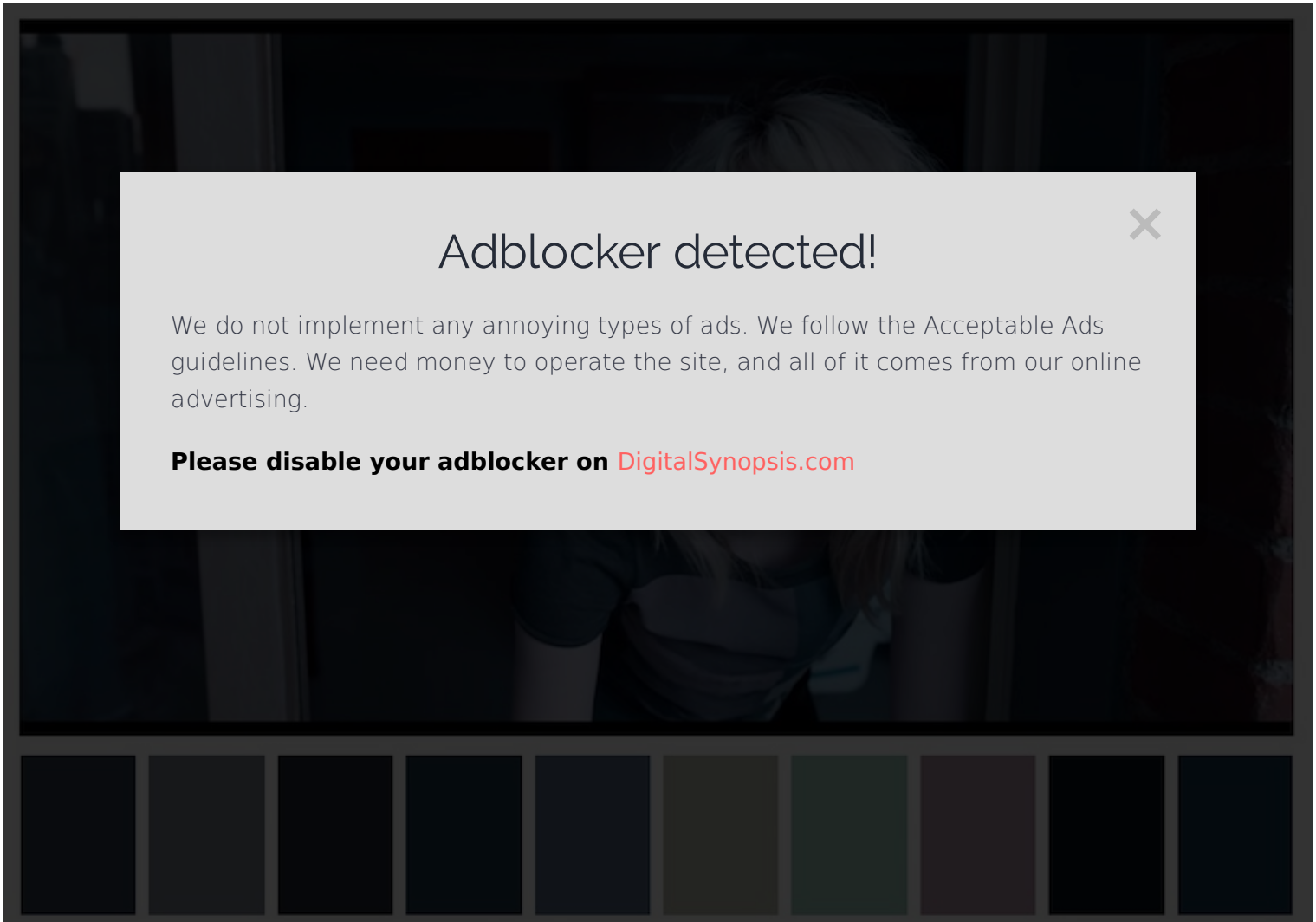
Director: Woody Allen

6. Birdman (2014)



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Director: Alejandro González Iñárritu

7. Corpse Bride (2005)

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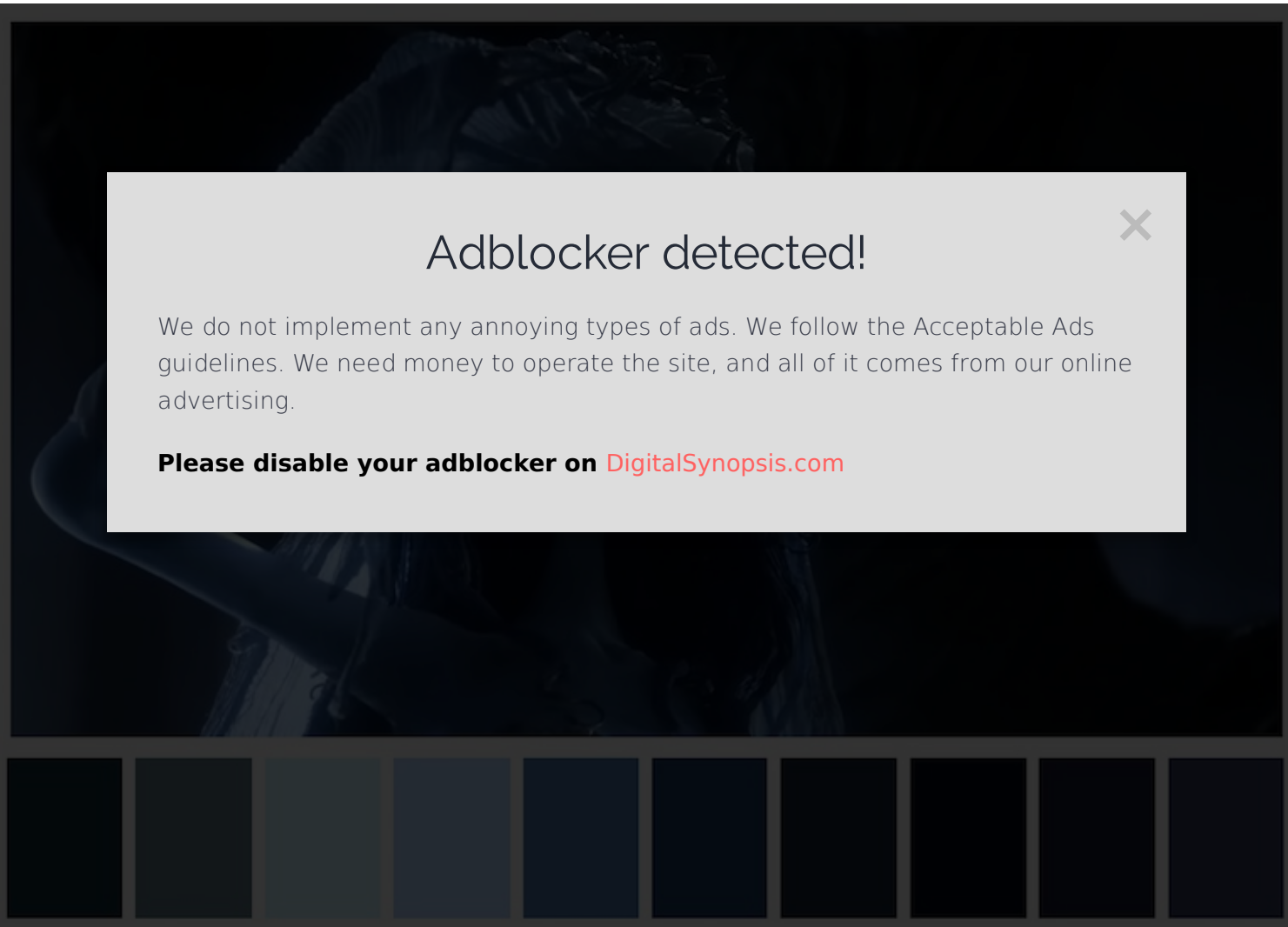
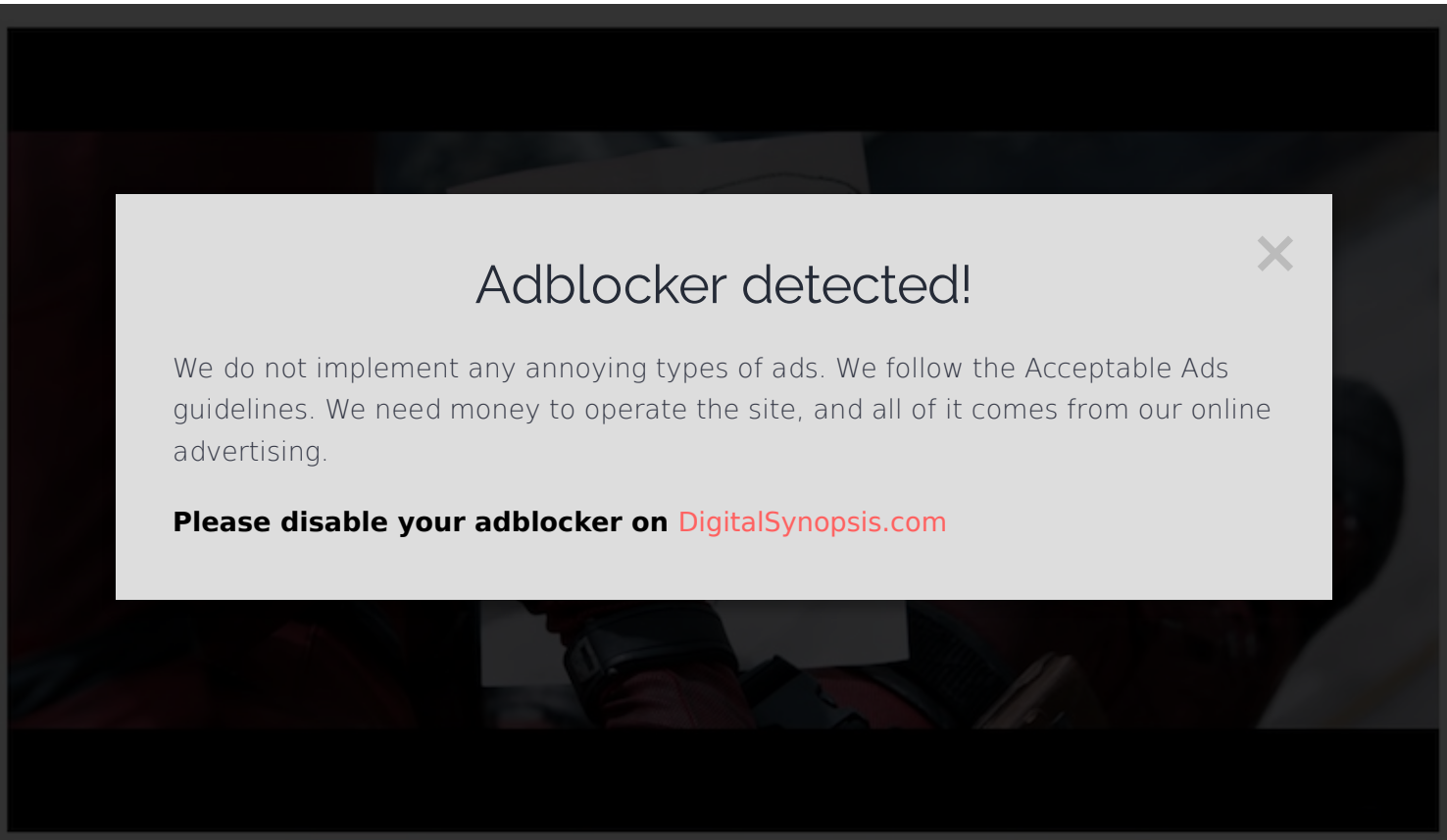


Directors: Tim Burton, Mike Johnson

8. Deadpool (2016)



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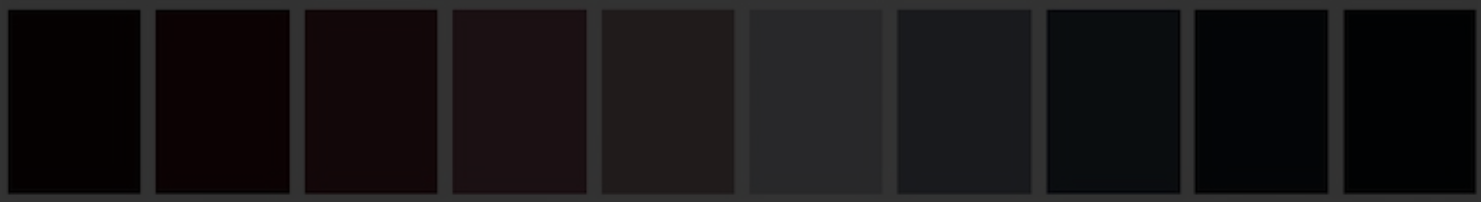

Director: Tim Miller

9. Django Unchained (2012)

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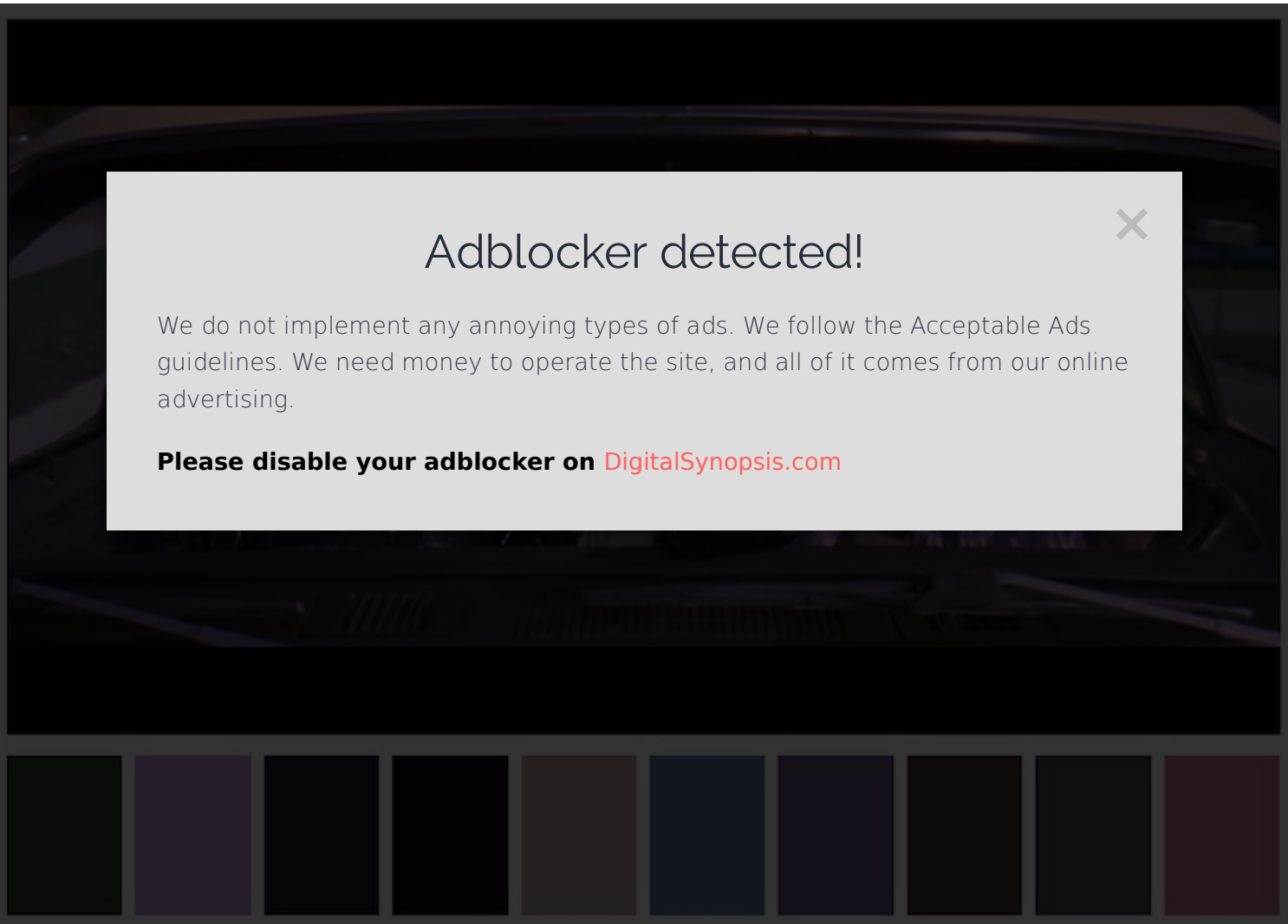
Director: Quentin Tarantino

10. Edward Scissorhands (1990)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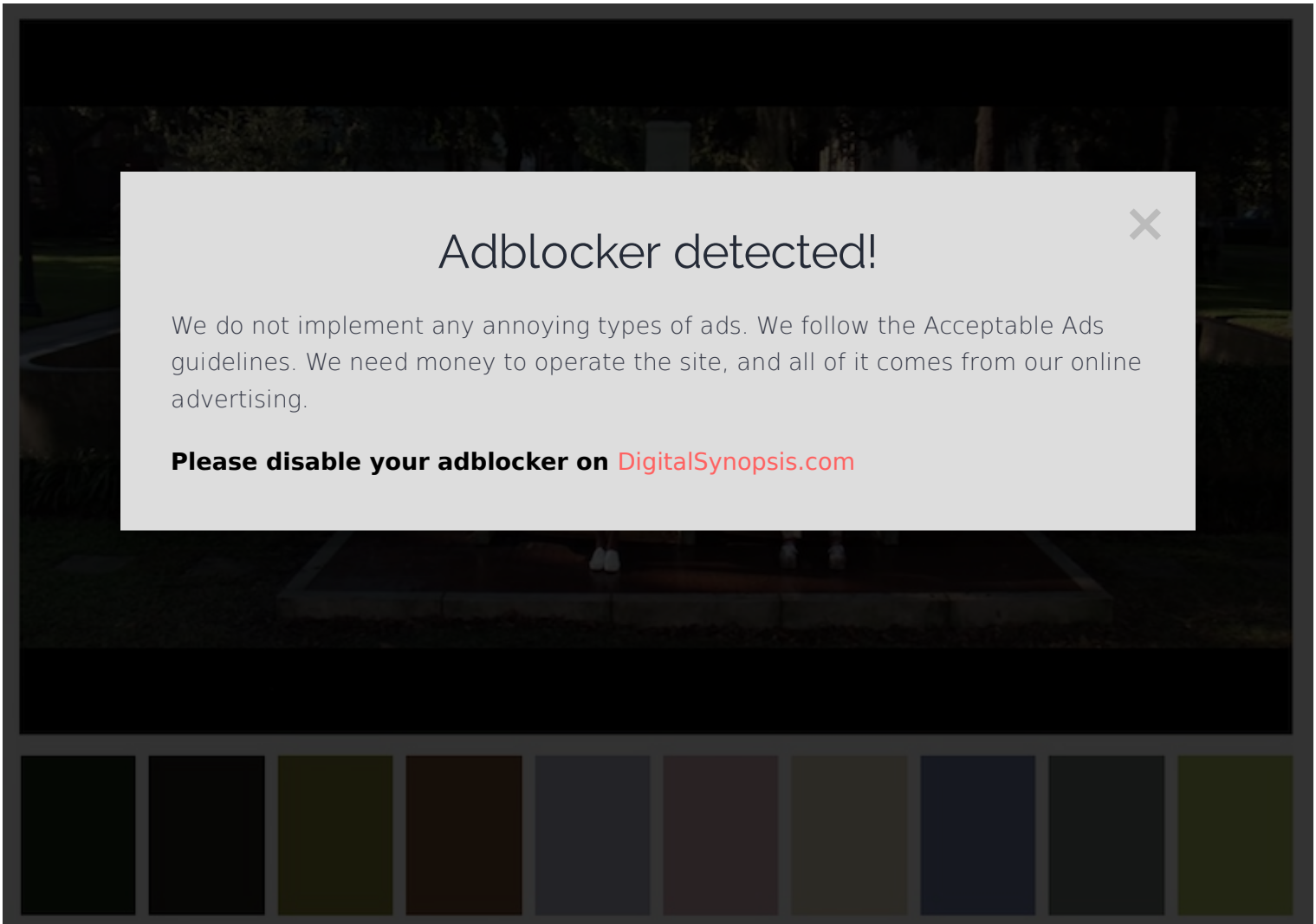
Director: Tim Burton

