GENRE

A French word
(pronounced “ZHAHN-ruh”)
meaning “type” or “kind.”

Consider some basic movie genres:

- Western
- Mystery
- Romance
- Thriller
- Comedy
- Documentary
- Horror
- Children’s

Genres have *archetypal elements*

- These elements remain the same throughout most movies in a given genre.
- Audiences expect to see the archetypal elements, and are disappointed if those elements are not present.
- Filmmakers alter the archetypal elements slightly to make their films original, surprising, and satisfying.

Before you sit down in the theatre (or rent the DVD), the filmmakers have already provided you with visual clues about the genres you can expect to see.

Artwork on film posters, video boxes and dvd inserts, trailers (advertising previews), and print ads tells us what genres we should expect to see.

Let’s brainstorm about what archetypal elements we expect to see in some different genres.

RUSSELL CROWE
CHRISTIAN BALE
3:10 TO YUMA
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF WALK THE LINE
TIME WAITS FOR ONE MAN
R
SEPTEMBER 7
LIONSGATE

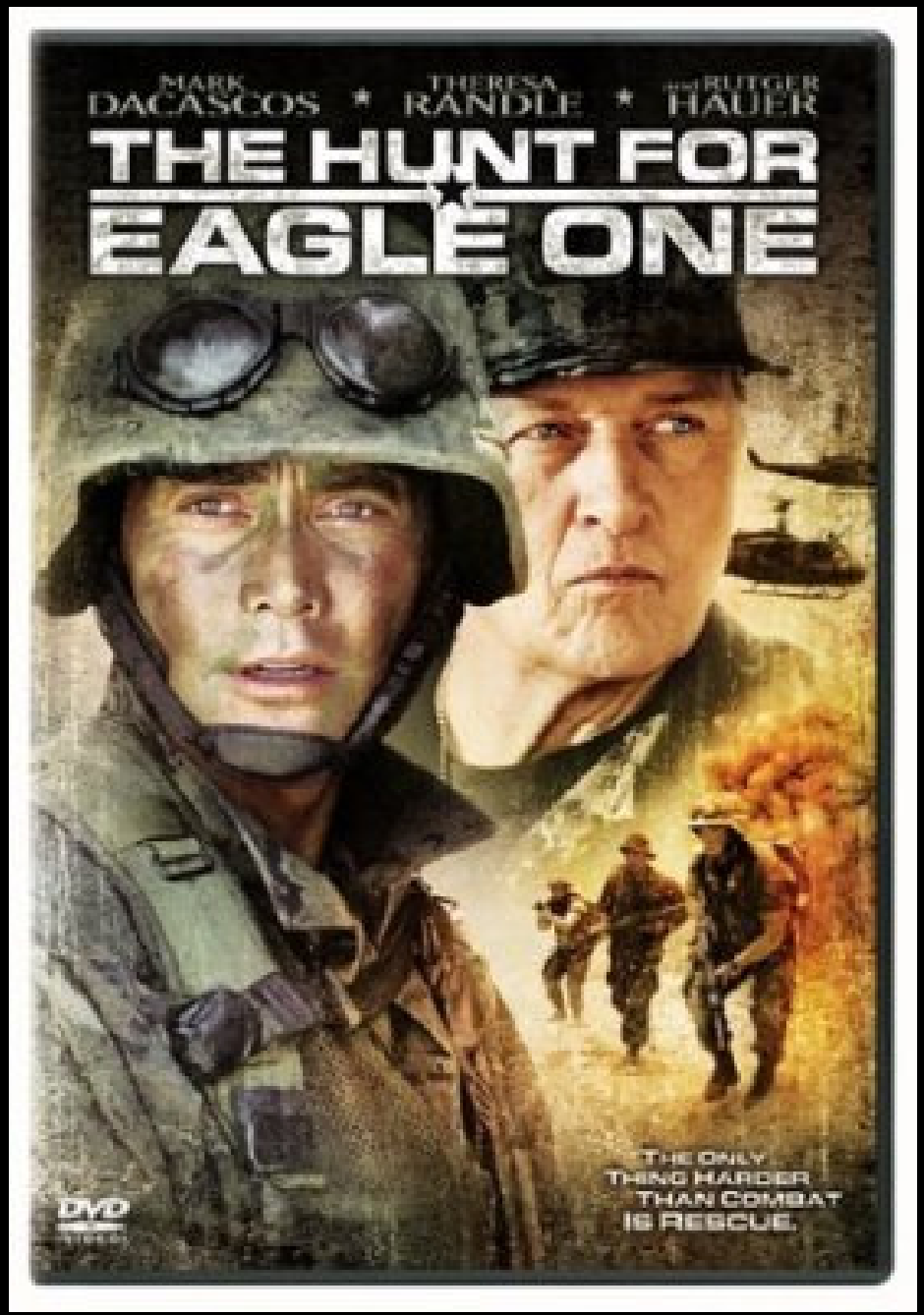
Archetypal elements of a western?

