

Presentation - Rough Script Breakdown

Part 1 - Introduction to the presentation

“According to IMDb, there are 120 feature - length horror films made with the word ‘house’ in the title”.

Followed by a question on “why houses touted so often in horror movie titles?”
(Clips of movie title cards with word ‘house’)

Part 2 - Conventions

Talk about the setting convention within the horror genre, to explain why it is important in horror films and what it can create and be used within the story.

- Including abandoned and isolated places.

Listing different locations that is shown in horror films such as cabins, hotels, hospitals etc but the real reason I want to know is why the location of a house more used?
(Show short clips of locations)

Part 3 - Horror Films “House” Title

Explain from research that a house location is as much popular as characters in a horror film.

List of films with the word “House” and show short clips of each

- The Fall of the House Usher (1928)
- House on Haunted Hill (1959)
- The House that Dripped Blood (1971)
- House (1986)

These titles give away the balance of the domestic setting
(Show short clips of each films)

Part 4 - Haunted House

Explain about 2 types of houses used in horror movies.

First is the haunted house which is the setting for ghosts, zombies etc.

Haunted house triggers feelings of dread to the audience as they push buttons in our brains.
Alarm buttons warn us of danger and caution.

The audience would expect a haunted house to instantly create suspense as they would know something is going to happen in a big and old creepy house.
(Show clip of haunted house)

Part 5 - Original House

Explain about the audience would not expect what is going to happen in this house compared to a haunted house.

This is due to the house being

- Physical Space
- Safe
- Warmth
- Family

Research online from a fact - "The only place that offers the ultimate safety is our mothers womb, it is our first home that has provided us with warmth that we will never feel again".

(Show clip of family home)

Part 6 - Film BreakDowns - The Shining

Talk about the 1980 film 'The Shining', on how the director of the film moved the location from a house to a hotel.

Explaining on the feelings.

(Show short clip of the film)

The Exorcist (1973) and The Sixth Sense (1999)

Talk about house in these films that are used for trauma and suffering.

(Show short clips of them both)

The Others (2001)

Talk about the ghosts in the house that are present.

(Show short clip)

Psycho (1960)

Explain that in some horror films, there are bad things that are kept in the attic or the basement of the houses.

Example of the famous house in Psycho.

(Show clip of the end scene of the mother in basement)

Talk about fact about Alfred Hitchcock influence on a painter called Edward Hopper and the house of Bates Mansion was based on Hopper's work.

(Show picture to compare)

The Amityville Horror (1979)

Explain about certain houses are evil, for example the house used in The Amityville Horror.

The audience would not expect this house to face evil due to this way it looks and it's the symbol of domesticity.

(Show short clip)

Poltergeist 1982 and A Nightmare on Elm Street 1984

Talk and explain about both of these locations of a suburban home and how its being setting of horror sub-genre.

(Show short clips of both)

The Grudge 2002 and The Ring 2002

Talk about the girl haunting a residents apartment in Tokyo and a girl emerging through a TV screen.

(Show short clips of both)

Part 7 - Purpose of horror film

Purpose of a horror film is to design and create sense of fear, alarm, scare and play with the audiences mind.

Talk about how the horror genre makes the audience feel unsettled and scaring them through a portrayal of their worst fears and nightmares including jumpy scenes.

- causes heart raise
- torture minds
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(Show numerous clips of audience being scared)

Part 8 - Understanding the audience

Explain about how a writer of a horror needs to know their audience.

Questions on why they like to be frightened, scared and attracted to watching horrors.

Audience seem to enjoy experience:

- Anxiety
- Fear
- Dread/negative emotions
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(Show numerous clips of audience being scared)

Part 9 - Negative Space

Introduction on what is negative space - Refers to the area around a person or an object that your shot is focused on and it can be used to give your shots different fields and effects. It can also be used to convey a lot more than what you see just in the frame.

It can be useful to have the negative space in the opposite way that the characters facing. This gives us the feeling that there is something behind that character or there's something that's about to sneak up on them. This is most effectively used in horror movies.

Talk about filmmakers usage of negative space - feeling of isolation. Where they want the viewers to look to build up tension on certain part of scene in a film going to happen.

(Show clips of negative space)

Part 10 - Stephen King

Stephen King quote on scaring his audience

"I recognise terror as the finest emotion, and so I will try to terrorise the audience or reader. But if I find I cannot terrify them, I will try to horrify; and if I find I cannot horrify, I'll go for the gross-out. I'm not proud". (Stephen King 1981, p. 37)

(Show short clip of Stephen King and one of films based on him)

Part 11 - Conclusion

End the presentation well to make the audience think.

- Might of had murders at our homes without even thinking
- Estate agents job is to tell us all the positives about the house not about potential murders
- Horror films play with all our minds and makes us feel scared and frightened in our own homes
- Imagining footsteps behind us at night on our way to bed
- Ghost and demons are here with us

(Show numerous short clips of different horror films)

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Films

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