11. Forrest Gump (1994)



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Director: Robert Zemeckis

12. Frozen (2013)

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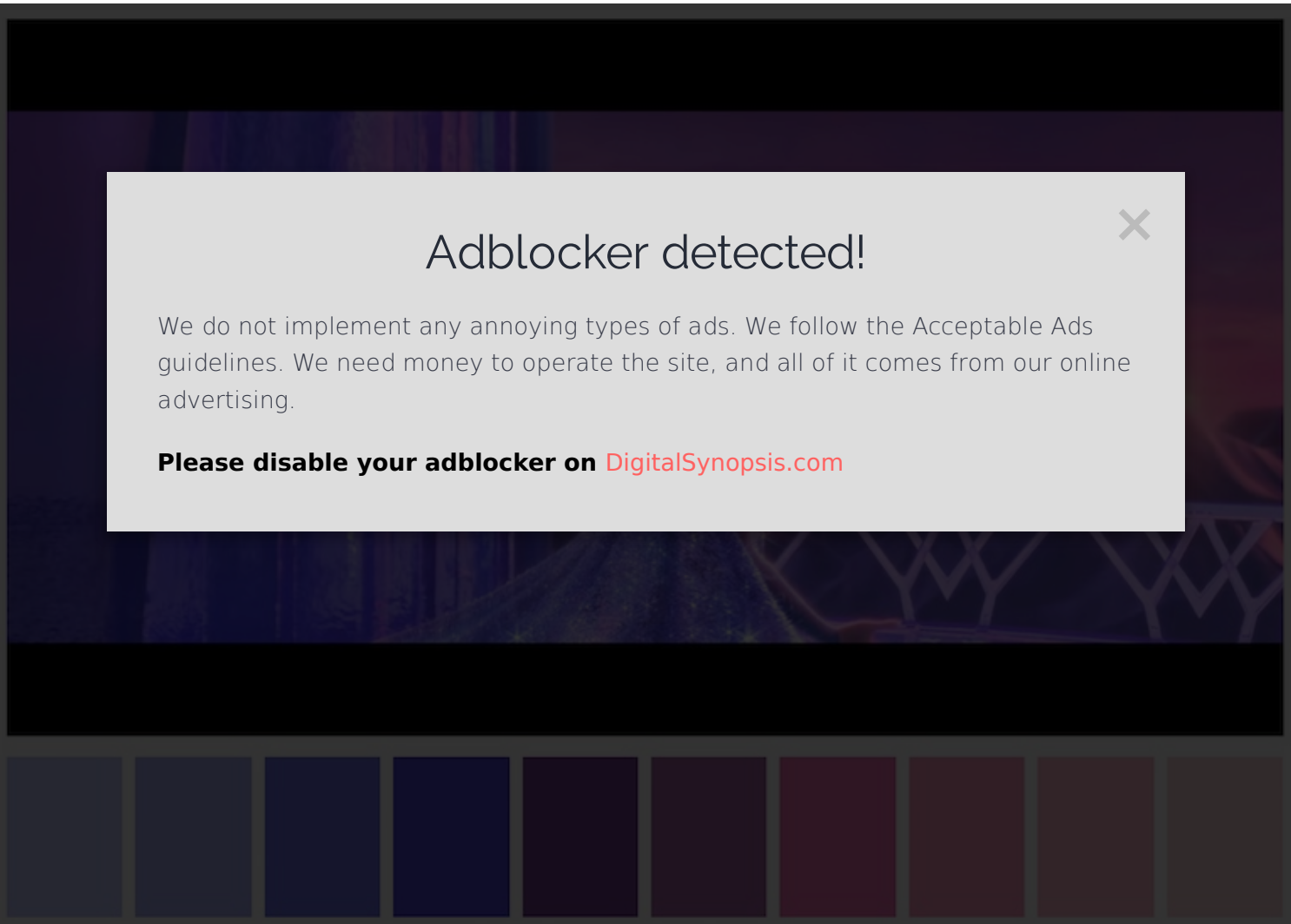

Directors: Chris Buck, Jennifer Lee

13. Gone Girl (2014)

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Director: David Fincher

14. Grease (1978)

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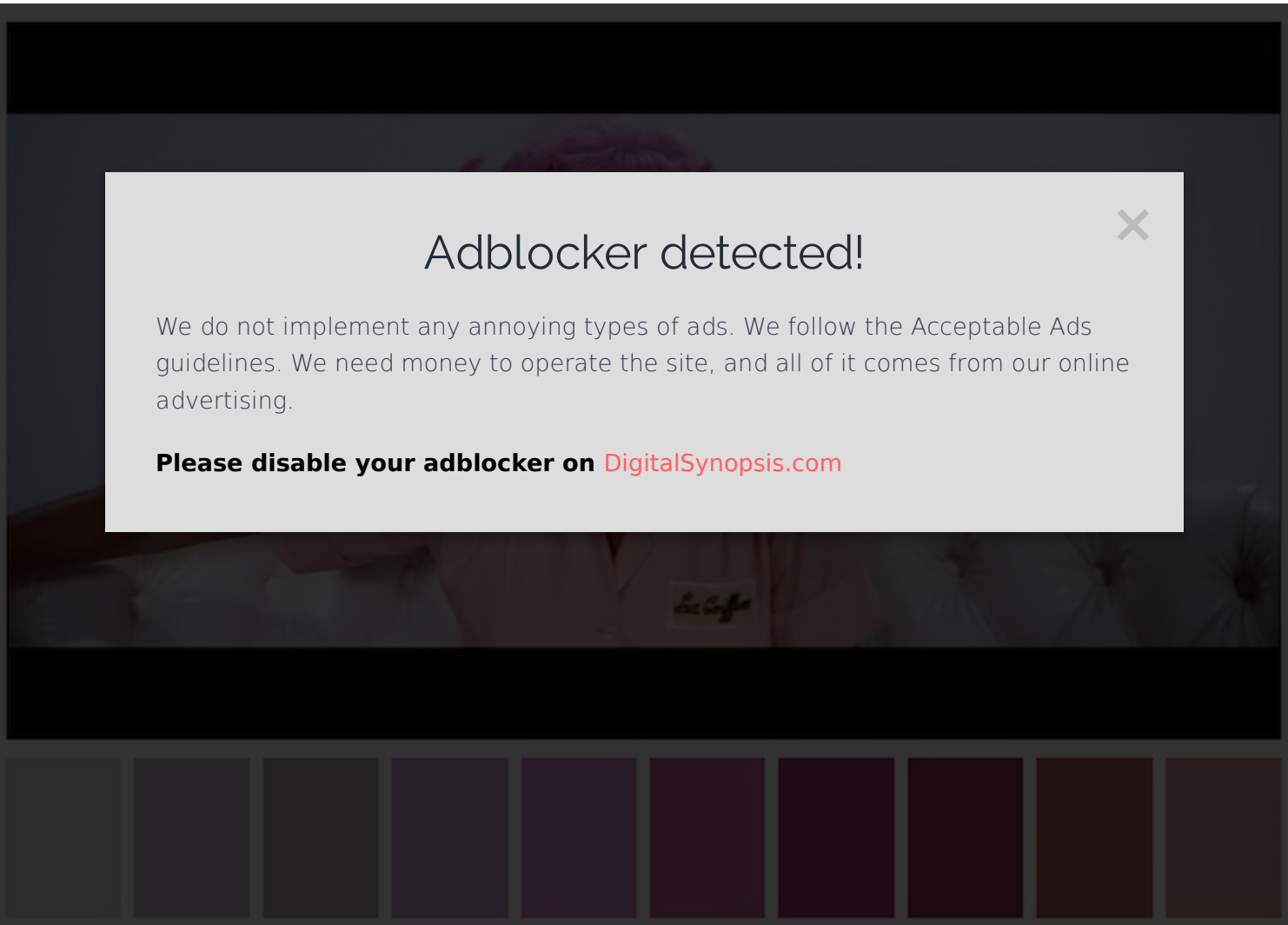

Director: Randal Kleiser

15. Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2 (2011)

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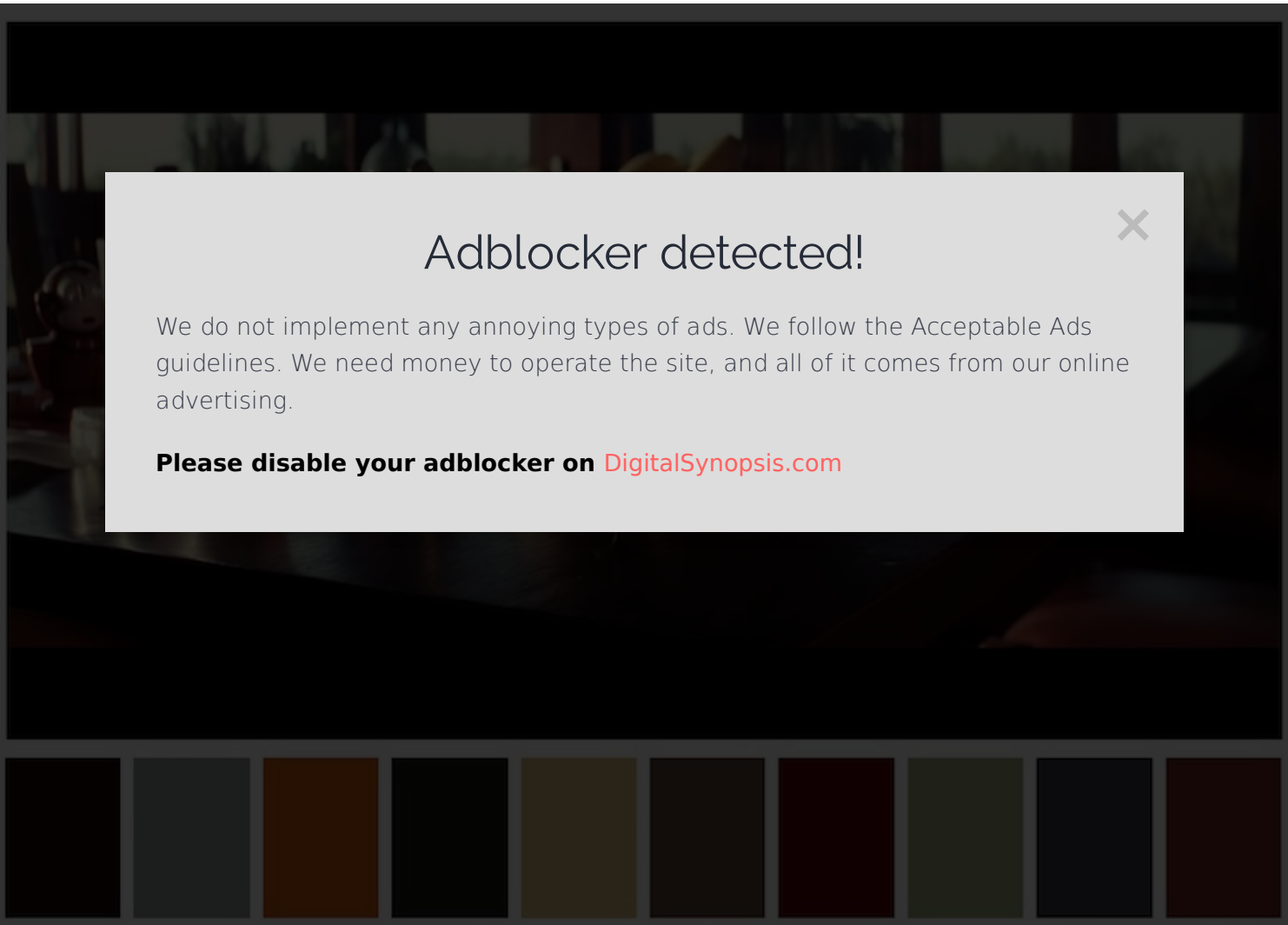
Director: David Yates

16. Inception (2010)



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Director: Christopher Nolan

17. Inglourious Basterds (2009)

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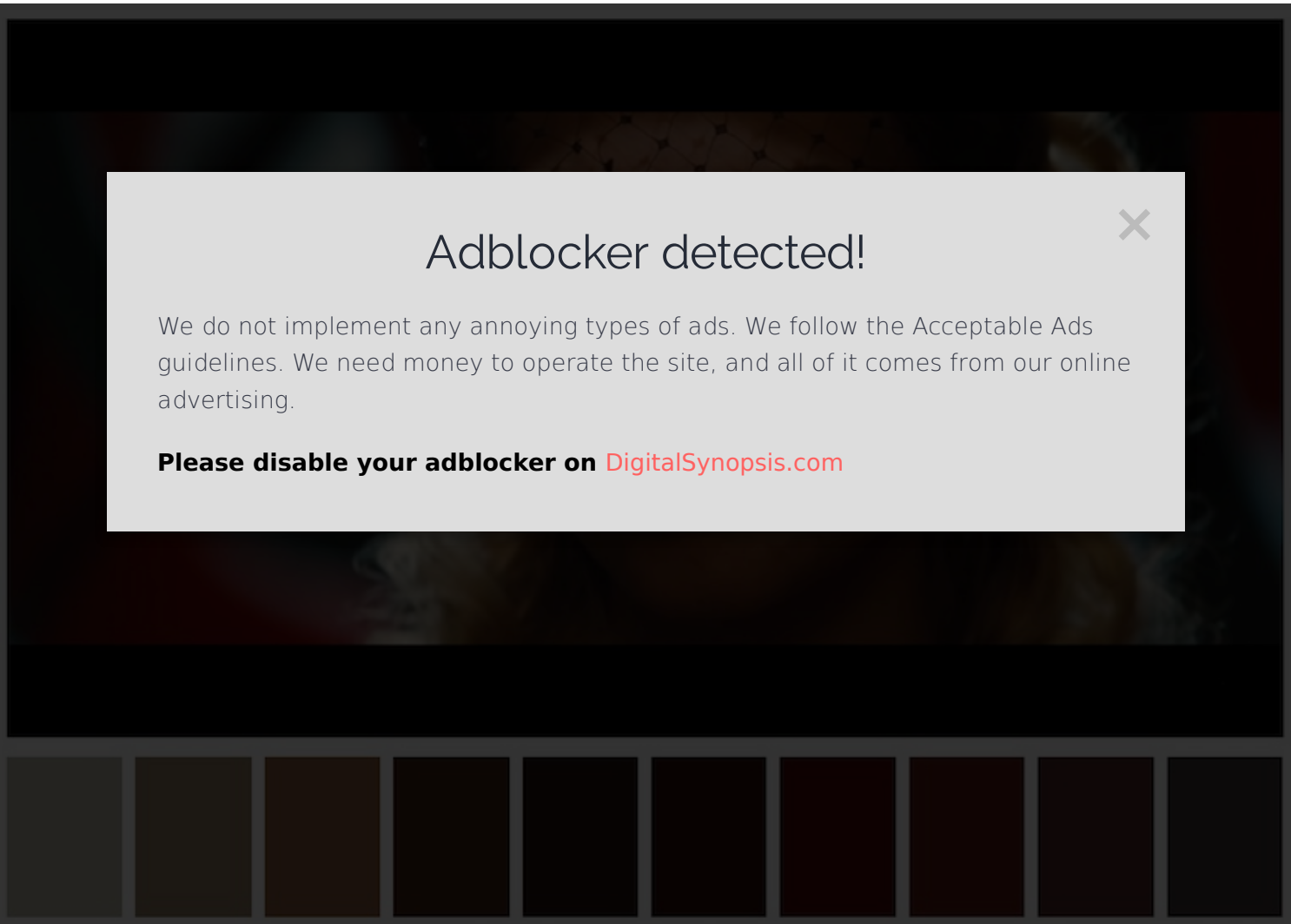
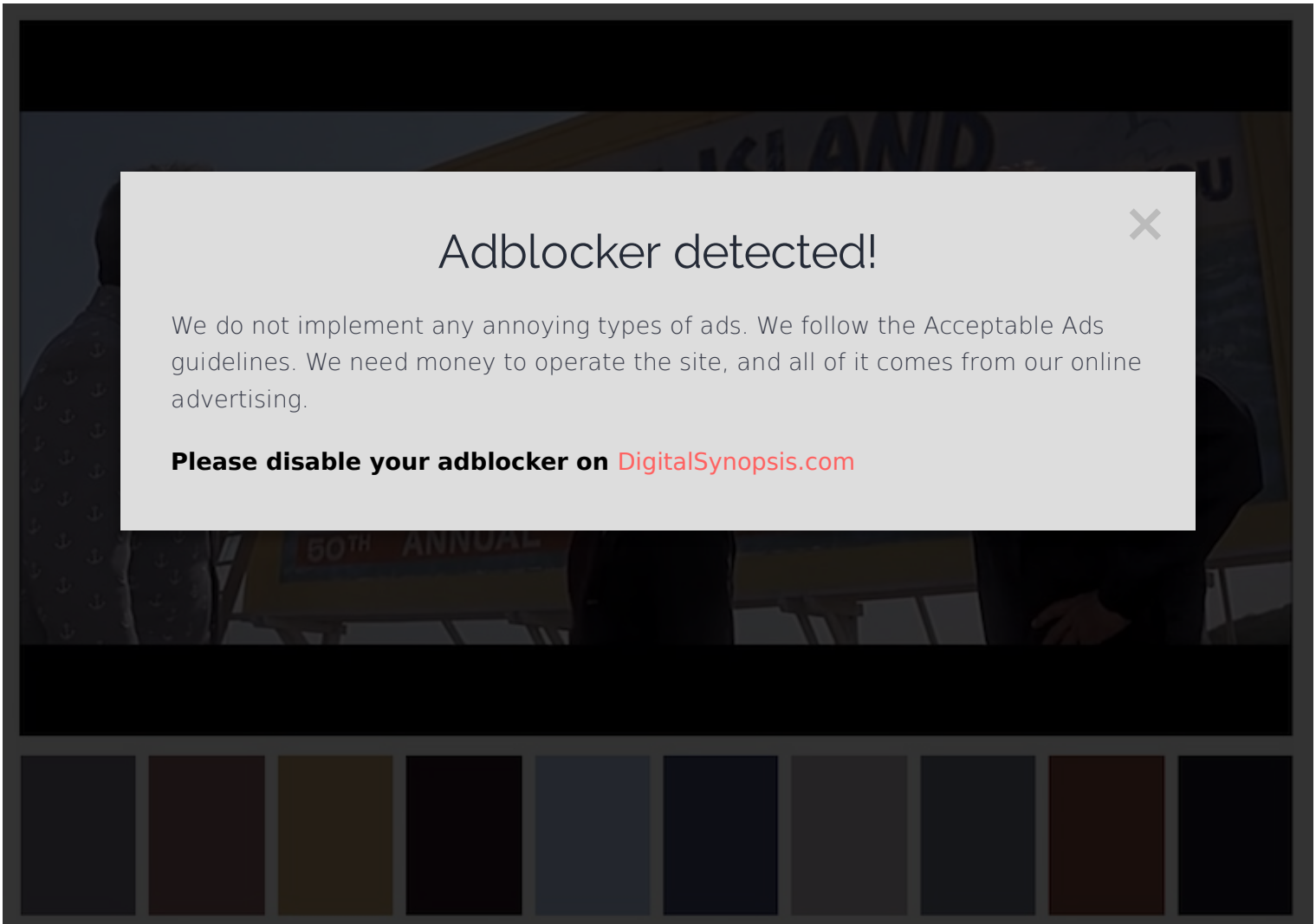


Director: Quentin Tarantino

18. Jaws (1975)



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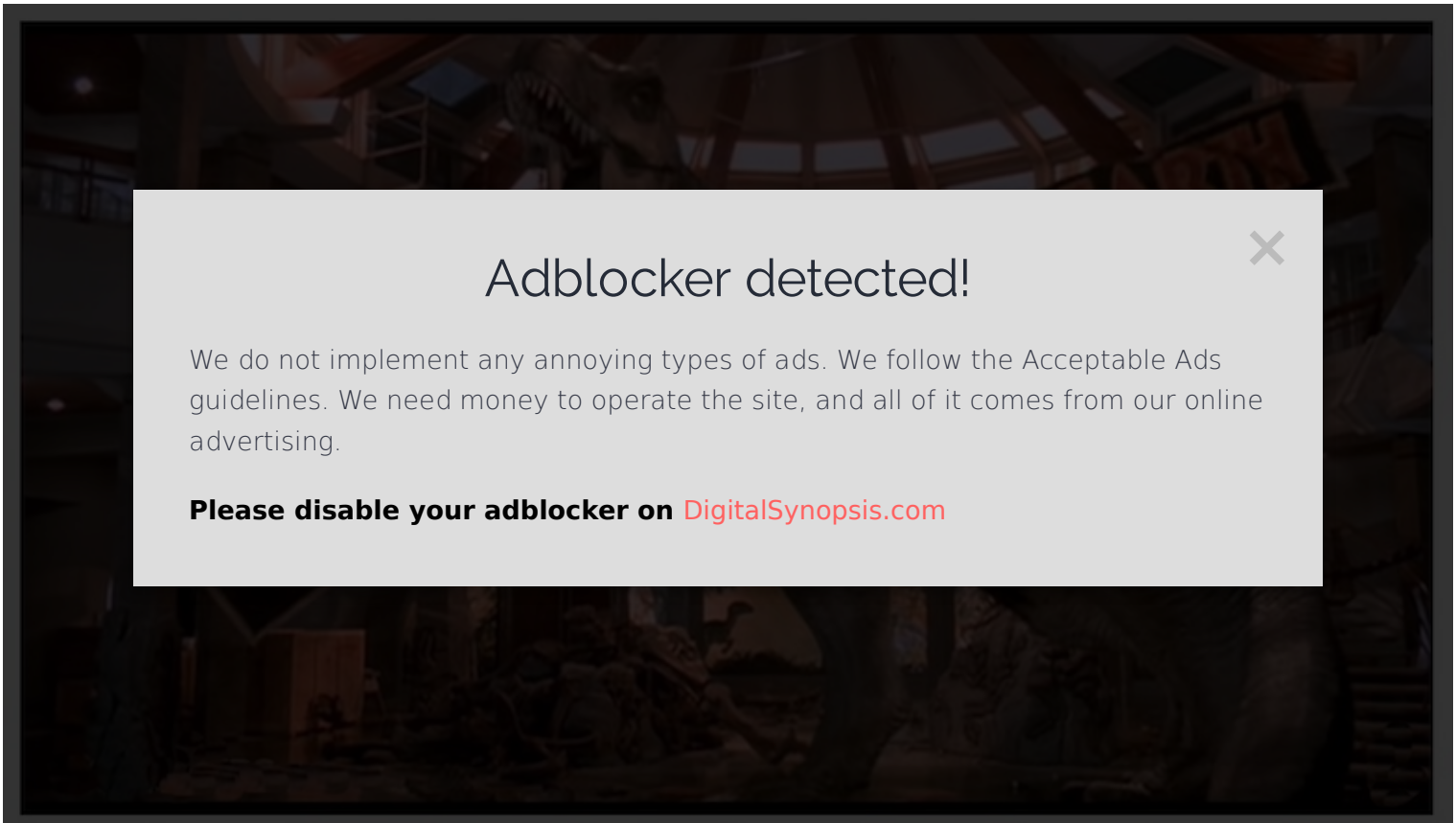
Director: Steven Spielberg