- Setting: frontier town or desert landscape
- Characters: cowboys, Indians, sheriff, bad guys (‘black hats” and “white hats”)
- Gun and bow-and-arrow shootouts
- A battle between good and evil
- Chase scenes involving outlaws, Indians, bad guys, and other threatening figures
- A sense that “civilization” is embattled
- Prostitutes or “saloon girl” female characters who betray the male characters

David Moscow
Shiva Rose
A Jay Jonroy Film
David&Layla
Inspired by a true story
NEWROZ FILMS IN ASSOCIATION WITH FILMS INTERNATIONAL (BVI) AND INTRINSIC VALUE FILMS PRESENT A JAY JONROY FILM "DAVID & LAYLA"
CASTING BY ADRIENNE STERN COSTUME DESIGNER ZULEMA GRIFFIN PRODUCTION DESIGNER PETER YESAIR MUSIC BY RICHARD HOROWITZ AND JOHN LISSAUER
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY HARLAN BOSMAJIAN EDITOR EGON KIRINCIC CO-PRODUCERS AIMEE SCHOOF AND ISEN ROBBINS CO-PRODUCER GILL HOLLAND
WRITTEN / PRODUCED / DIRECTED BY JAY JONROY
DavidandLayla.com

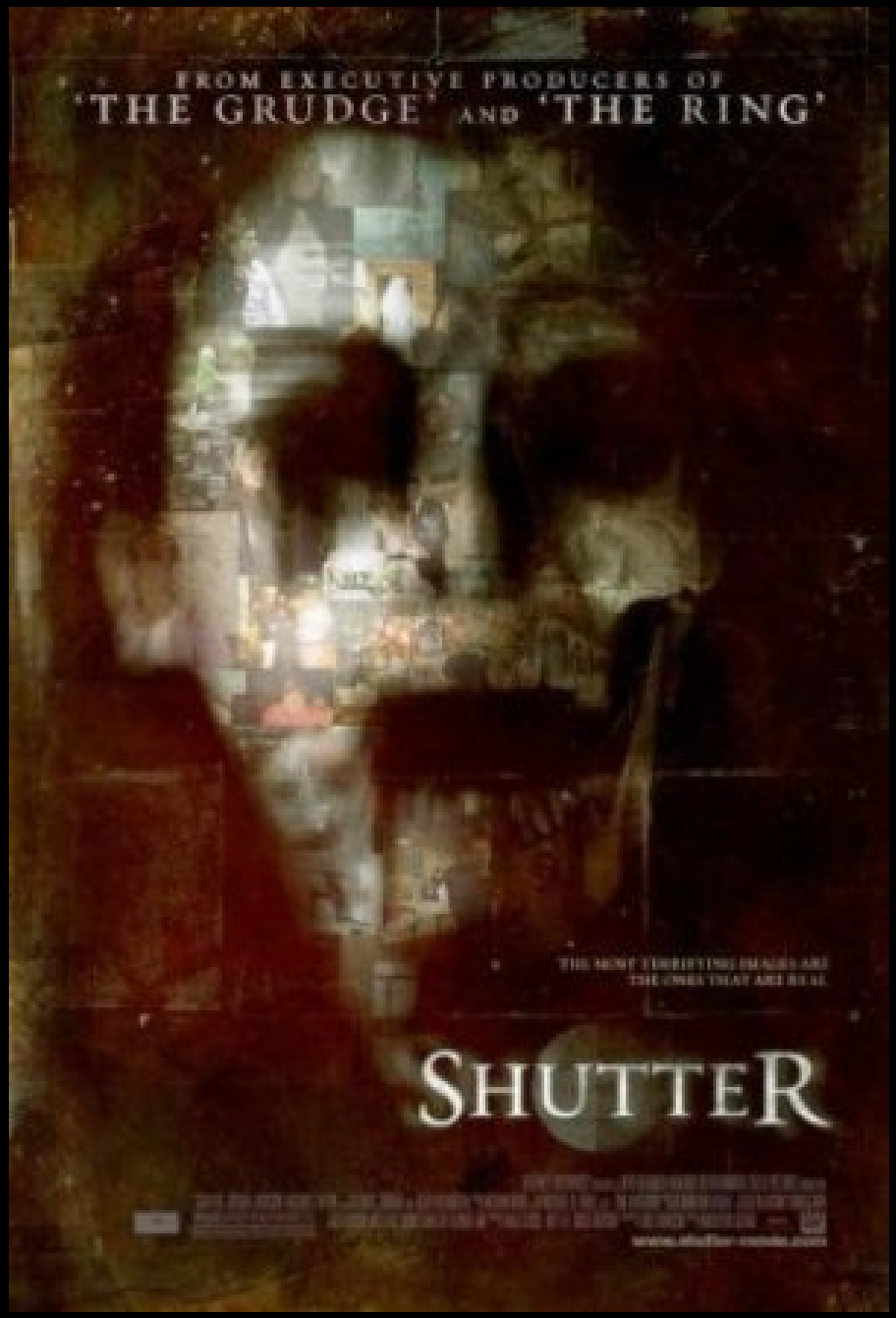
Archetypal elements of a romance?

