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# MOVIE ANALYSIS

2011

***How did the film's components match with the horror genre?***

The "Mise en Scene" in the movie "The Exorcist" is allied most with the horror genre in that it could be unsettling for many viewers. The effect exists in evoking a medley of fear, disgust and horror. Not so much the costumes, but the choice of focus and the "mistrustful" blocking done startles. The scenes: with older artifacts in the background – subtly remind of the macabre, while again, the focus could be on ordinary talk. The pure white dress of the two clergymen-exorcists brings out the stark contrast to the theme of the absolute devilish horror the film wants you to remind of.

The cinematography is sudden at times, cutting into scenes or pushing the viewer into others. The artifacts and the dim lighting in the house is to keep reminding the viewer he is to expect to be horrified. Sound effects are chilling. The sudden noisy intrusions break the otherwise very quiet scenes in violence almost. The montage keeps us guessing the turn the story would take next – a powerful tool since there is no movement in the script.

***How did the film's components match with the comedy genre?***

The components of the film are entirely incongruent with the comedy genre. "The Exorcist" is a classical example of an intrinsically horror inspiring film. The relief from comedy is meager and unsatisfactory – even the biggest sense of relief that comes when the child is eventually liberated, is tempered with the priest's death. The components are faithful to the macabre tail (or theme).

All amount of humor or amusement is almost unnecessary while the scenes unfold. The viewer's eye merely follows the camera – which carefully avoids a respite from shock and horror. The only peace viewers would know would come from silence, instead of tapes of merriment.

***Was the film you watched typical or atypical for the genre? Why or why not?***

The film was atypical for its genre: even considering the accuracy in horror portrayal. Typicality has to do with the average in the pool. *The Exorcist* would go on to become one of the most copied films in the genre – something that makes the film ironically atypical.

The film sets new standards in “creep” and visceral imagery, pulling away from other possessed child horror films like *Rosemary’s Baby* and *The Omen*. The best part about the movie – apart from the extremely fitting film components, is its stress on character development. They are pursued as much as the element of horror itself. There is some added artistic flair to the movie: as in the scene when Father Merrin emerges from a taxi and stands to reflect under a lamp post – scenes like this peppered throughout set a standard to be copied repeatedly in the genre. All in all, it is a movie – good enough to justify even a long prologue, when it appears not much is happening.