19. Jurassic Park (1993)



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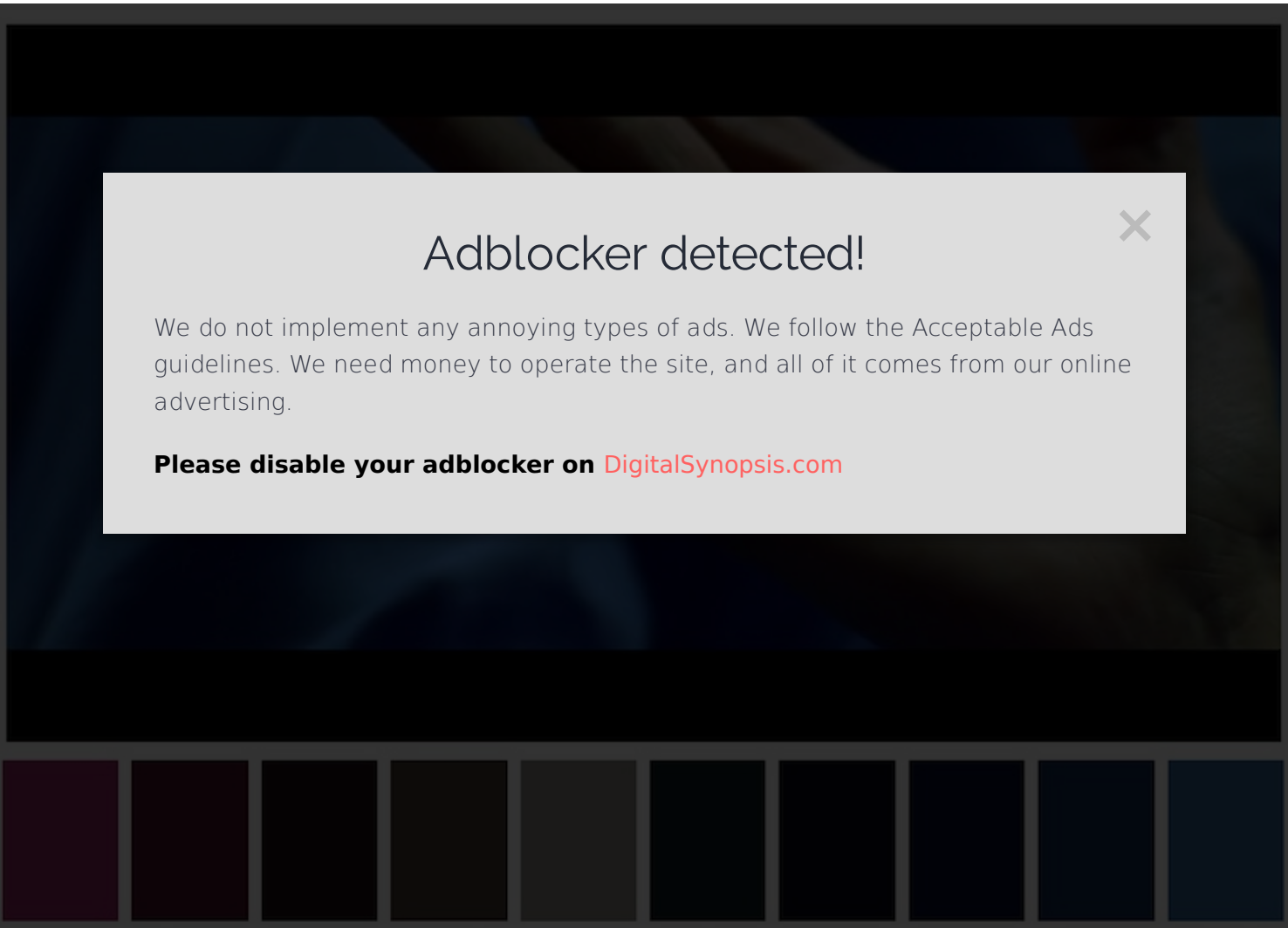
Director: Steven Spielberg

20. Kill Bill (2003)



Director: Quentin Tarantino

21. Kung Fu Panda (2008)

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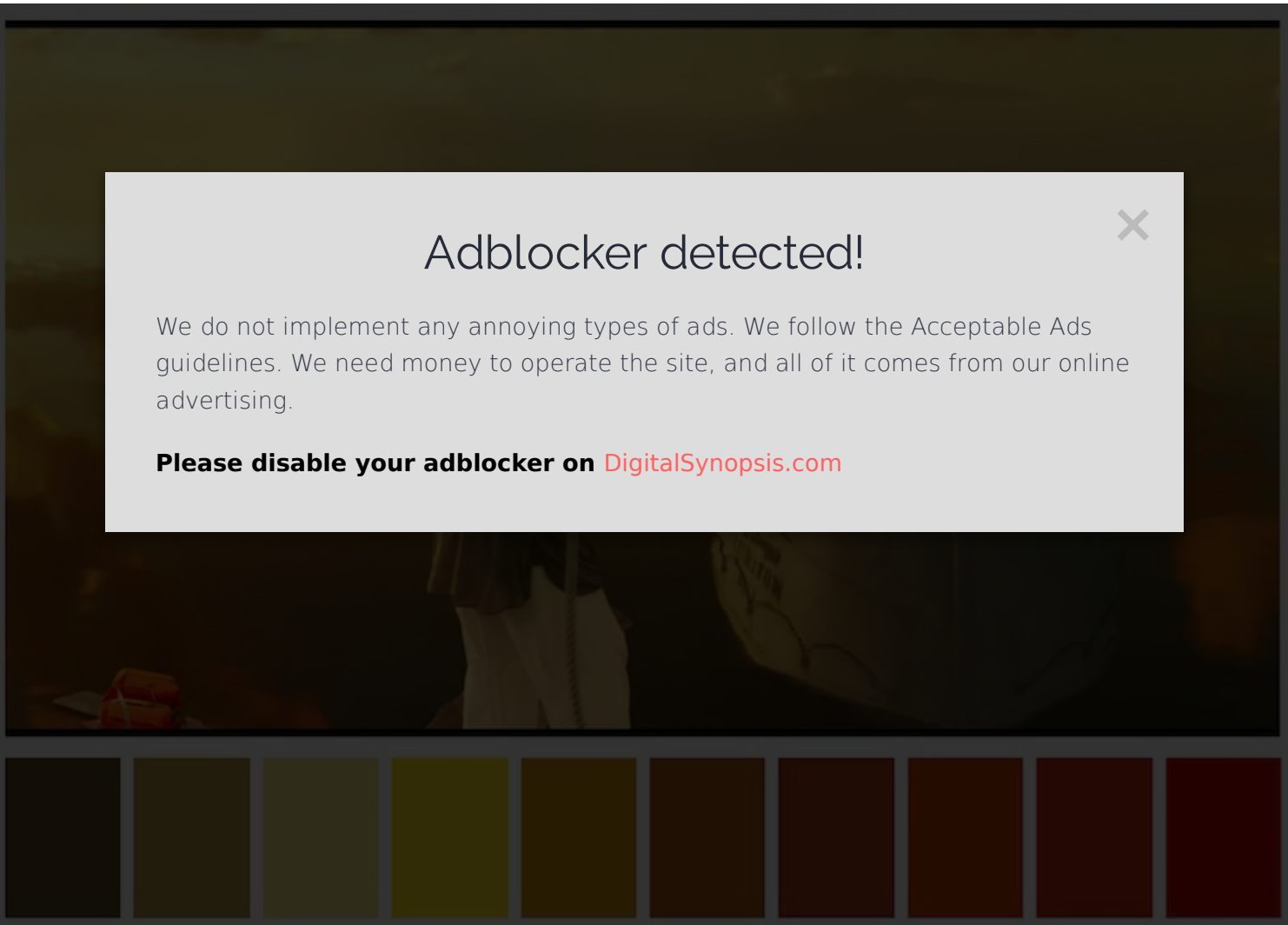
Directors: Mark Osborne, John Stevenson

22. Life of Pi (2012)



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Director: Ang Lee

23. Lost in Translation (2003)

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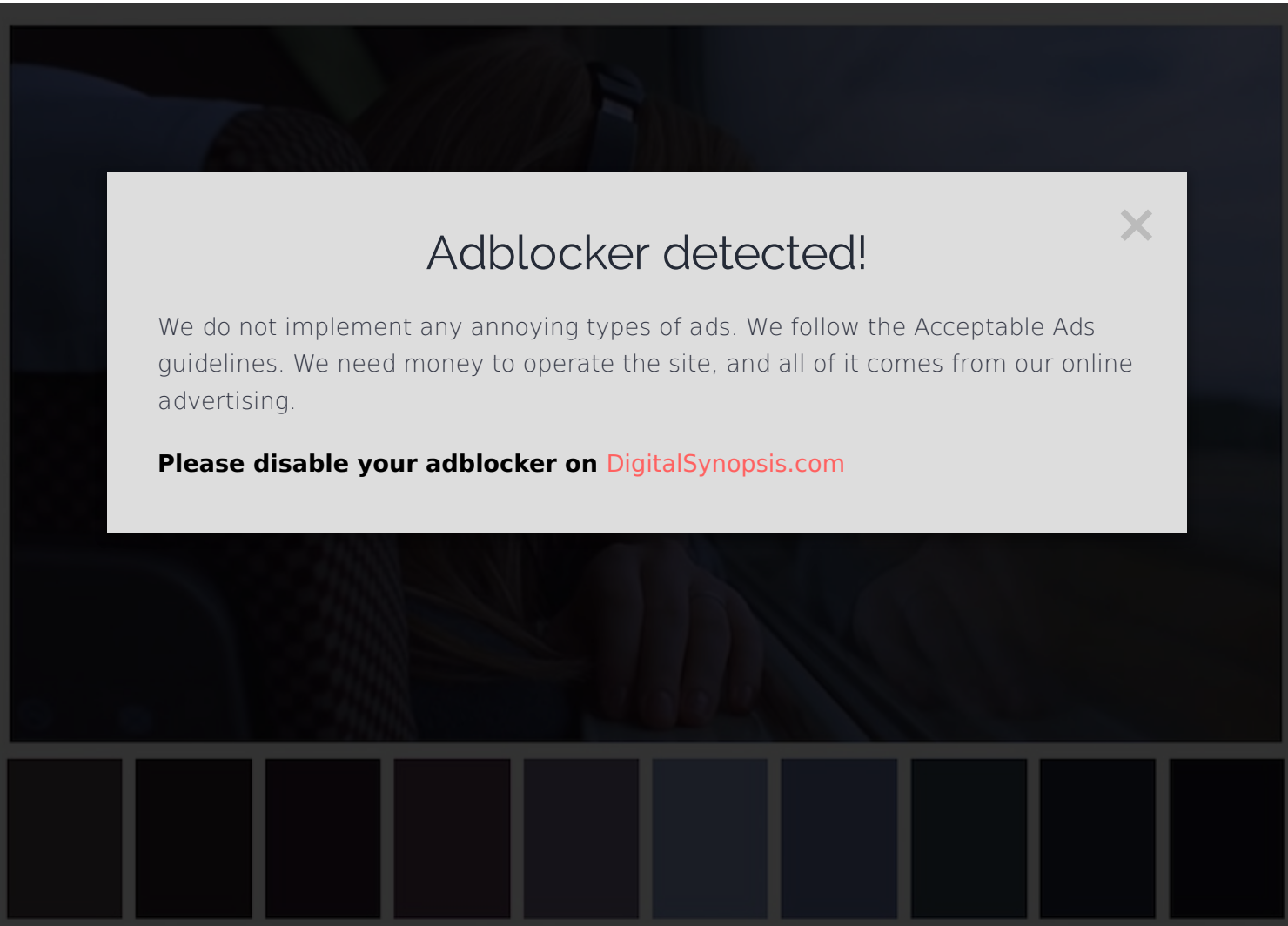
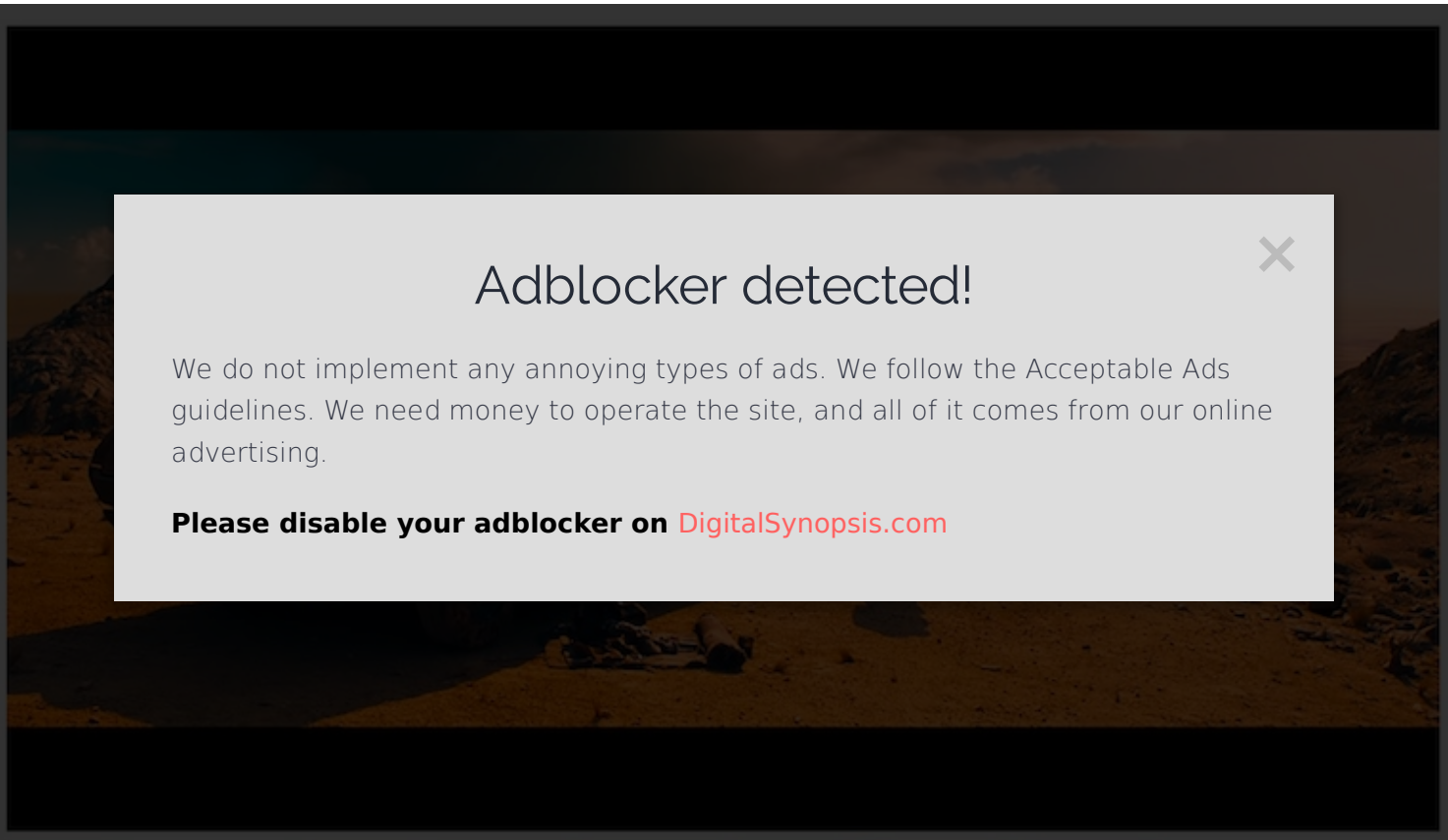


Director: Sofia Coppola

24. Mad Max: Fury Road (2015)



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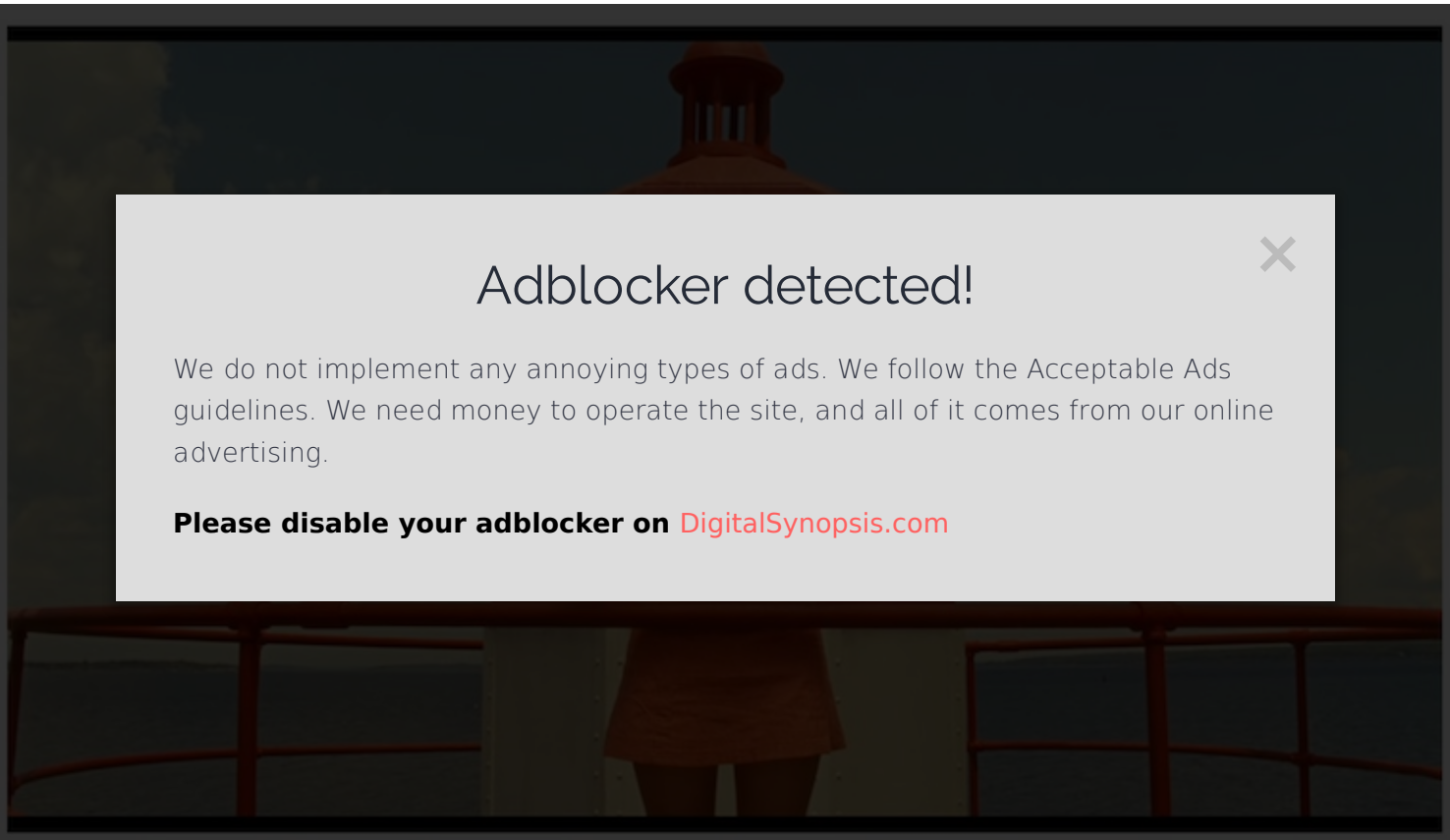
Director: George Miller