- Male and female characters who initially dislike each other
- A conflict that brings them together
- Much focus on talking about feelings
- Suspense about the ultimate goal of the relationship
- A “happy ending” (courtship leading to relationship)


MARK DACASCOS
THERESA RANDLE
RUTGER HAUER
THE HUNT FOR EAGLE ONE
THE ONLY THING HARDER THAN COMBAT IS RESCUE.
DVD

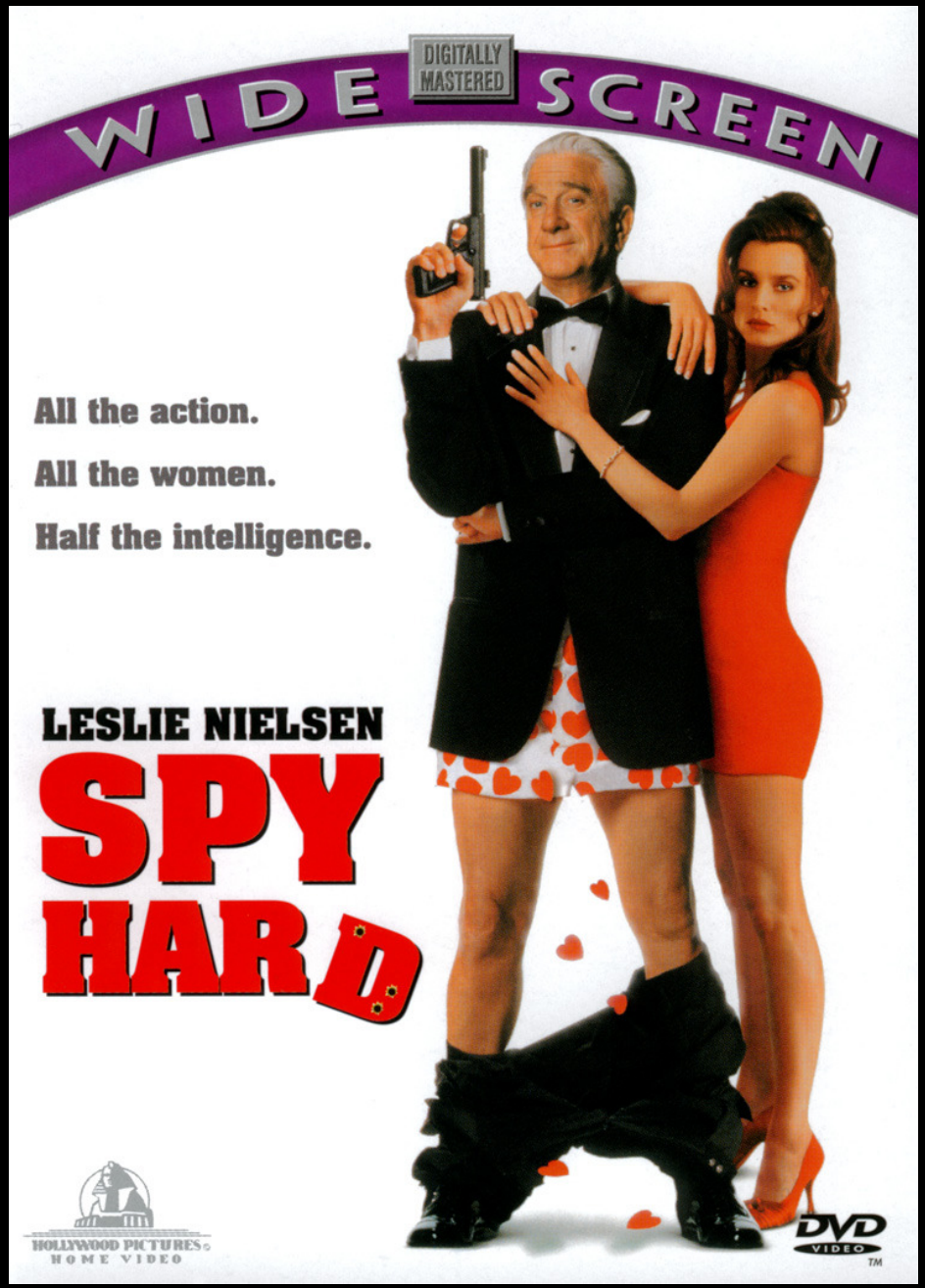
Archetypal elements of war film?

- Embattled or imprisoned characters facing defeat or disgrace
- Conflict between good and evil
- Themes of loyalty, group bonding, and betrayal
- Battle scenes with gory violence
- Mostly male characters
- Good triumphing over evil


FROM EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS OF
'THE GRUDGE' AND 'THE RING'
SHUTTER

Archetypal elements of a horror film?

- Misbehaving, sexually active teenagers
- An insane disfigured killer on the loose
- Absent parents, ineffective authorities (police, teachers)
- Chase scenes in confined areas (houses)
- Gory violence, including mutilation
- One virtuous (sexually tame) (babysitting) teenager survives, BUT
- So does the serial murderer!


WIDE SCREEN
DIGITALLY MASTERED
All the action.
All the women.
Half the intelligence.
LESLIE NIELSEN
SPY HARD
HOLLYWOOD PICTURES
HOME VIDEO
DVD
VIDEO

Archetypal elements of comedy?

- Ordinary people, situations
- Focus on absurdity
- Exaggeration
- Unrealistic violence, “slapstick”
- Poking fun at usually serious situations
- Accentuating differences, problems, gaffes, and awkwardness
- Exaggerating stereotypes

WALDEN MEDIA PRESENTS
NIM'S ISLAND
Abigail BRESLIN
Jodie FOSTER
Gerard BUTLER
On April 4th Adventure Rules

Archetypal elements of children's or family movie ?

- Animal characters, often with human voices and qualities
- Acceptance of supernatural, fantasy
- Embattled child struggling against evil or misunderstanding; facing obstacles
- Magical forces may intervene
- Good (the child) triumphs over evil (the adult world)
- Animation and cartoons may be used

Mixing archetypes can confuse, disorient, enrage the audience.

- No sexually explicit scenes in children's films!
- No long conversations about romantic feelings in westerns!
- No gory mutilation and violence in romances!
- No murdered cute small animals and children in comedies!
- No fairy godmothers in documentaries!

Little Children is not a movie FOR children.

(Better check the newspaper listings before you go!)