**Julia Chance 12/10/17**

**Six Movies Analysis**

**Part One**

1. Identity (2003)

Protagonist: Ed (Malcolm Rivers) Paris is sort of a sub-protagonist because she also has an arch.

Antagonist: The murderer/Timothy (Malcolm Rivers) Many people assume the antagonist role though: the judge, Both loose convicts we first take for Rivers, that one second they suspected Larry (John Hawkes’ character).

Driving conflict: It begins with a bunch a people being stuck together in a storm with a convicted murderer on the loose but switches to: Is Malcolm Rivers insane but treatable or truly dangerous and therefore responsible for his crimes?

Theme: Multiple personality disorder/ childhood trauma

Take Away:This was the last of the required movies I saw and I’m glad it was. It was my favorite and I’d watch it again. The structure of the story was rock solid. Though the ultimate plot twist wasn’t super surprising, the story was interesting. The flashback played a huge part of how the story was told and the way that were out of order was really effective for me mainly to understand the ultimate plot twist. I like how we’re invested in these characters as real people before your suspicions are confirmed that it’s all in his head. You feel their loss, not because they’re murdered but because they’re not real. My take away is that it was mostly grounded in reality until the circumstances were no longer logical and that made it an interesting movie. It had a fascinating progression. There were reality based rules to Malcolm’s imagination which brought hope to the doctors trying to help him but his evil intent was stronger and more cunning than the other personalities because that was his true form: the angry little boy that was abandoned at a motel, probably much like the one used if not the exact location where they found him. Their attention to detail and how they gave us enough time to appreciate the detail is the best thing a movie can do.

1. Hide and Seek(2005)

Protagonist: David, Emily is a kind of sub-protagonist because she becomes just like her father by the end and has an arch.

Antagonist: Charlie (David’s alter-ego)

Driving conflict: Who is Charlie and how can David stop him from traumatizing his daughter?

Theme: **Jealousy**, multiple personality disorder/childhood tramua, suicide, grief, Jekyll and Hyde.

Take Away: I really don’t want to write for children because the odds of getting a child protégée like Dakota are slim to none. Half the movie they didn’t show Charlie which is obvious why but when I first begin to watch it I thought, usually at some point we get a shadow or a little hint as to what this ghost or monster looks like, so before understanding why, I was paying attention to how they didn’t budge by giving us a hint. They couldn’t even give us a voice because DeNiro’s voice is much too recognizable.

1. Case 39 (2009)

Protagonist: Emily

Antagonist: Lilith (awesome name)

Driving conflict: Lilith kills the people closest to her guardians by using their fears against them.

Theme: **Fear**, Demon possession, child abuse.

Take Away: This was an interesting film. It didn’t hold back and it genuinely creeped me out at points. Bradley Cooper’s bee attack scene was really effective. I loved how each guardian is equally insolated and the film successfully made Emily’s life slowly become darker and lonelier than it was at the beginning. I should watch it again to see if there’s a noticeable change in colors or pacing but whatever they did to show that Lilith had her in a kind of isolative prison was effective. I enjoyed Lilith’s change into a blue giant as she died so we could see a glimpse of her true form and I also loved that they didn’t show all of her and left more to the imagination. There’s something to be said of keeping a few secrets even in the end.

1. The Uninvited (2009)

Protagonist: Anna

Antagonist: Rachel (or Anna’s delusional version of Anna)

Driving conflict: Rachel is intruding on Anna’s life and Anna isn’t taking to it so well and suspects foul play.

Theme: Jealousy, grief, betrayal, innocence.

Take Away:

I accidently came across a clip of this movie on youtube and it completely gave away the ending but it didn’t give away everything. I noticed even with predictable plot twists a lot of these films have extra little twists that I don’t see coming that add color but aren’t supposed to be earth shattering. These little details really give a terrible movie a fighting chance. It was successful at making you feel Anna was really “off” but they didn’t really help you understand Rachel. They packed everything that was true at the end and I found that to be too much to fit into a feature or at least at that rate and it wasn’t believable to me. The only cool thing I took away from their over-ambition was the insertion of Mildred in the plot (the crazy babysitter that kills three children). She was barely there. She was a really interesting character and she barely got any attention. I would have done more with Mildred’s manipulation of Anna than spend precious time on an uninteresting characters like Rachel (who also could have been written so much better – that goes for the dead sister too.) I would try again and take out some characters and reexamine their relationship to the plot. The scene with the boyfriend was pretty creepy though, they could keep that just fit it into the story properly so the audience can appreciate it. If they had given the details and clues about Rachel being nice, sister being dead, mother having a vendetta, and Mildred’s relationship to Anna. It was sloppy storytelling.

