

Effect Of Horror Genres On The Culture

Posted on March 26, 2019

Introduction

Horror, as one of the entertainment genres, is used in films, novels, comics, paintings, and, in some instances, on clothing. As research indicates, the primary aim of the horror genre is to surprise, scare, or make the viewers afraid in different aspects. In other terms, horror films create a psychological reaction, such as an elevated heartbeat, which facilitates the issues mentioned earlier. Furthermore, with a sharp analysis of the horror genre, one will agree that the same has kept on evolving with time.

The establishment of this genre started in Europe, as most books written sometime back incorporated the aspects mentioned at the beginning. As research indicates, some of the books, due to the notion that they instilled fear, among other elements, were banned, and as a result, their authors remained unknown as compared to authors of other genres. The introduction and adoption of horror genres have had different effects on society, with culture being one of the most affected attributes. Below is an explanation of the impact of the horror genre on different cultures across the world.

Some of the characteristics of horror genres and their subgenres include Alien invasions, cannibals, gigantic monsters, plagues and the availability of serial killers, who have various effects on society. With the change of time, as research indicates, such aspects have been changing gradually and have become even more frightening. For example, this research suggests that with time, the fear of wicked deeds and practices and deeds was brought up, and the film industry ensured that it would surprise its viewers with aspects related to the same. In this instance, some films on the same line were produced, although the film *Exorcist* played a significant role in this aspect. On the other element, with the introduction of mass murderers, the industry provided another entertaining yet frightening film on the same, referred to as slasher flicks.

Effects and Implications

Therefore, from the above aspect, it is quite evident that horror movies have a substantial impact on society, especially on people's way of life. Research carried out on this aspect indicated that among the influences that the horror genre brings to the industry is the element of Cultural fear, whereby we are faced with anxieties, fake information, and unimaginable conspiracy theories. Much of this fear comes primarily from the imagination of zombies, which is common in the horror subgenre of Zombie horror. The Zombie movies, in many aspects, start with an outbreak of certain catastrophes associated with curses. (Carroll, 1990) The same spread faster within the society, unleashing its dangerous effects on the members of the community, leading to harrowing deaths. Research indicates that this creates a lot of fear, as some of the happenings are unimaginable.

Social and Cultural Dimensions

The second effect of the horror genre on the current culture is on the kind of music available on the internet and many music shops across the world, especially in the United States of America and some parts of Europe. For example, one of the most renowned singers whose music has been influenced by this Element is Glen Danzig. The use of several elements characterizes his musical band, mostly observed in horror movies, or those aspects can be found in horror books and novels. Furthermore, his music has of late been associated with the use of Crimson ghosts, representing their Mascots. The Crimson ghosts are used in one of the most famous horror movies in the world, Misfits. The Misfits are regarded as the founders of the horror punk subgenre, whose ideas are extracted from giants and zombies.

Other than the aspect mentioned above, one can attest that horror movies significantly influence music from the Gothabilly and Psychobilly, which heavily borrow from horror movies. The two are types of rock music that are very common among specific populations in the United States of America and Europe. Some of the most common characteristics of this type of music include distorted guitars and breakbeats, aspects borrowed from the early 1970 horror movies. Other than the element mentioned above, the horror genre and its subgenres have significantly influenced the growth of hip-hop music, and one can learn this from the lyrics and videos of this type of music. Besides this, one of the characteristics of hip-hop music in the early ages included the taking of some loops and tying them together, producing melody, an element that was also common in horror movies. With horror movies, some scenes associated with older movies could be taken and recreated in a slightly new way, making new movies.

Research Findings

Other than the aspects mentioned earlier, research has linked horror movies and their subgenres to comic books and graphic novels. Sources indicate that such has led to some issues of personalization, which had a significant societal impact in the 1940s and 1950s, especially in the American culture. Accordingly, such led to an increased form of criminal activities, characterized by violence as depicted in the [books and movies](#) of this genre, raising the alarm amongst different members of society. As per findings of the historical research, this aspect seemed to be very influential in the culture, leading to congressional subcommittee hearings in the years that facilitated the formation of controversial laws referred to as comics code laws. These laws intended to govern and monitor how some violent happenings and crimes in society were portrayed by unimaginable elements such as vampirism and the best-suited mechanism to discipline the offenders, hence lowering such occurrences. (Tudor, 1989) The laws have been operational for quite a long time, until 2011, when they were disbanded.

Lastly, it is evident that many horror films created have led to some unexpected controversies in the culture and society from a broader perspective. Some of the aspects of the horror genre have been

fundamental towards the establishment of some national laws, other than the code of conduct mentioned at the beginning of this study. In the past, a Motion production code was enforced, intended to set guidelines on the ethical and moral aspects to be shown in horror movies. Such could control some of the themes, violence, nudity and related aspects that were considered to have a negative perspective on the society. Due to this, some horror movies were subjected to censorship to minimize their influence on the community.

Conclusion

The horror genre and its sub-genre have been vastly expanding over the years. Its fan base across the world is also significantly increasing. As a result, taxes incurred from the same are becoming higher, with some earning up to \$101 million in a shorter lifespan. One of the essential aspects to note about the horror genre and culture is the role of women. Unlike the past, where men did much staging, the modern horror subgenre incorporates women, and the fan base, categorically based on the female gender, has increased. Women have become the primary audience, the principal authors of horror books, the main animators, and above all, the main protagonists of contemporary horror films. Generally, the role of such films cannot be undermined in society and internationally, although many government regulations have been directed towards it. Therefore, producers of the same should be keen on horror genres, and its subgenres are one of the best entertainment choices in the world.

References

- Carroll, N. (1990). *The philosophy of horror, or, paradoxes of the heart*. Routledge.
<https://www.routledge.com/The-Philosophy-of-Horror-or-Paradoxes-of-the-Heart/Carroll/p/book/9780415902168>
- Tudor, A. (1989). *Monsters and mad scientists: A cultural history of the horror movie*. Basil Blackwell.
<https://books.google.com/books?id=qJcOAAAAQAAJ>