25. Moonrise Kingdom (2012)



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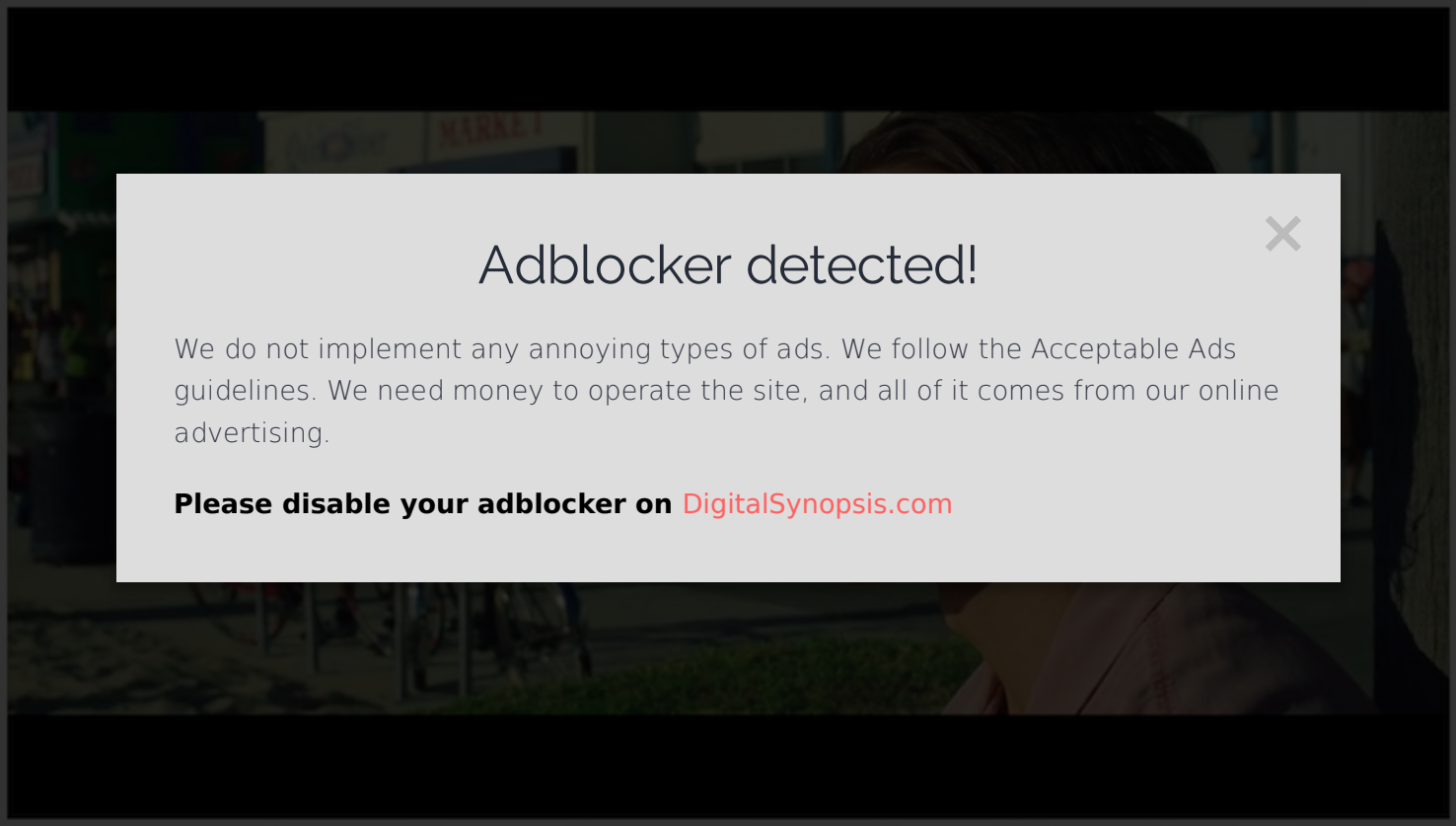
Director: Wes Anderson

26. Nightcrawler (2014)



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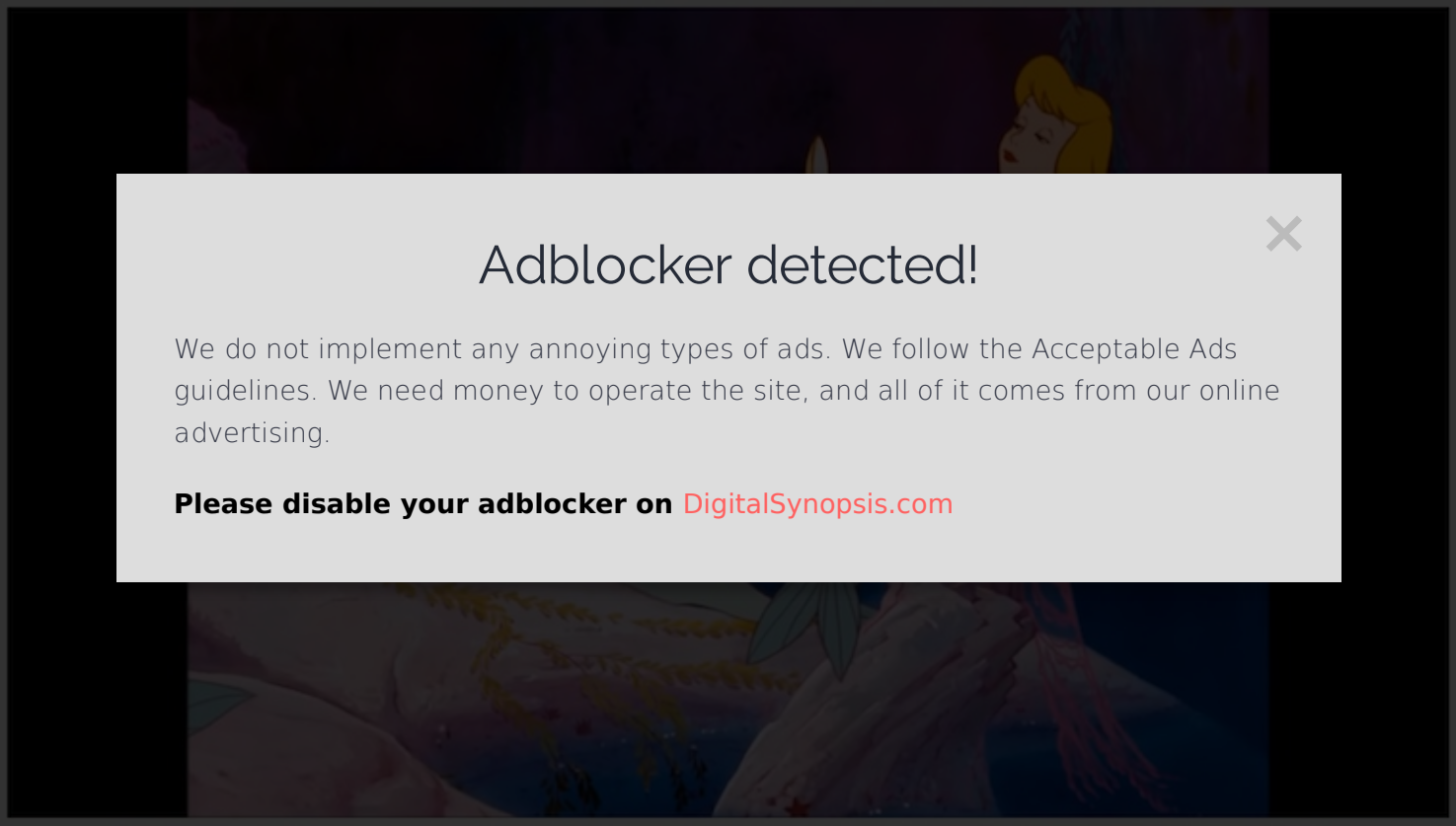
Director: Dan Gilroy

27. Peter Pan (1953)



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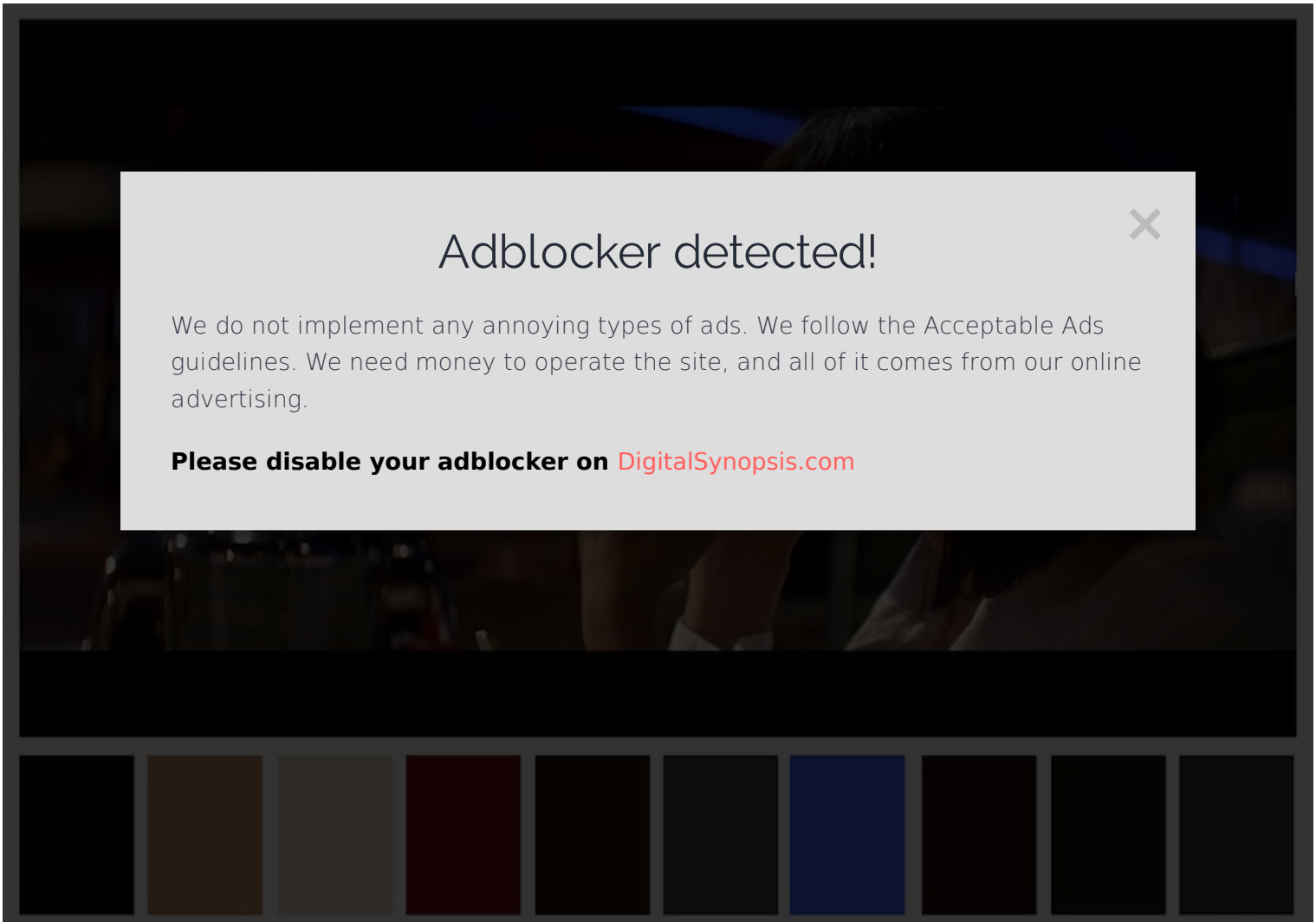
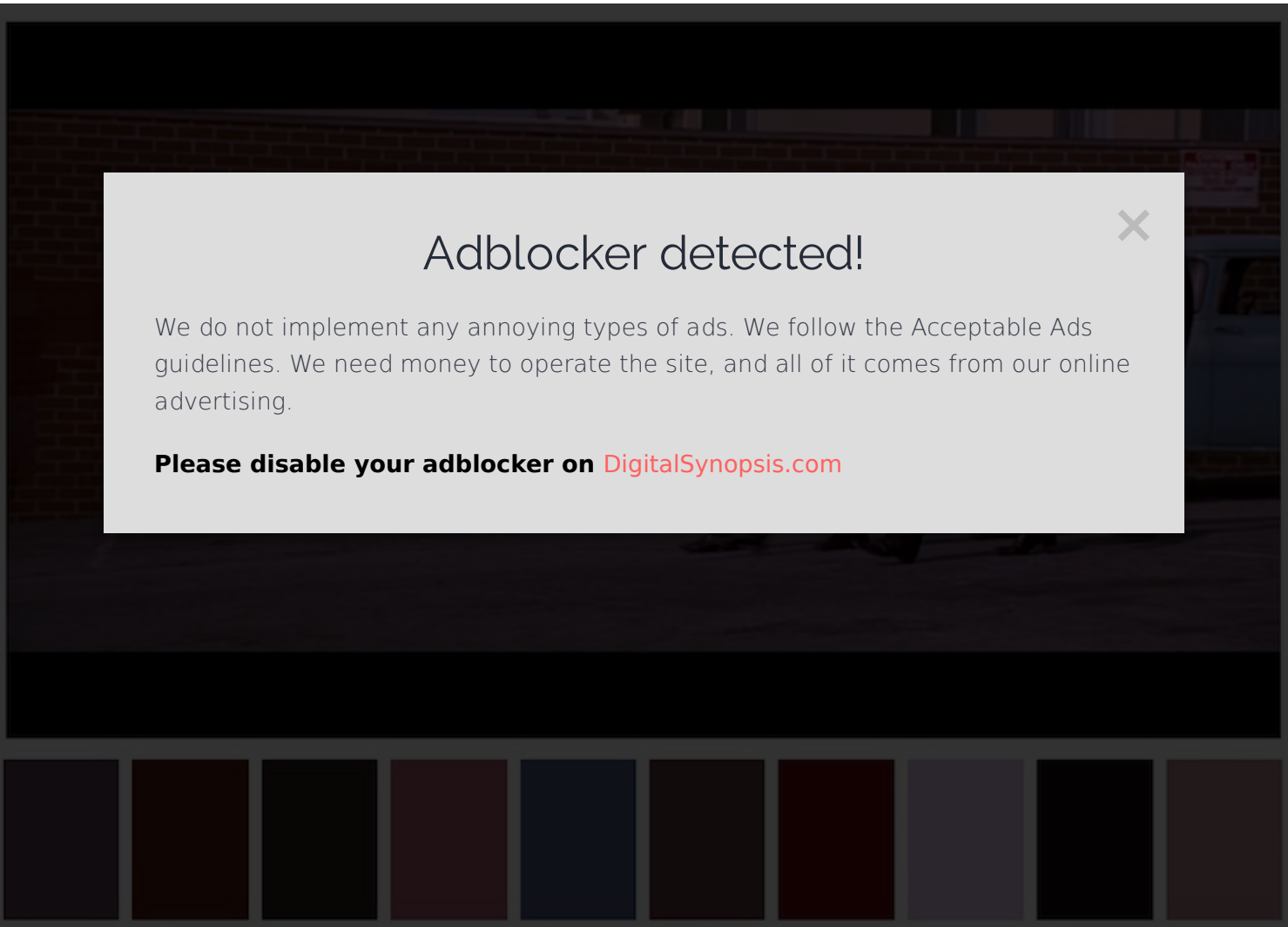
Director: Clyde Geronimi, Wilfred Jackson, Hamilton Luske

