

Chapter 2 Assignment

Part 1

Halloween:

The protagonist of the movie Halloween is Laurie Strode played by Jamie Lee Curtis. The Antagonist of the movie is Michael Myers played by Nick Castle. The driving conflict of this movie centers around siblings Laurie and Michael. After being placed for adoption as an infant Laurie has no memory of her siblings or her traumatic past. Seventeen years after murdering their old sister Michael returns to murder Laurie.

The overall theme of this movie is the “final girl” concept depicted in most slasher movies today. What I took away from the movie was John Carpenter’s awesome directing and use of the camera. I like the way he used the cameras to pan in and around the house all in one shot. That was a clever idea and what really made that scene genius was the music added to the background. I will try to use both techniques to my advantage in making my own movies.

Fruitvale Station:

The protagonist of Fruitvale station is Oscar Grant played by Michael B. Jordan. The antagonists of the movie are Officer Caruso and Officer Ingram played by Kevin Durand and Chad Michael Murphy. The conflict centers around Oscar Grant. He along with his friends are detained by BART officers Caruso and Ingram. Grant is killed by Officer Grant.

The movie encompasses several major themes. Race is the most prevalent theme of the movie. Oscar Grant is an African American man and the officer that shot him was White. The movie touches on broader issues such as police brutality, classism, and a corrupt justice system that disproportionately affects African Americans.

Ryan Coogler is one of my favorite directors. I like how Coogler took artistic liberties with telling such a sensitive story. You have to be careful retelling biographical stories. They can either be hit or miss. Certain scenes were added to the film that didn’t actually occur. However, they don’t take away from or add to the real events of Oscar Grant’s life leading up to his death.

The Color Purple:

The protagonist of The Color Purple is Celie Johnson played by Whoopi Goldberg. The antagonist of the movie is Albert “Mister” Johnson played by Danny Glover which is Celie’s abusive husband. The driving conflict of the film is the abusive relationships that Celie has come had to deal with by the hands of the men in her life. First her stepfather raping and impregnating her at 14 and then being married off to an abusive husband for 40 years.

The themes of this movie to me are pretty layered. From sexual violation to liberation, spousal abuse, race and how it relates to gender, and also a broad theme of the movie is God itself. Celie frequently journals to this entity. What I am taking away from this movie is Steven Spielberg's range in the choices he makes in producing his movies. They are all different and span different genres. That open mindedness to shooting this movie payed off in the end solidifying the careers of some of Hollywood's most notable African American actresses and actors to date.

Fences:

The Protagonist of the movie Fences is Troy Maxson played by Denzel Washington. This character is also the antagonist of the movie. The driving conflict of this movie centers around Troy. Troy is a former baseball player that almost went pro but his career was sidelined because of his race. Now in his middle age, Troy is feeling stuck in his life. This conflict with himself boils over into the relationships with his wife and sons.

The theme of this movie is the fence itself. Troy is building this fence in his yard as a way to keep his son, a talented high school football player, from achieving what he couldn't. What I took away from this movie is Denzel Washington's use of his actors. Especially Viola Davis.

Quiz

1. Explain how and why Muybridge shot his first film?

Muybridge shot his first film in 1879 using 40 still cameras rigged with trip wires to capture images. He ran these images together and projected them on a screen.

2. How did sound synchronization affect the film industry?

The technique created from sound synchronization is still in use today by the film industry. It is called sound in film. This technique gave rise to two new genres in the industry. Musicals and gangster films.

3. How and why did the Golden age of Hollywood end?

The Golden Age in Hollywood ended because the studio system that the film industry was built upon began to fall apart. American audiences also began broadening their tastes in film which helped to usher in the French New Wave.

4. What is the significance of the French New Wave?

The French New Wave was made up of French filmmakers from the 1950's to the 1960's. Their style of storytelling and use of new techniques in filmmaking were different from their American predecessors.

5. Define genre and explain why it is important?

There are two basic types. Comedy and drama. Everything else is derivative of them.

6. Compare and contrast drama and comedy?

Drama is the original theme. This genre is dependent on in depth character development, interaction, and emotional themes. Comedies only require characters that are funny and find themselves in humorous situations.

7. Explain why romance films always show the protagonist going through pain and rejection initially?

They show rejection early on in romance films to make the love story sweeter to the viewer.