1. Mama (2013)

Protagonist: Annabelle and Victoria share a protagonist place, I believe, Lucus is our sub-protagonist.

Antagonist: Mama or Edith

Driving conflict: Mama fights an unorthodox custody battle with Annebelle and Lucus, so she can relive the relationship she should have had in life with her baby.

Theme: **Motherhood**, childhood trauma, murder/suicide, family bonds.

Take Away: I’ve seen this movie a lot and I bought it for my dad for Christmas a few years ago. The special effects are fun because we get to see everything about this monster/ghost which is the opposite style of Hide and Seek. We as an audience know she exists; it’s just a matter of convincing the protagonist, Annabelle.

1. Poltergeist (2015)

Protagonist: Griffin Bowen

Antagonist: The Poltergeist, all the angry souls stuck in a (parallel universe??)

Driving conflict: Maddie is taken into a place where souls are stuck between this world and the next and her family and a team of paranormal experts attempt to rescue her.

Theme: Ghosts, afterlife, failure, trials.

Take Away: To me this story was sloppy which makes me sad because I like to think Sam Rockwell can make a movie better by dancing or something but maybe that’s the problem. For starters, Rosemarie DeWitt is a great dramedy actress but that really got in the way of the story for me. She and Sam changed the tone by being snarky at the wrong times and they were often way too OK with what was going on. Some of it could have been an editing problem. It brought me out of it. They reacted properly much later when Griffin finally enter the other world. The dialogue that pissed me off though was the sloppy addition of Carrigan Burke and Dr. Brooke Powell’s stupid, patchy love story they threw in at the last possible moment. I don’t care about these people, they didn’t give me a chance to care so I hated this part. Carrigan was a really interesting character but I think it would have be more interesting and less of a burden to the main plot if this had been the beginning of their relationship and not a stupid reunion meant to be a comic relief. This wasn’t Ghostbusters, it was suppose to be serious, so I don’t know what they were trying to do.

**Part Two**

1. Who is your protagonist?

This is a tough question at this point. I want to say Josie is my protagonist because she’s the most interesting to me but, so far, I don’t plan on her character having much of an arch. She mostly stays the same because I don’t want her to care what people think of her. She accepts everything she is and therefore doesn’t need to change. I learned in college that the true definition of a protagonist is not that they are the main character but that they undergo a change by the end of the story. Her friend, (who I have yet to name) will undergo a change in how she perceives the world. Mainly she’s just trying to make since of the world so she can be the sane one in this small community of women. Maybe (after giving this some thought and coming back to it) Josie’s dilemma is the ultimatum that her friends and family give her, which is choose reality (us) or choose your dream life (Fitzwilliam and the Spoons), but to her they are both reality and she sees no choices.

1. Who is your antagonist?

This is also unsure and could change throughout the story. The only definite “bad guy” is Dana’s husband. Abusive drunk that is dead before we even begin. I want us to feel unsure if we can trust Fitzwilliam, so at times it could be him, though I really just want him to be a trouble maker not an evildoer. I may have to create someone to play this role. Perhaps the nameless friend could do this or through those encouraging her to have a practical view and therefore shun crazy people out of her life and criticize them. Maybe even report Josie’s behavior to a professional that tries to step in. That could be something.

1. What is your driving conflict?

Josie’s fairy friend, Fitzwilliam, witnesses Josie’s mom and neighbor Dana burying a body. Is this murder or is it all in Josie’s head?

1. What is your theme?

Murder, Imaginary friends, Isolation, delusions, grief

1. What are the key plot points of you movie idea?

Josie’s mother and Dana kill Dana’s husband after he tries to kill Dana.

Josie still speaks to Fitzwilliam as a teenager while everyone else has come to believe he was imaginary.

Is Josie crazy like Agatha, or is what she telling the truth?

Is Fitzwilliam benevolent, malevolent or just a trickster prone to jealousy and neglect for human life?

How much power does Fitzwilliam have in the woods?

Who has seen Fitzwilliam and what does Fitzwilliam look like?

This is going to need some narrowing down. I don’t feel I can completely do that yet. I often fear that if I write it too directly it will be set in stone and as a writer, in the past, that’s always kind of scared me, even though anything can be changed. I just don’t want it to turn into a story I don’t recognize as my own. I want it to be just right and not to resemble anything I don’t like.