28. Pulp Fiction (1994)



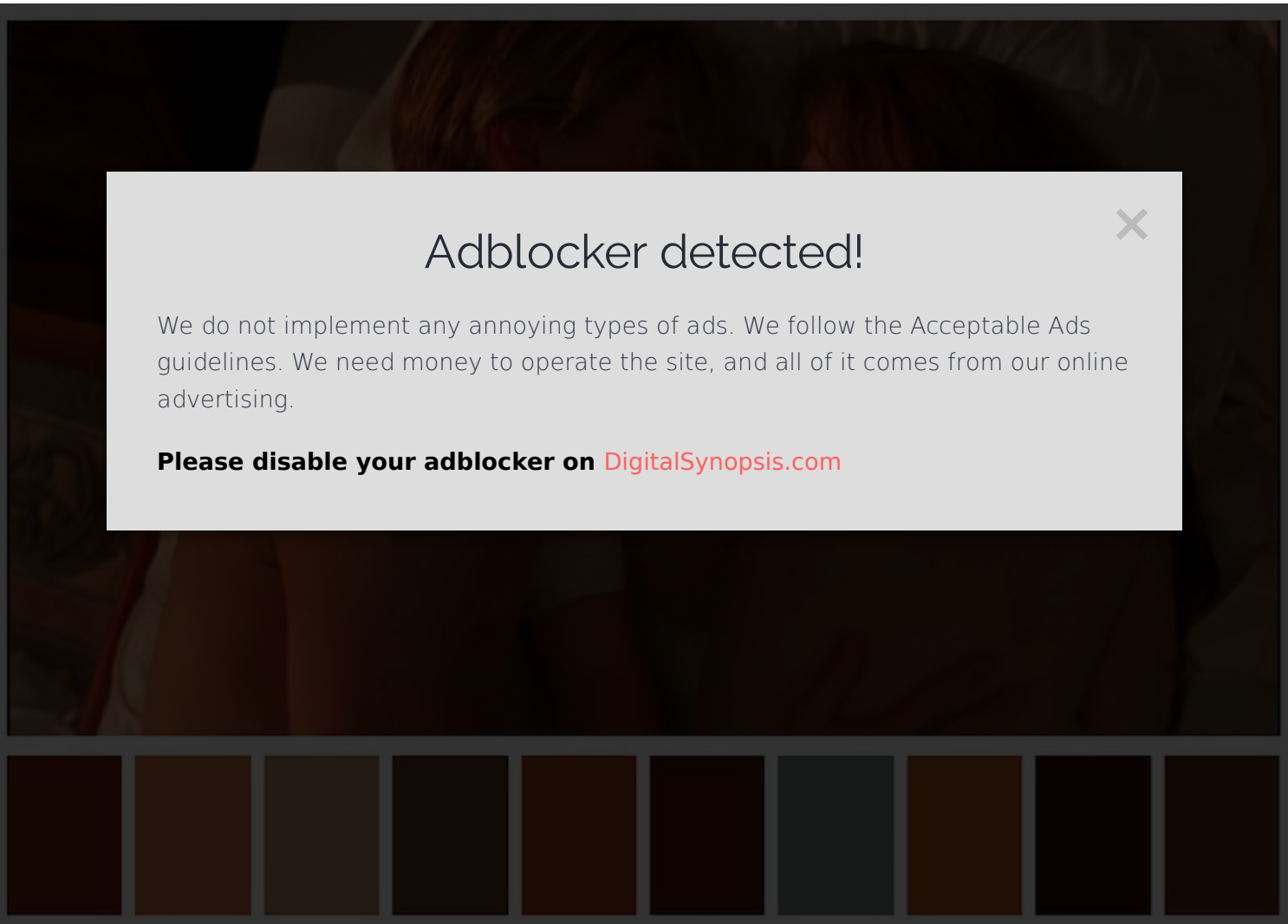
Director: Quentin Tarantino

29. Reservoir Dogs (1992)



Director: Quentin Tarantino

30. Romeo + Juliet (1996)



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Director: Baz Luhrmann

31. Spirited Away (2001)

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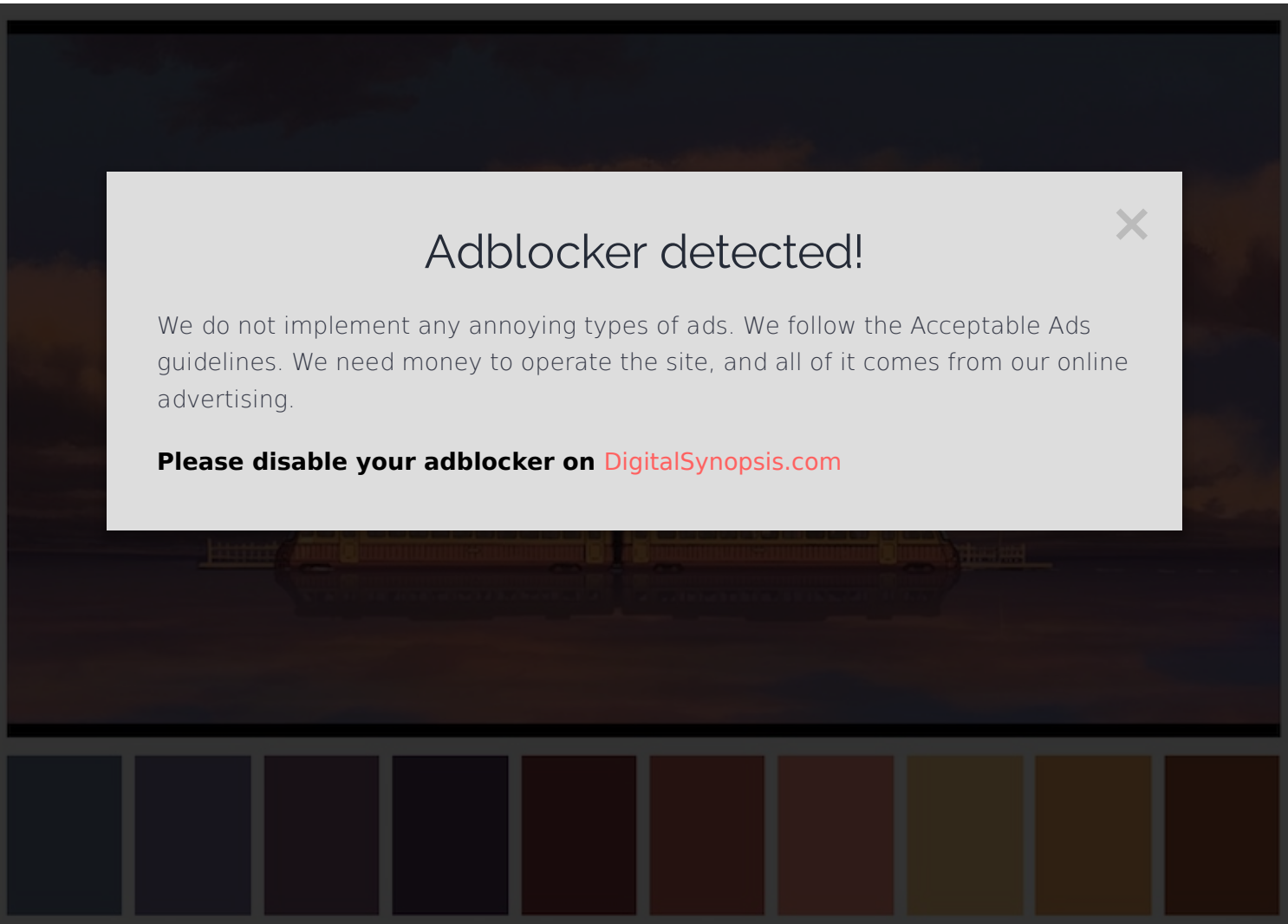
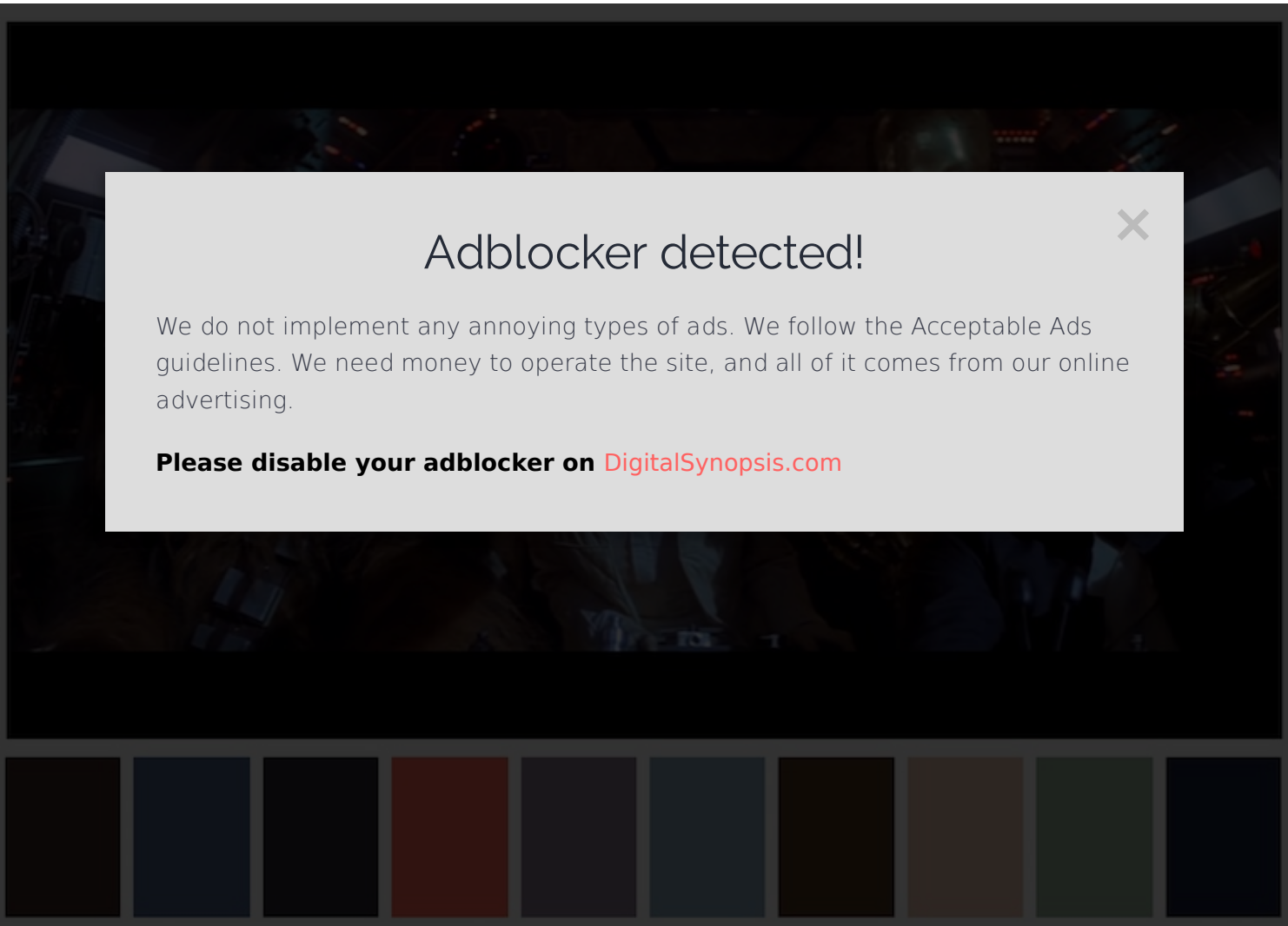


Director: Hayao Miyazaki

32. Star Wars: Episode V – The Empire Strikes Back (1980)



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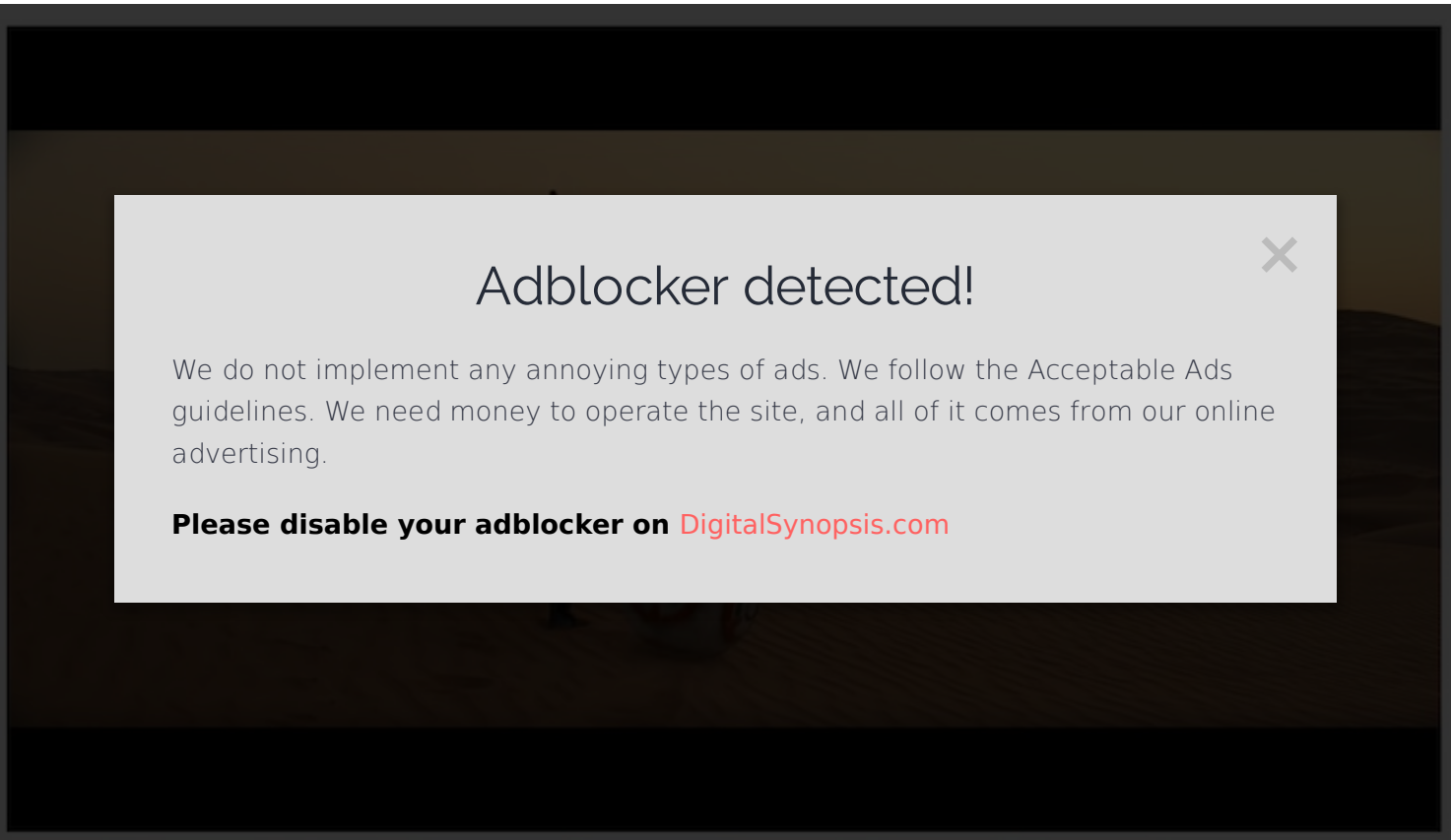
Director: Irvin Kershner

33. Star Wars: The Force Awakens (2015)



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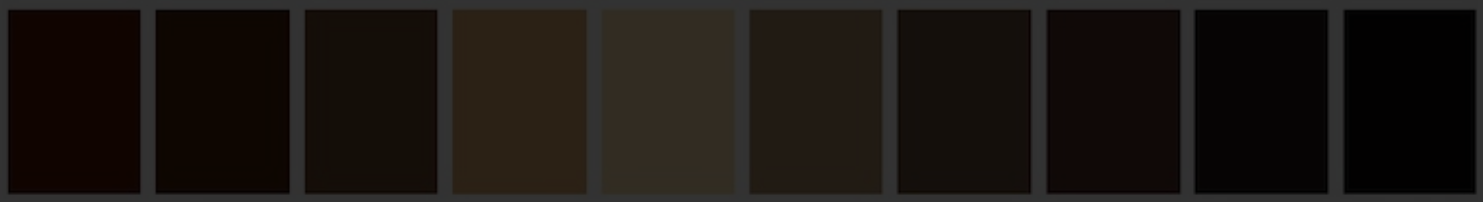
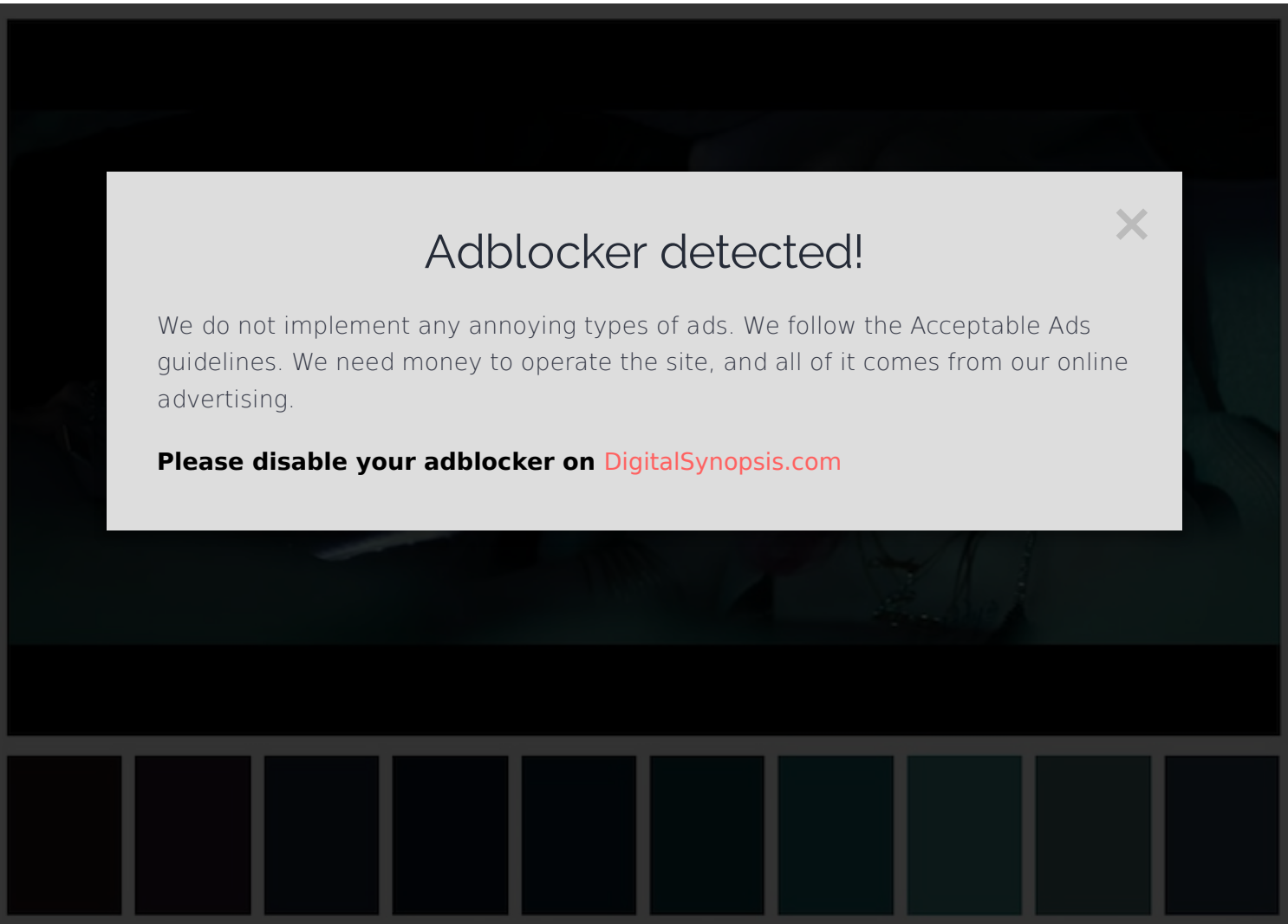


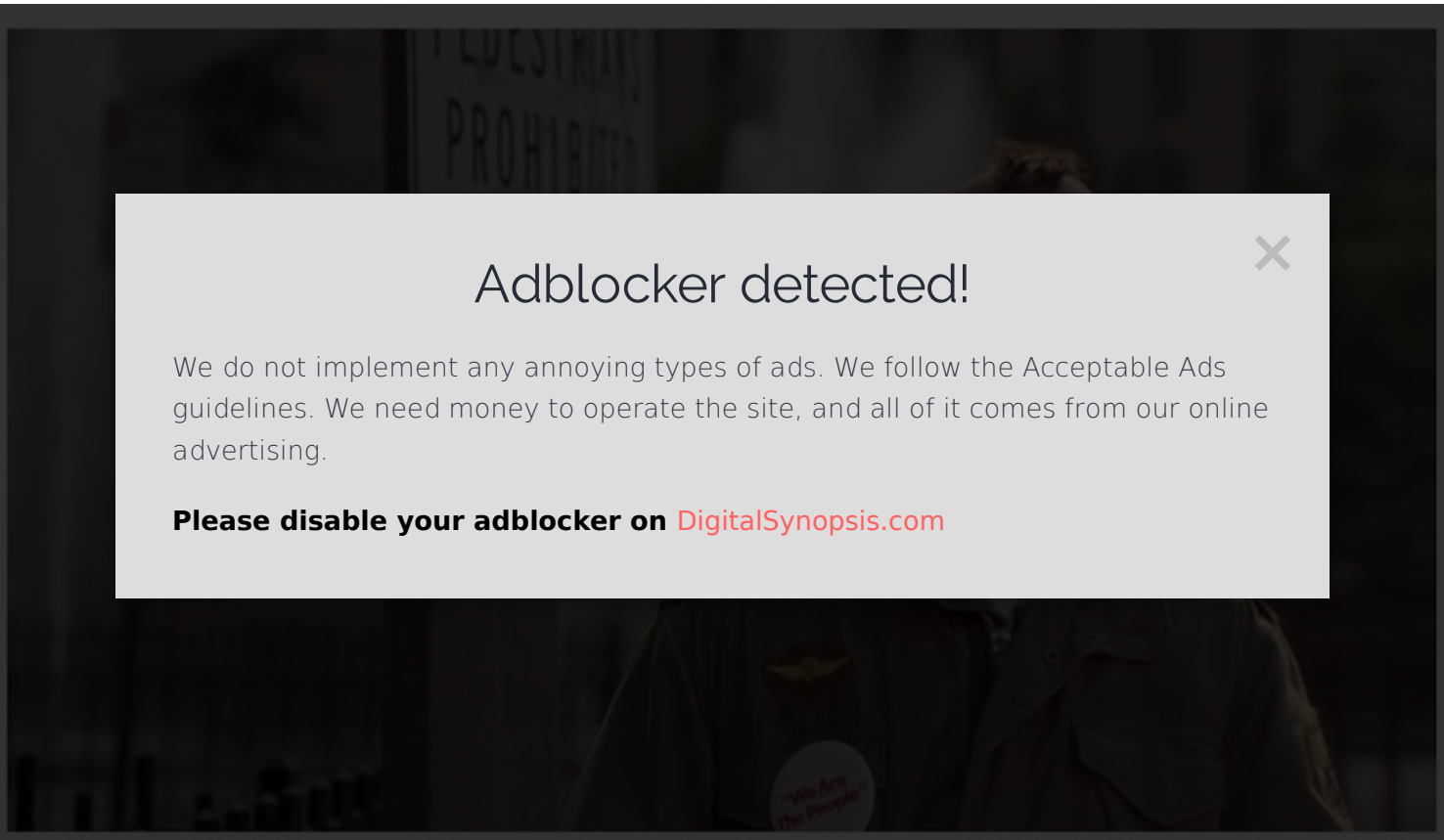
Director: J.J. Abrams

34. Suicide Squad (2016)



Director: David Ayer

35. Taxi Driver (1976)



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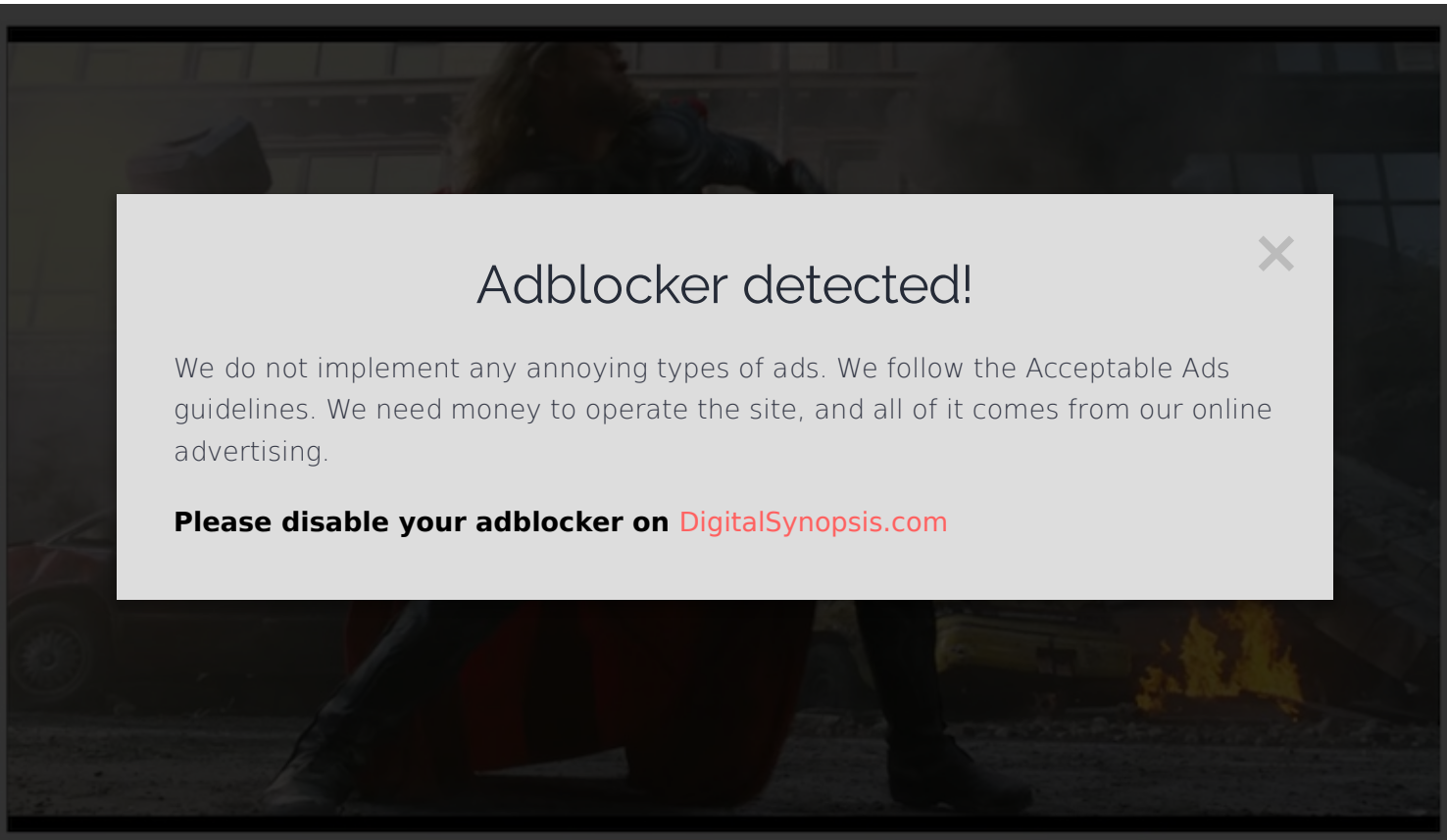
Director: Martin Scorsese

