

# The Horror Genre



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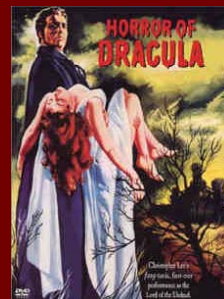
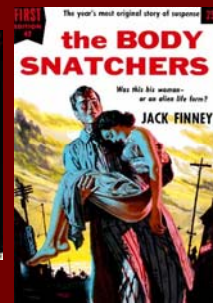
- - An attempt to make the audience experience fright, fear or disgust.
- - Narratives often involve an evil force, event, or supernatural character.
- - Settings are often in small town America, in quiet neighbourhoods, or in the woods.
- - Shadows and darkness play an important part.
- - The colour red is often symbolic.

## Horror through the ages

- Horror is a long running genre.
- Why?
- It has produced a savvy audience who aren't easily frightened. Directors need to come up with a new angle or use comedy.
- Can you think of any films that have done this successfully?

## History of Horror

- 1890s-George Melies' 'Monster Movies'
- 1922-German Vampire *Nosferatu*
- 1930s-Gothic Horror from Universal Studio (*Frankenstein, Dracula*).
- 1950-Alien Invasions (*Body Snatchers, Thing from another World*).
- 1960s-Hammer Films



## History of Horror-1960-1970s

- Late 1960s-Psychological Horror from Hitchcock (*Psycho*). Michael Powell's *Peeping Tom*.
- Late 60's-70s-Occult horror (*Rosemary's Baby*, *Exorcist*)-Walking Dead (Romero's 1968 *Night of the Living Dead*)
- 1970s-Gore fests such as Carpenter's *Last House on the Left*, Tobe Hooper's *Texas Chainsaw Massacre*



## History of Horror-Late 70s/80s

- 1978-Carpenter's tension filled *Halloween*.
- Romero's Zombie's continued to shuffle along in *Dawn of the Dead* and the *Day of the Dead*



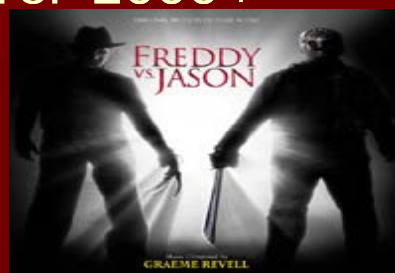
## History of Horror-1990s

- Post-modern, self aware horror from Wes Craven and Kevin Williamson (*Scream* Trilogy)
- 1999- *The Blair Witch Project* - mockumentary.
- Japanese Horror floods the market with *Ring*, *Ju-On*



## History of Horror-2000+

- American remakes of Japanese Horror (*The Ring*, *The Grudge*, *Dark Waters*)
- Revisiting of old villains in a new guise (*Freddy V Jason*, *Halloween H2O*, *Alien V Predator*).



## Sub genre

- A sub-genre is an identifiable sub-class of the larger film genres, with their own distinctive subject matter, style, formulas, and iconography.
- Can you think of any examples?

## Vampire sub genre

- Fangs
- Suck blood
- Creatures of the night
- Fear of garlic
- Fear of crosses
- Killed by a stake driven through the heart
- Live in old castles
- Sleep in coffins
- Terrify local people