

Psycho



Psycho (1960)

- Shot in 6 weeks for around \$800,000
- Has earned in excess of 40 million dollars
- Based on a novella
- Most famous film for Hitchcock

Psycho (1960)

- Voyeurism
 - An obsessive observer of sordid or sensational subjects.
 - We are all obsessed with watching others
 - The Camera is used as our window to another world
- Intentionally Shot in Black and White
 - Focuses on Light vs. Dark
- Mother Issues

Psycho: Something to hide

All characters are hiding something

- Sam and Marion's affair
- Marion's Coworker's tranquilizers
- Cassidy hides undeclared cash for tax reasons
- Lowery hides Whiskey Bottle at work
- Marion lies and steals
- Norman hides the worst secret of all.

Psycho: Reflections

Use of mirrors

- Represents split personality
 - Marion twice in opening scene
 - Marion looks at trooper in mirror
 - Marion counts cash at car dealer
 - Marion in the hotel room is shown in mirror
 - Lila is surprised by her reflection in Bates house

Psycho: Talk

- Hardware store customer: [*Looking at can*]
They tell you what its ingredients are, and how it's guaranteed to exterminate every insect in the world, but they do not tell you whether or not it's painless. And-and I say, insect or man, death should always be painless.
[*Lila Crane enters shop*]

Note: This scene is immediately after the shower scene and body disposal

- **Norman Bates**: She might have fooled me, but she didn't fool my mother.
- **Norman Bates**: Hate the smell of dampness, don't you? It's such a, I don't know, creepy smell.
- **Norman Bates**: A boy's best friend is his mother.
- **Norman Bates**: Well I'm not a fool. And I'm not capable of being fooled! Not even by a woman.

Psycho: Talk

- **Norman Bates**: Oh, but she's harmless. She's as harmless as one of those stuffed birds.
Marion Crane: I tried to mean well.
Norman Bates: People always mean well. They cluck their thick tongues, and shake their heads and suggest, oh, so very delicately.

Psycho: Talk

- **Marion Crane**: Oh, we can see each other. We can even have dinner but respectably in my house with my mother's picture on the mantel and my sister helping me broil a big steak for three.
Sam Loomis: And after the steak, do we send Sister to the movies? Turn mama's picture to the wall?

Psycho: Shower scene

We never see the knife touch Marion

- The camera and music do the work for us.
- The blood is actually Chocolate syrup
- One of the reasons for B&W (FCC)
- The stabbing scene in the shower is reported to have taken seven days to shoot using 70 different camera angles but only lasts 45 seconds in the movie.

Bathroom

- Showing commode and shower was shocking
- JAWS Revisited
 - We see what they can't
 - Normal setting for horrible result

Psycho: Visually Speaking

- The change in clothes (light to dark) indicates Marions intentions
- Windshield Wiper Blades foreshadow knife
- The shadow on Norman's face indicates split personality
- Norman's office: the death around him
- Death of Marion was a big deal.