36. The Avengers (2012)



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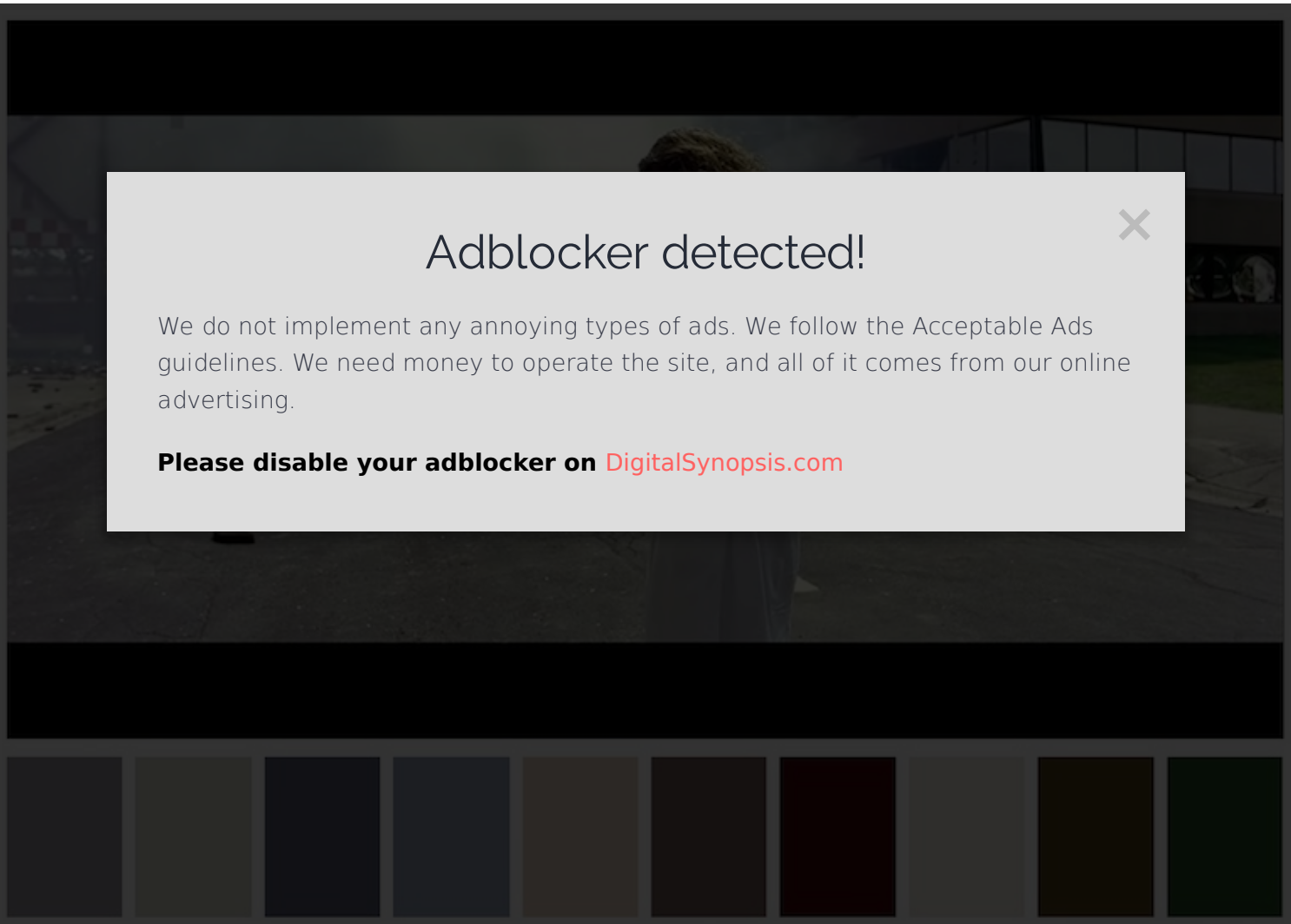
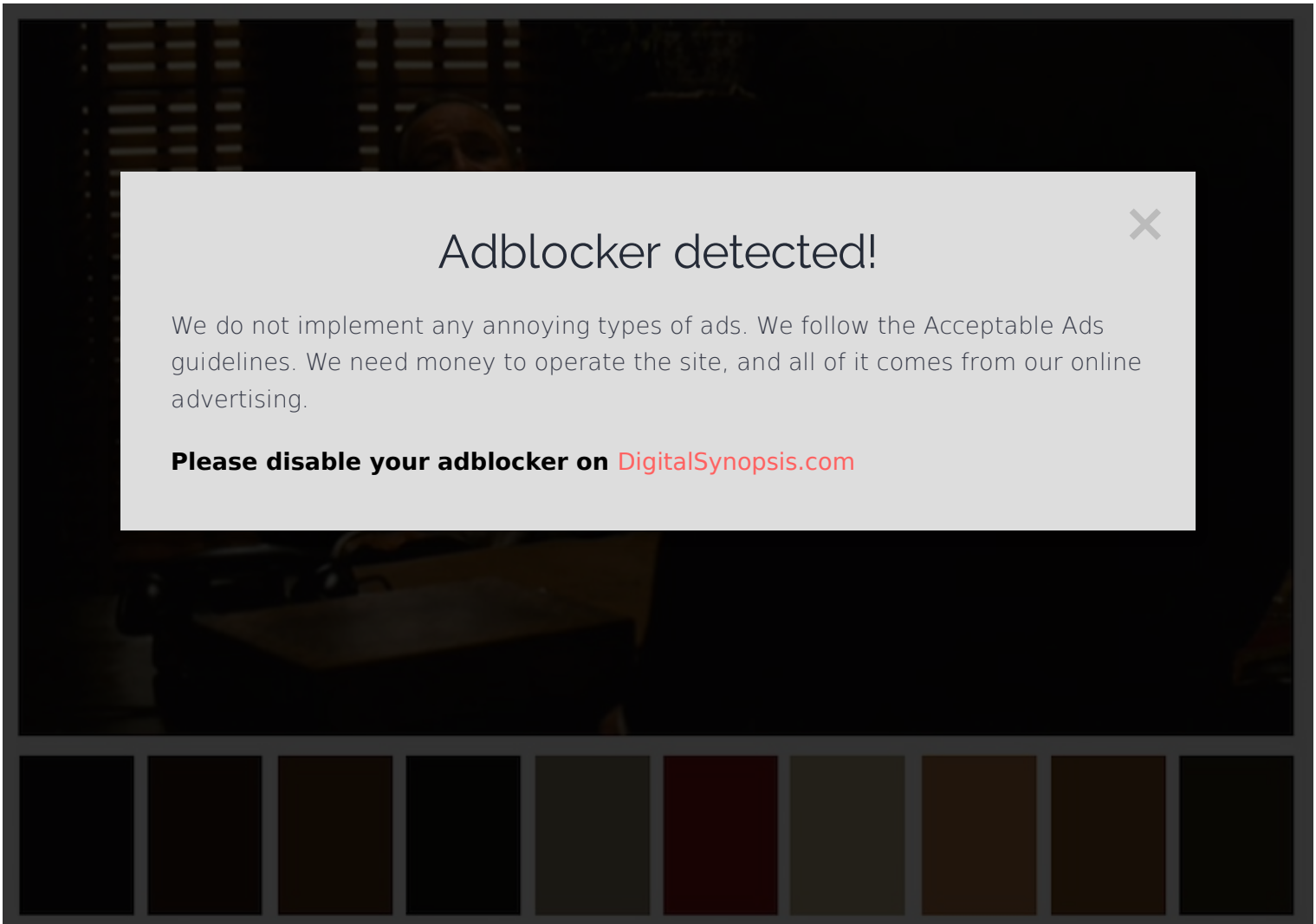
Director: Joss Whedon

37. The Dark Knight (2008)



Director: Christopher Nolan

38. The Godfather (1972)



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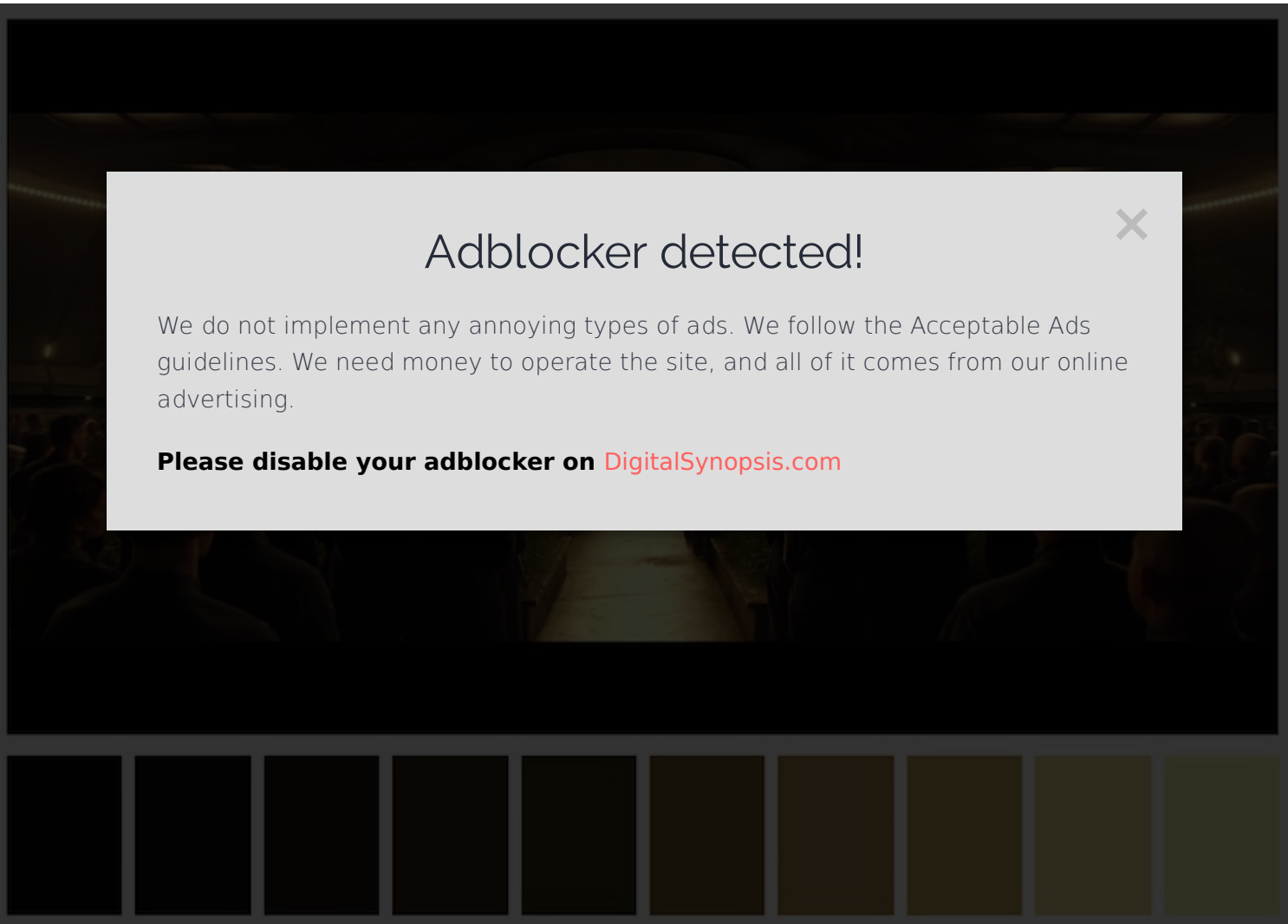
Director: Francis Ford Coppola

39. The Hunger Games: Mockingjay – Part 2 (2015)



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Director: Francis Lawrence

40. The Lion King (1994)

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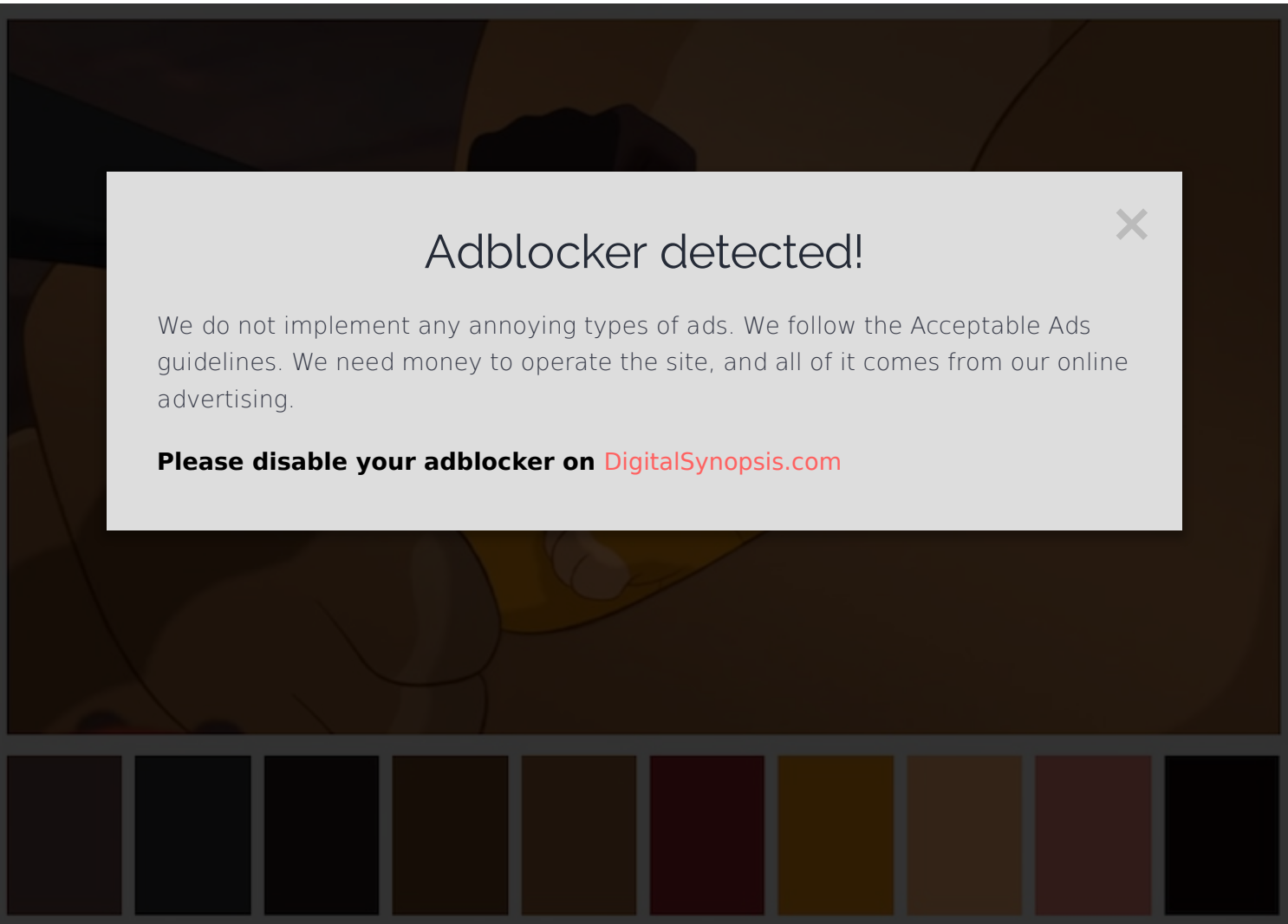
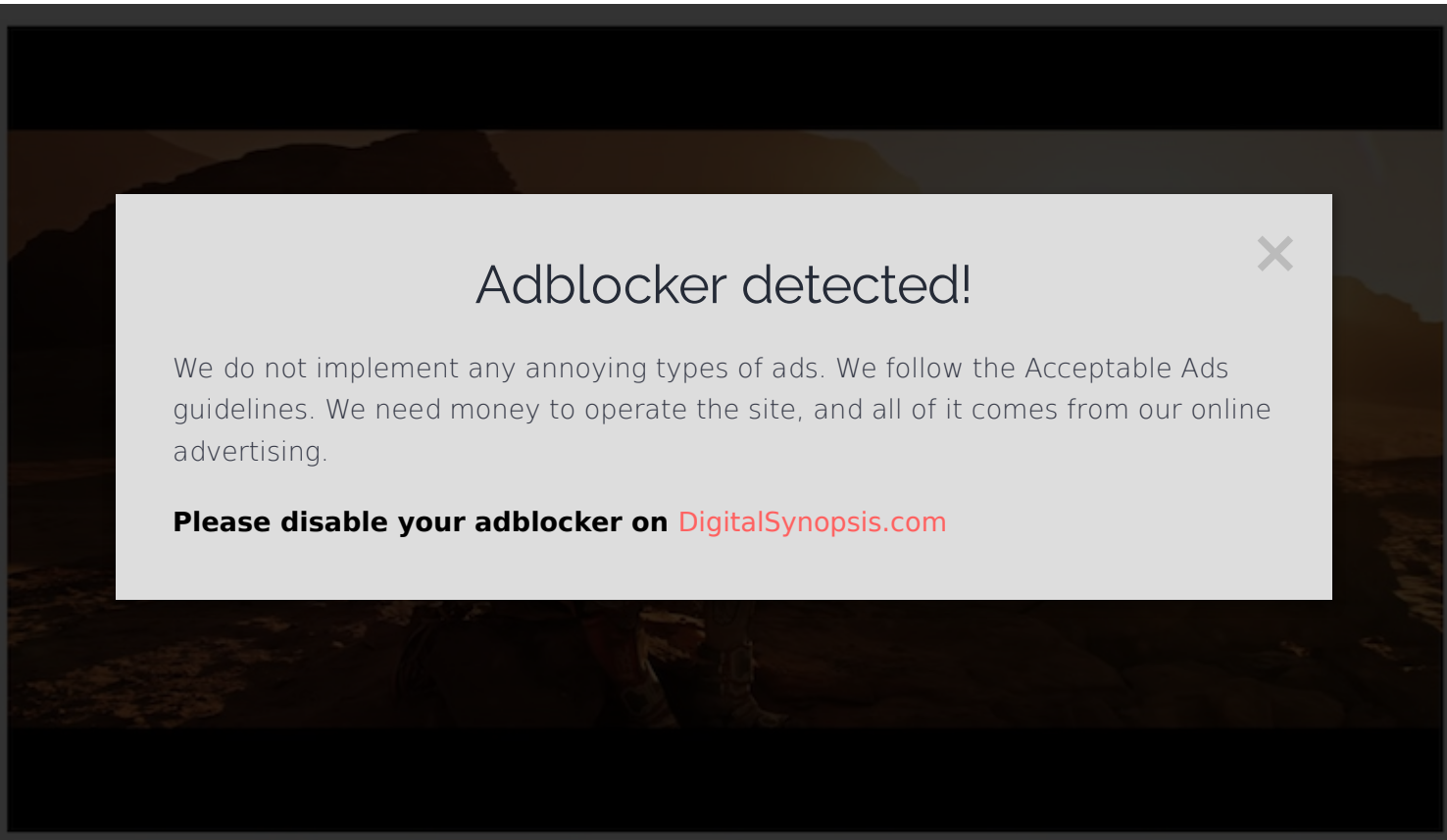


