

Title:

What the Fear! The Construction of Gender in the Slasher Film

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Abstract

Horror films, and the slasher subgenre, are famous for portraying women as hypersexual damsels in distress. These films show heavy symbolism, especially in the portrayal of women and femininity, through images of sexual intercourse, fear of castration, and the strength of females. Horror is a genre that rarely features women in a non-exploitative way. There are however positive female characters in the genre and these films are usually much more respected by critics and the public. In movies such as 'Vacancy,' women can be seen defeating typically male villains and exhibiting strength and intelligence, moving from victim to heroine coined the "Final Girl." This study strives to prove that many movies of present time strive to reinforce the notion of the "Final Girl." A narrative/ideological study will be used to conduct a study on the film Vacancy because it is a modern horror/slasher film that represents the transgression of the "Final Girl."