Director: Roger Allers, Rob Minkoff

41. The Martian (2015)



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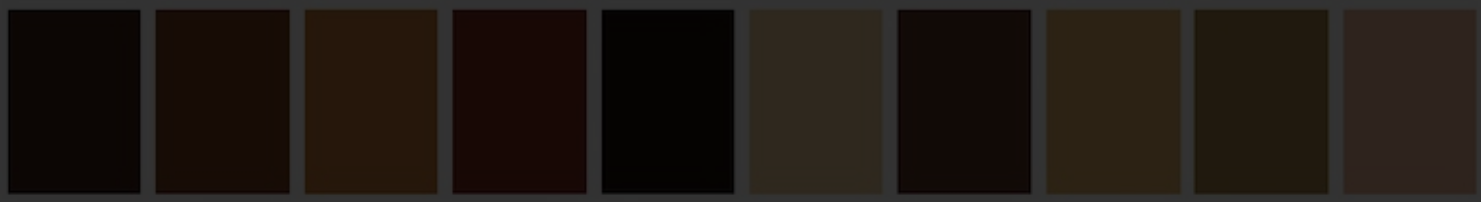
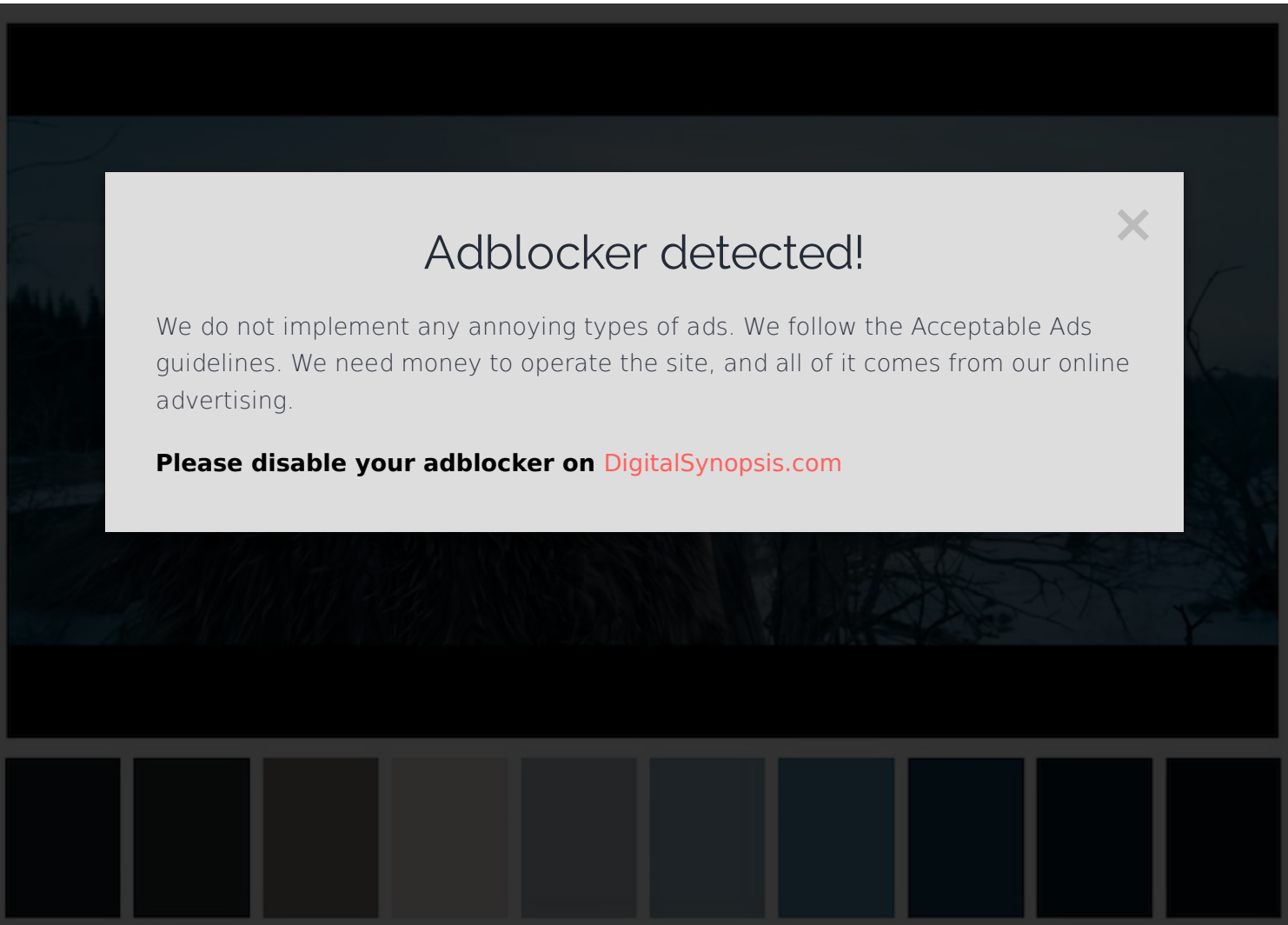


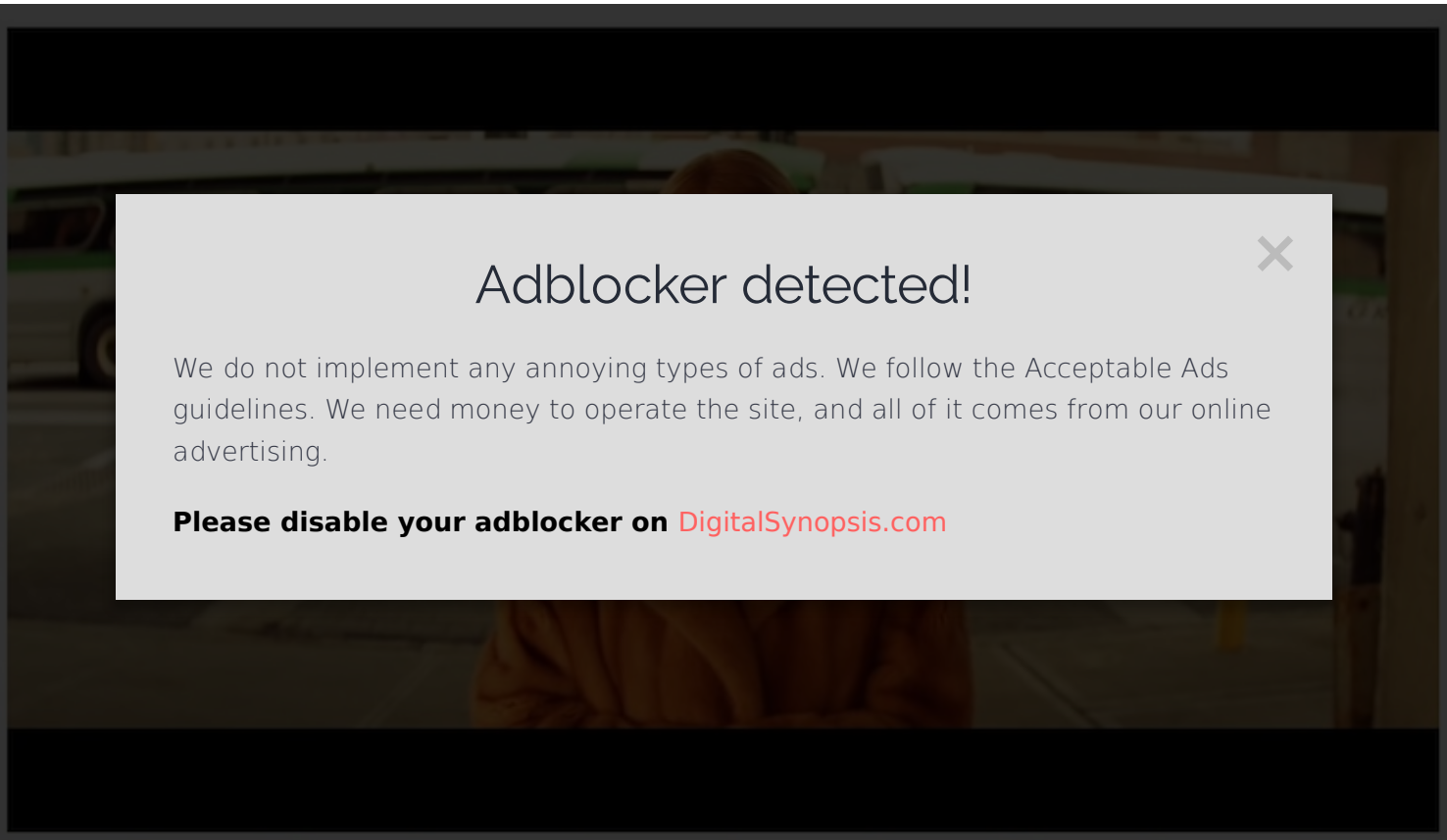
Director: Ridley Scott

42. The Revenant (2015)



Director: Alejandro González Iñárritu

43. The Royal Tenenbaums (2001)



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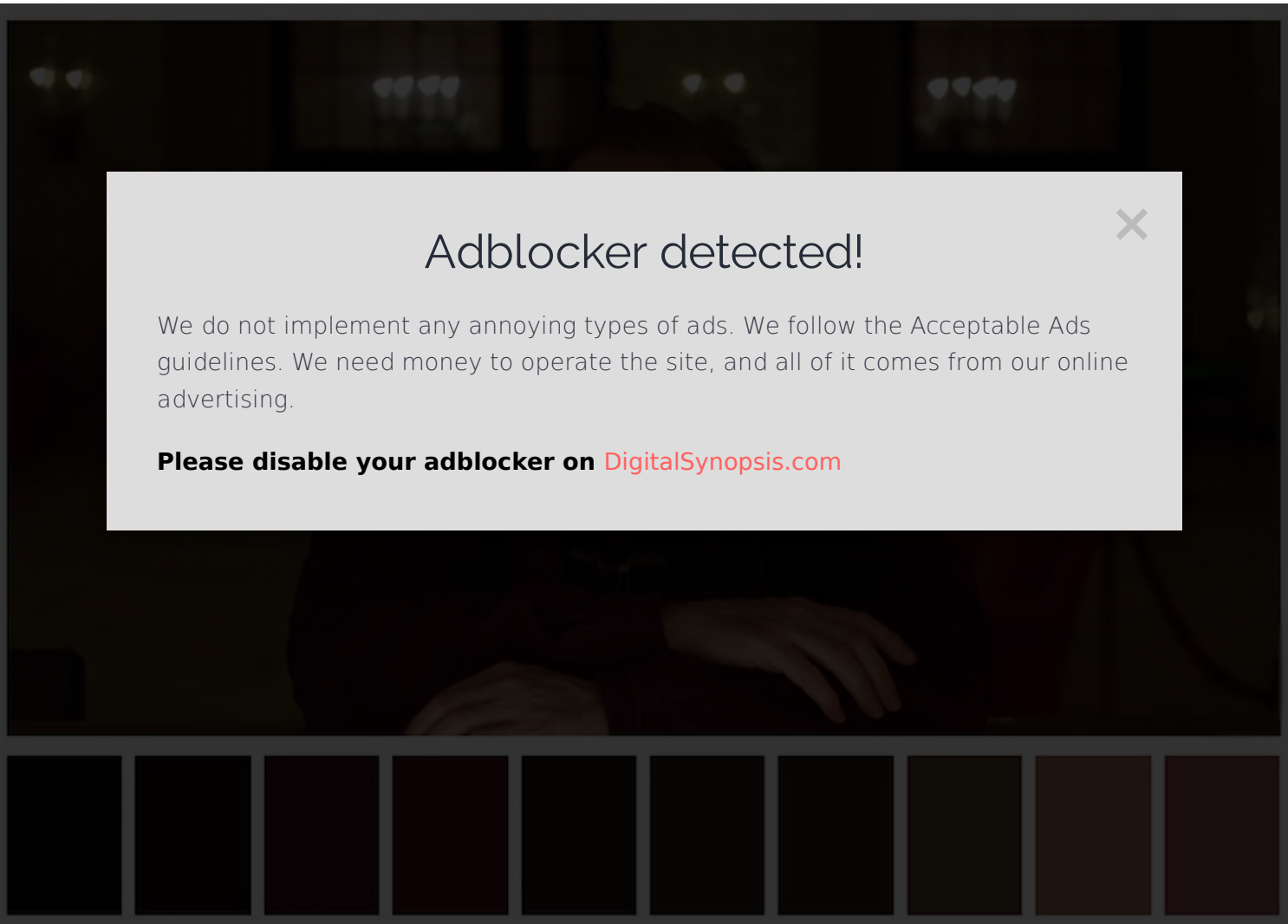
Director: Wes Anderson

44. The Shining (1980)



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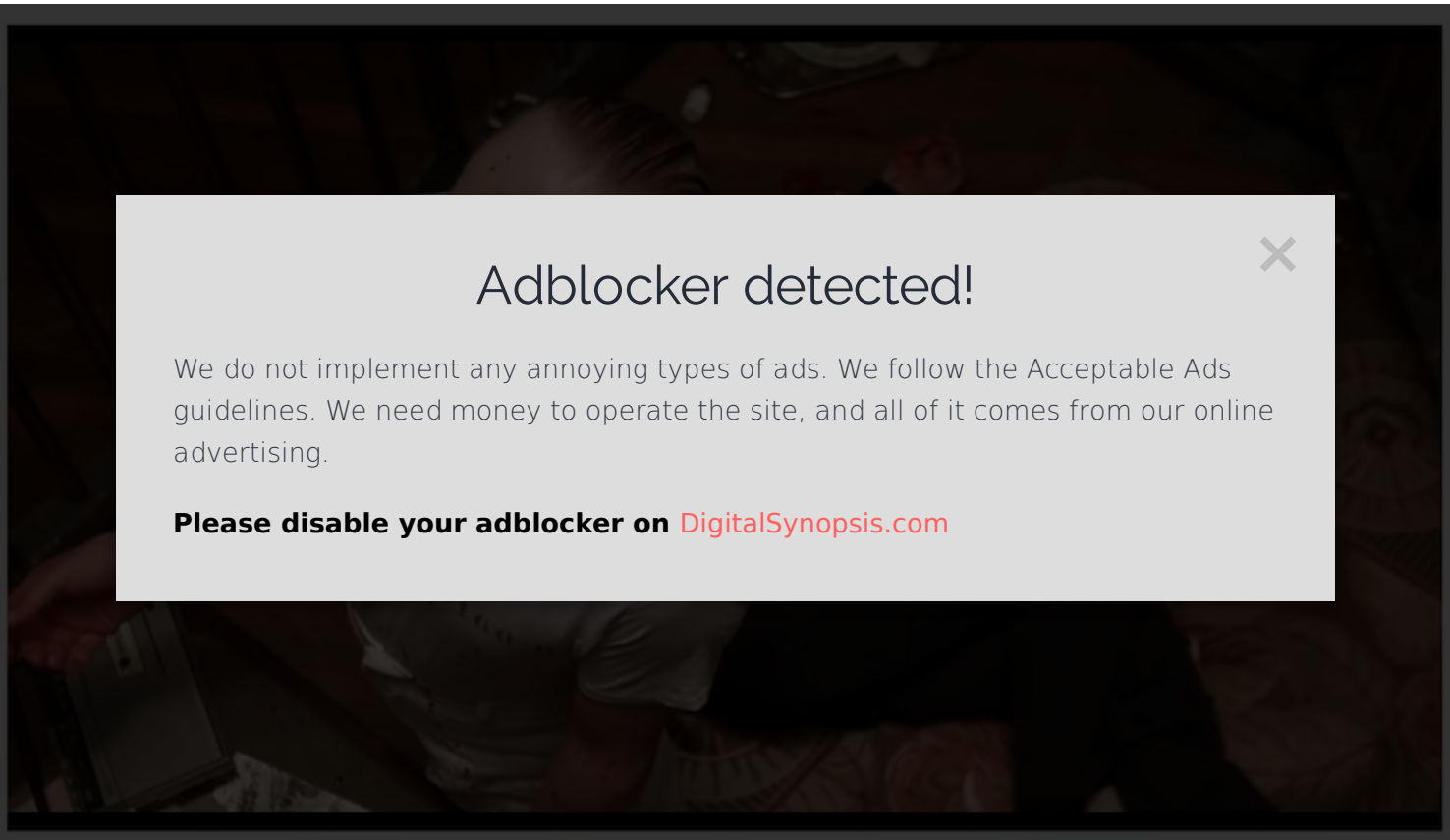
Director: Stanley Kubrick

45. The Silence of the Lambs (1991)



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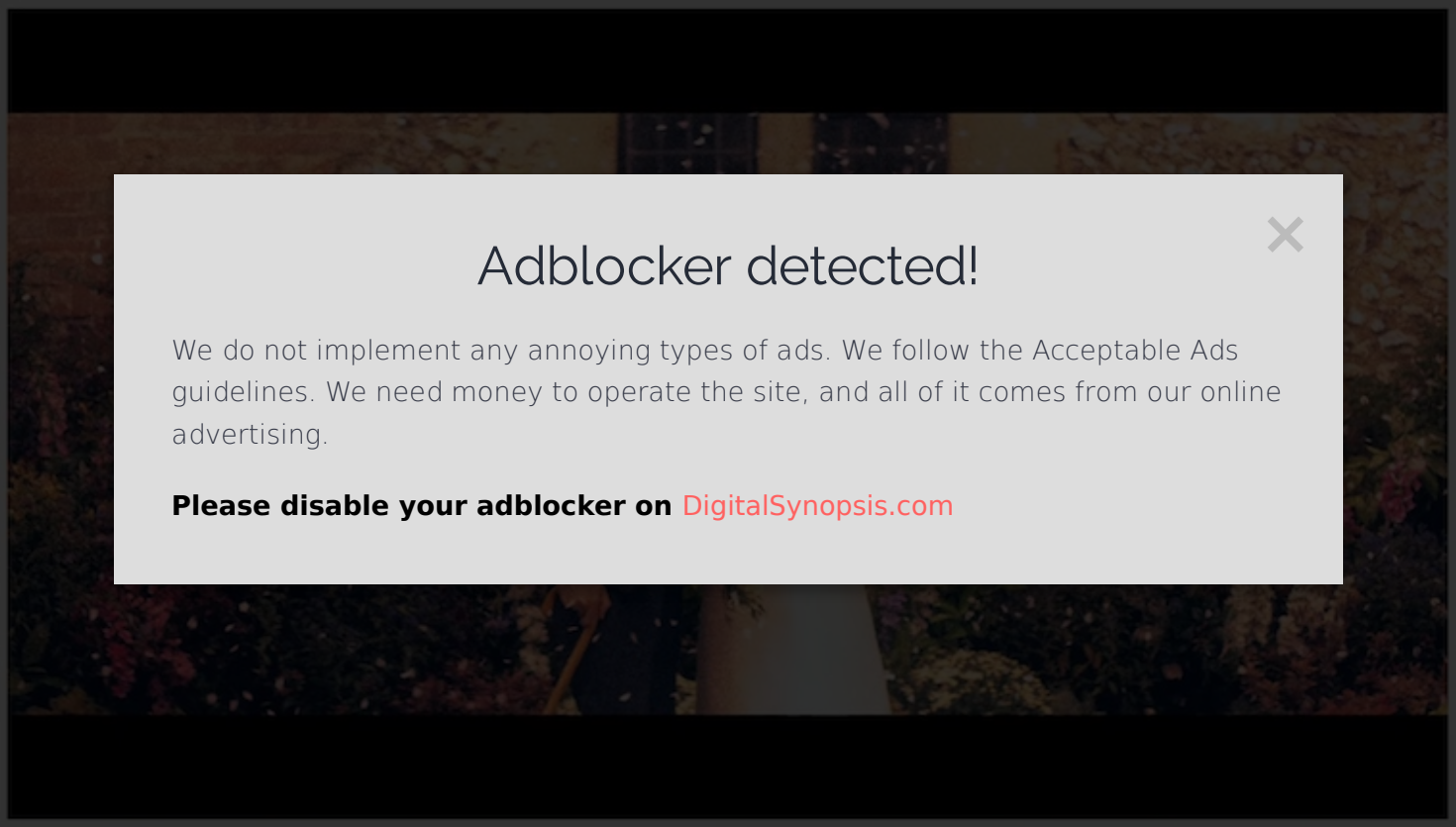
Director: Jonathan Demme

46. The Theory of Everything (2014)



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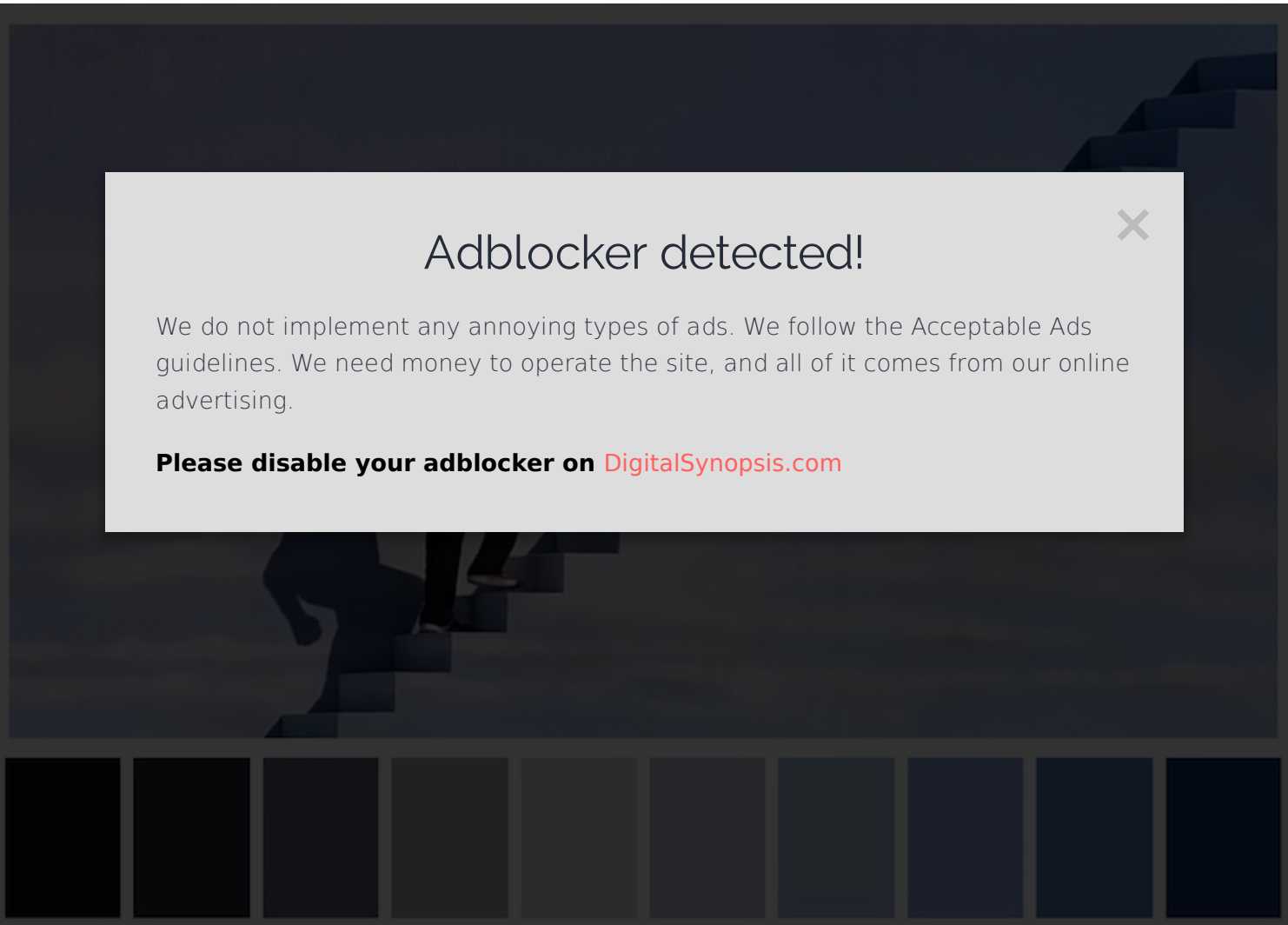
Director: James Marsh

47. The Truman Show (1998)



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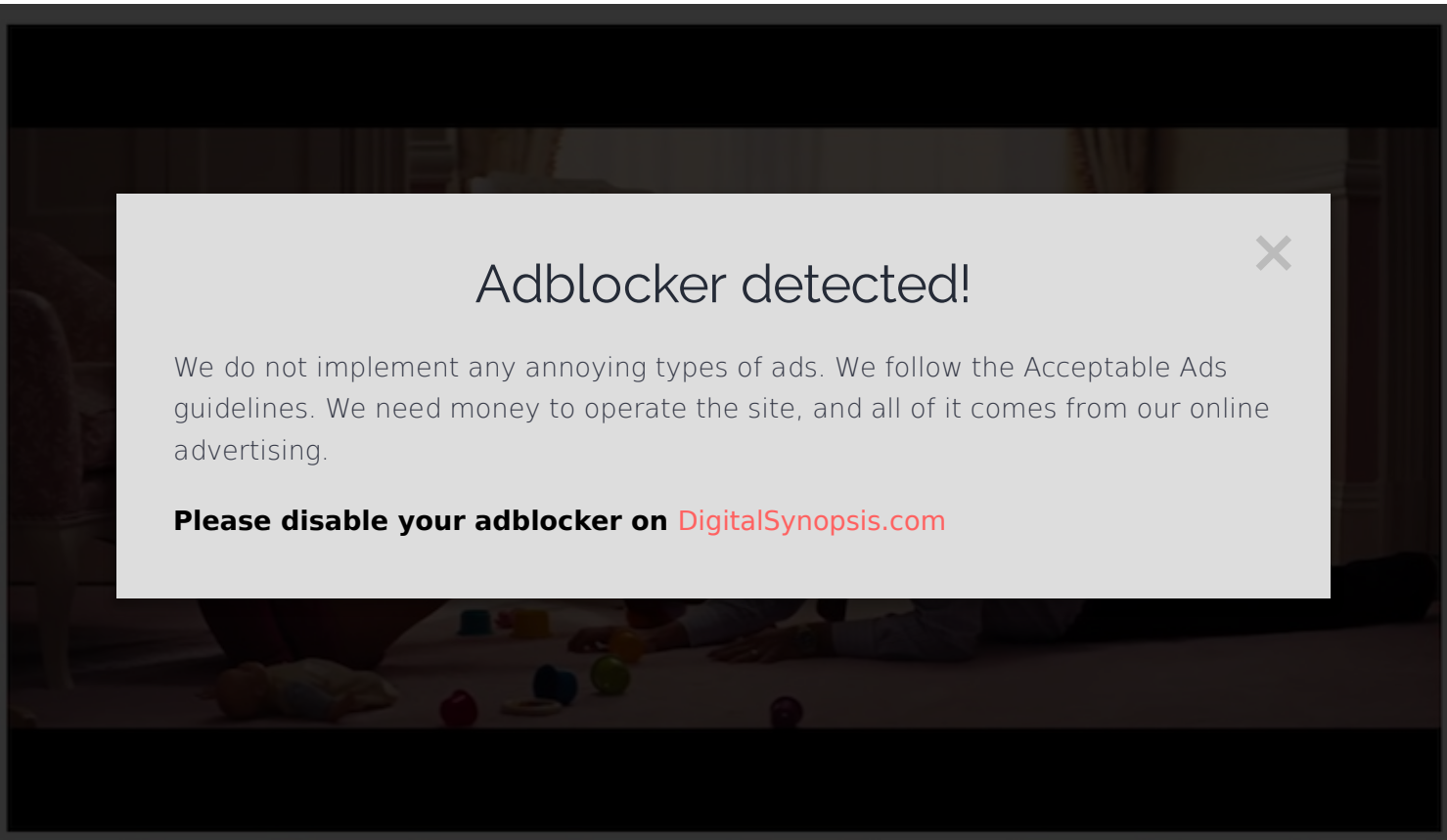
Director: Peter Weir

48. The Wolf of Wall Street (2013)



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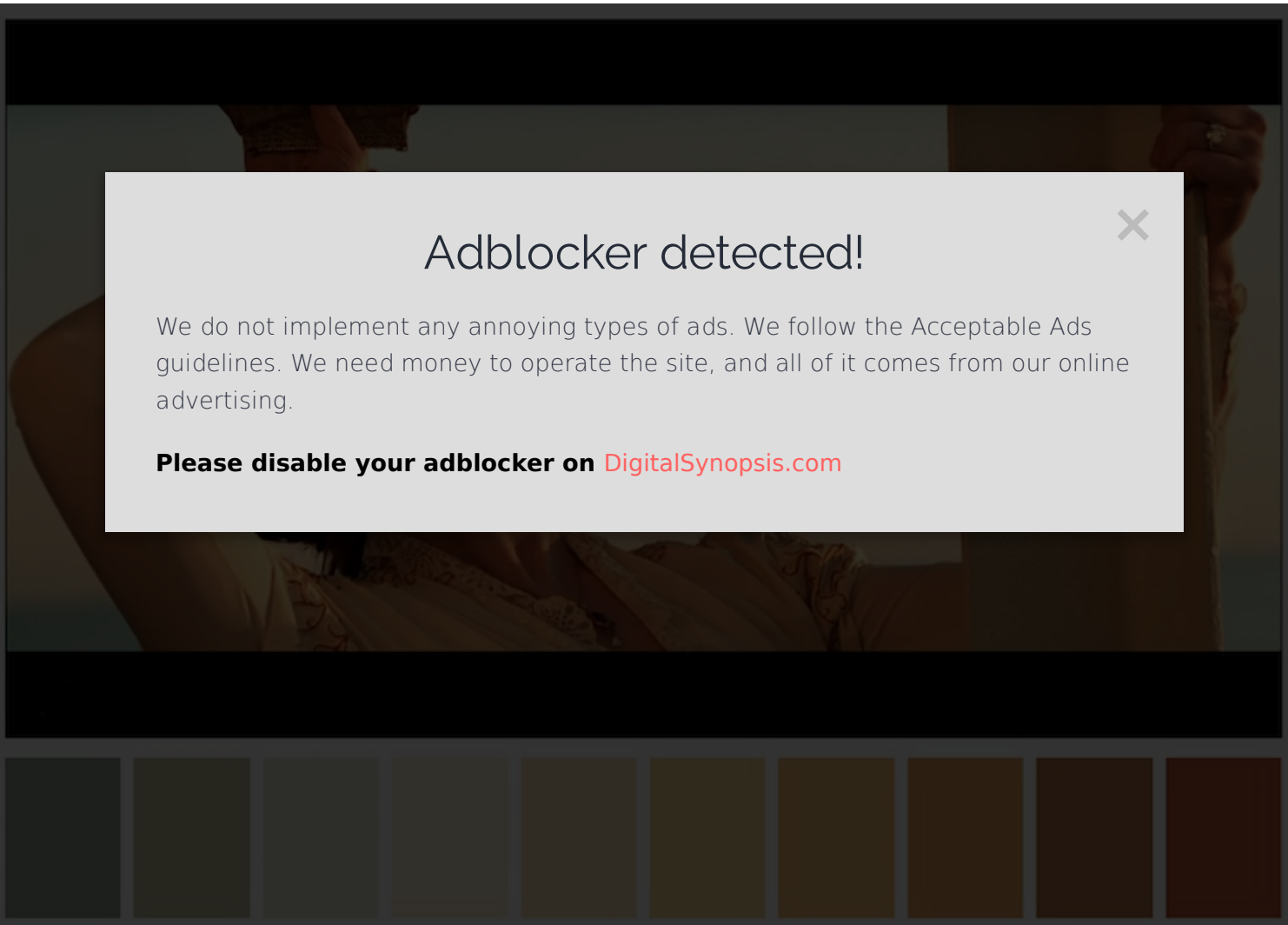
Director: Martin Scorsese

49. Titanic (1997)



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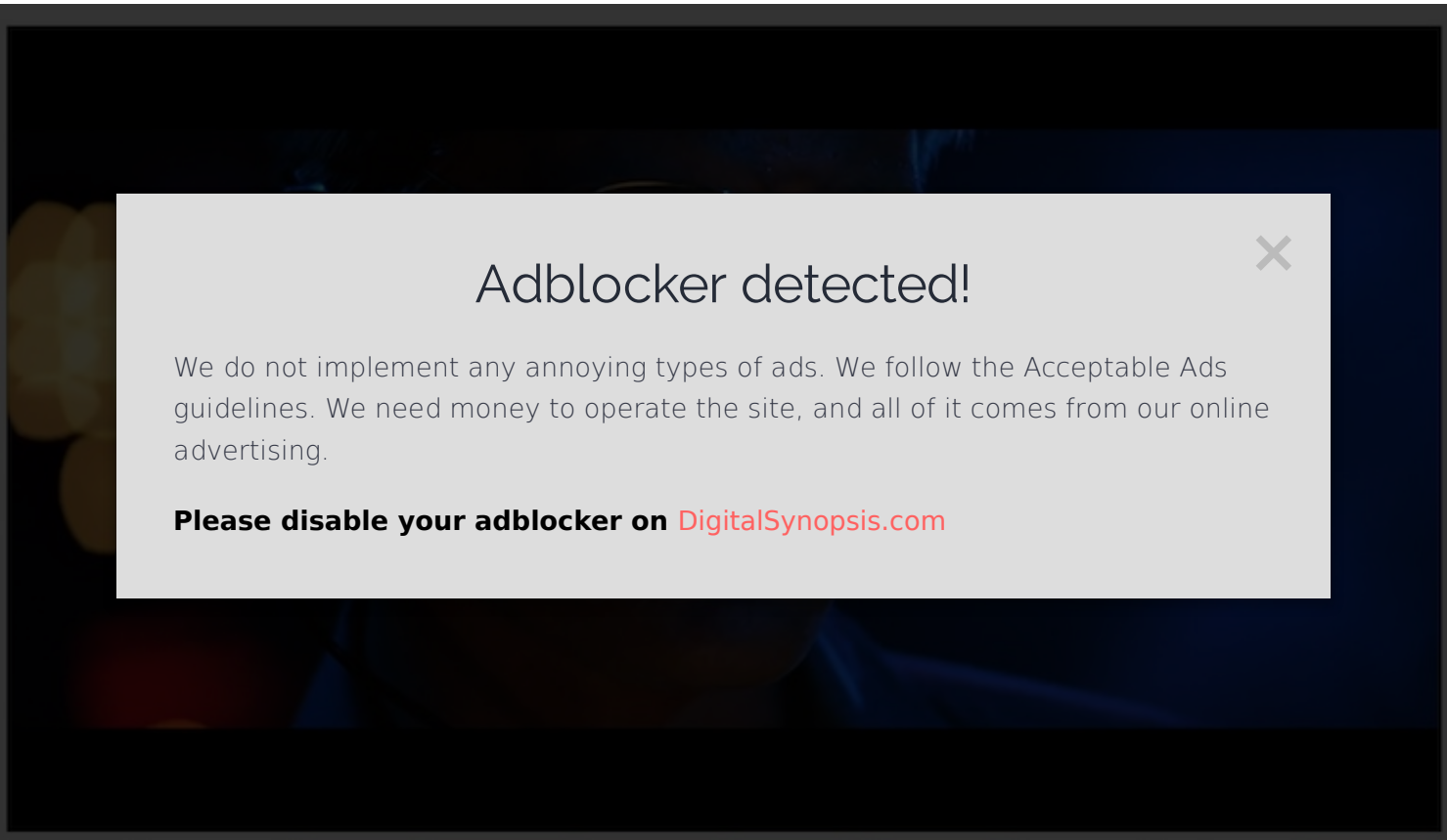
Director: James Cameron

50. Top Gun (1986)



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Director: Tony Scott

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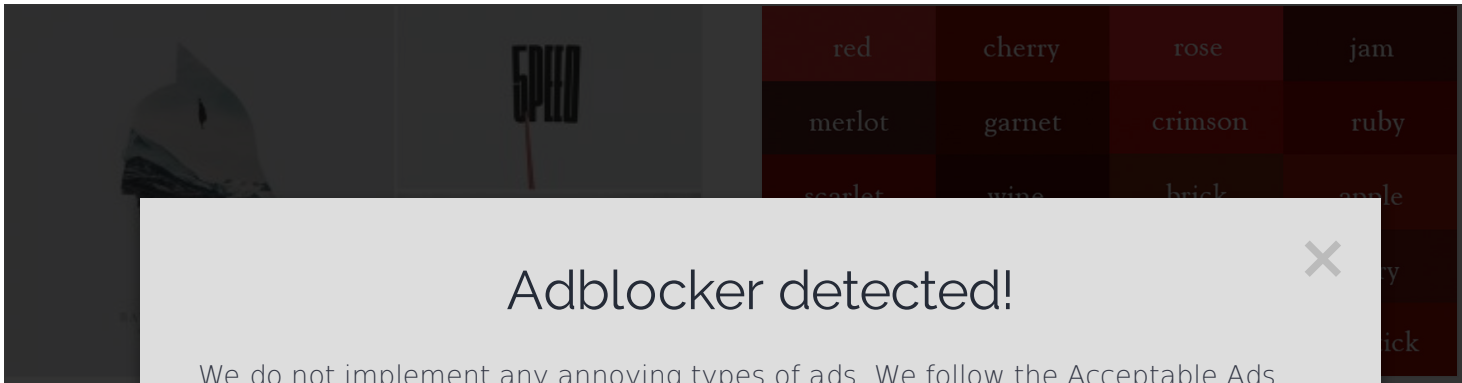

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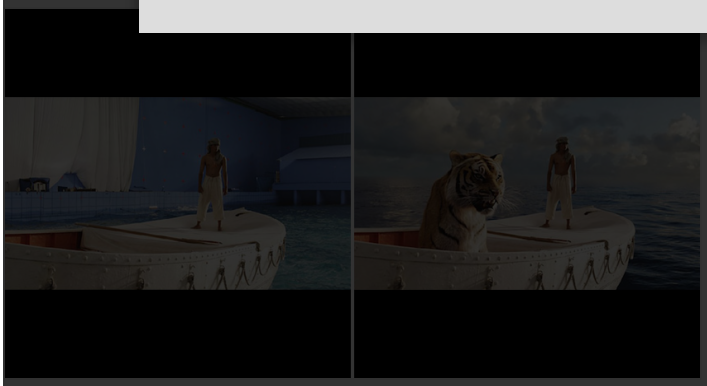

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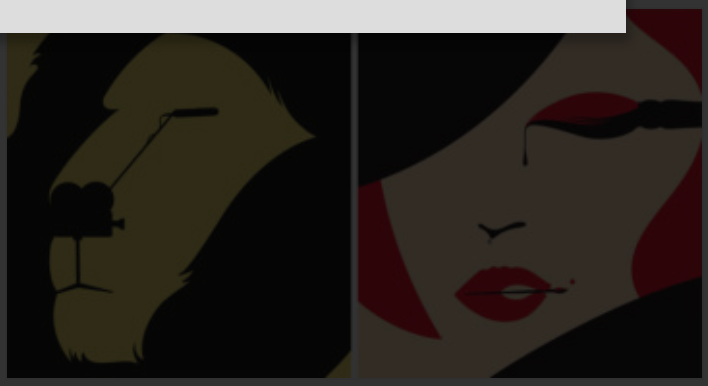

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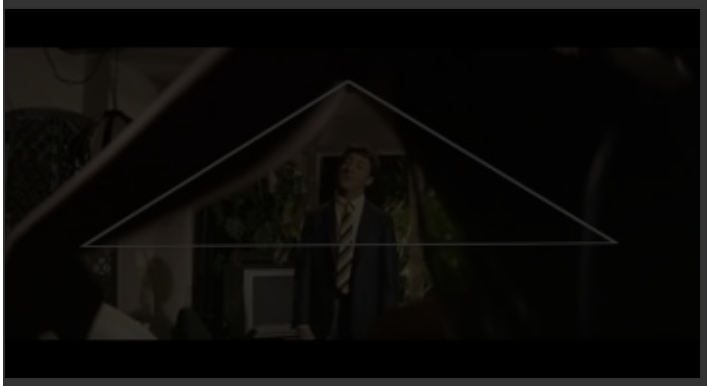

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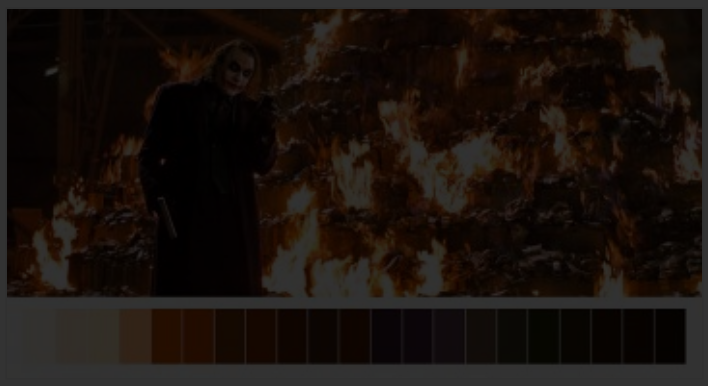

33 Famous Movie Stills Broken Down Into 7-Color Palettes

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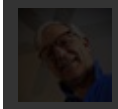
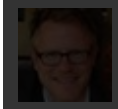


en done

bvious,

TOO self-conscious and TOO over used, too clumsy. The same can be said for use of shadow and darkness. Gary Oldman's Churchill was fabulous but I became extremely distracted by HOW DARK the movie was visually to the point of wondering whether the projector light in the theater was malfuctioning. This over dark, under lit scene setting occurs in other films too often. Subtle details are lost, even major details can be difficult to see. I feel the directors and lighting crews of older, mid 20th century noir films were better in the delicate art of setting mood. A too heavy handed approach to darkness and color to set mood IS AKIN TO SHOUTING OUT YOUR THOUGHTS IN ALL CAPS ALL THE TIME. Be more sensitive, less consciously obvious, less oppressive.

Like · Reply · 13 · 1y



Chris Miller

Interesting...though it looks like these palettes are simply derived from the specific shot that highlights each film.

When I read the headline, the first thing that I thought of was "Traffic". Thought that was extremely well done, and the color cues — cool, stark and clinical for the Michael Douglas/strung-out daughter/DC scenes vs warm, dusty and hot-feeling tone for the Benicio Del Toro/Catherine Zeta-Jones Mexico sequences really helped differentiate the two "worlds".

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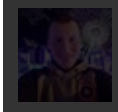
Eduardo Barroso

I had the same impression about these palettes. Seems to be related specific to the shot.

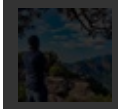
Like · Reply · 9 · 1y



Alex Bouffard

How are the color palettes constructed? What software was used to determine what palette each of the above shots have? Where is a resource we can look at to understand how the to construct a color palette to make a film look a certain way?

Like · Reply · 7 · 1y · Edited



Veeran Bhana

Thank you, these are brilliant.

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