



International Baccalaureate Form 6/FISCS

Film cover sheet: independent study

SUBMIT TO: EXAMINER ARRIVAL DATE: 30 APR (30 OCT) SESSION: MAY 2008
SCHOOL CODE: SCHOOL NAME

- Type or write legibly using black ink and retain a copy of this form.
- Complete one copy of this form for each candidate.

SUBJECT: Film LEVEL: Standard

CANDIDATE NAME: CAND NO:

Instructions to candidates

Please tick/check to show you have included:

- Rationale
 Script
 List of sources

Number of script pages (HL 12–15, SL 8–10): 10

Title: Scary Movies: A look into what makes ghost movies scare the audience and how they differ among various cultures

Cultures examined	Films studied
USA Japan Philippines	The Sixth Sense Ju-On Sukob

I confirm that this independent study is my own work.

Candidate's signature:

Date: April 16th, 2008

I confirm that, to the best of my knowledge, the material submitted is the authentic work of the candidate.

Teacher's name:

Date: 16.04.08

Teacher's signature:

Scary Movies

A look into what makes ghost movies scare the audience and how they differ among various cultures

IBS2 Film
April 14, 2008

Independent Study - Rationale Ghost Movies

One particular reason I chose this topic is that the existence of the supernatural is widely debated throughout the world. Whether we base our opinions on stories we've read and heard, or it is simply a component of our beliefs, the concepts of ghosts seem to be spread globally. Ghost films tend to evoke certain emotions and responses from viewers, depending on the story and how well it is presented onscreen. The idea of a ghost is simple, yet so powerful that it may be easily adapted in everyday life. Certain ghost films intend to send this particular message to the viewer to give their fictional movies a sense of realism. I aim to uncover how these messages are delivered and what goes into making them effective. By investigating this, I can truly understand aspects of ghost movies that may not be apparent to the average viewer.

Audio		Video
Movie Soundtrack (Ju On)	1min	Clip of ghost from Ju On looming above character.
Movie Soundtrack (The Sixth Sense)		Cut to clip from The Sixth Sense where Cole Sear is hiding from ghosts under a blanket.
Movie Soundtrack (Ju On)		Cut to clip from Ju On where ghost appears under blanket. Rika Nishika
Movie Soundtrack (Sukob)		Cut to clip from Sukob where ghost can be seen as a blur behind Sandy
Movie Soundtrack (Ju On)		Cut to clip where ghost girl from Ju On moves in to an ECU
V/O: Have you ever wondered what happens to people when they die?		Cut to Ethan sitting in high chair. Candles around him. Reading a book
V/O: What exactly are we dealing with here?		Text (fade in): "A ghost is defined as the apparition of a deceased person, frequently similar in appearance to that person, and usually encountered in places she or he frequented, or in association with the person's former belongings."
Eerie ambient sounds		
Sounds continue.		
"Interlude I: Dei Gratia" by Kamelot plays (first 30 seconds)		
"Interlude I: Dei Gratia" by Kamelot continues		Pictures of ghosts: Blurry apparition White Lady Onryō
		Text (fade in): "Although the human soul was sometimes symbolically or literally depicted in ancient cultures as a bird or other animal, it was widely held that the soul was an exact reproduction

<p>V/O: And why does it scare us? Continue "Interlude I: Dei Gratia" by Kamelot</p> <p>Interview with Michael Sergi: "Our imaginations are fertile ground for the breeding of fear. A movie that taps into our own personal fears and insecurities will be more frightening than anything a movie could portray."¹</p> <p>V/O: Now that we understand why ghosts might scare people, let's look at ghosts in film. How do the films themselves scare the viewer?</p> <p>Interview with Michael Sergi (cont.): "The power of suggestion works on us because we are all human and we all have fears and get nightmares. That's why most horror films are set at night because it plays on the fears we all have on what could be lurking under the</p>	<p>2min</p>	<p>of the body in every feature, even down to clothing the person wore."</p> <p>Text (fade in): "In many historical accounts, ghosts were thought to be deceased people looking for vengeance, or imprisoned on earth for bad things they did during life."</p> <p>Images depicting various people displaying the emotion of fear</p> <p>Interview with Micheal Sergi</p> <p>Images of the artwork of well-known ghost movies from different cultures: The Sixth Sense Ju On Sukob</p> <p>Split screen from Ju On and Sukob. In these scenes the main character is onscreen at night. There is nothing out of the ordinary happening but there is an eerie feel because of the nighttime effect.</p>
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<p>cover of darkness."²</p> <p>Movie Soundtrack (Ju On)</p>		<p>Cut to a scene in Ju On where Izumi wakes up and pulls the curtain open to see her late friend, who is now a ghost</p> <p>Cut to shot in Amityville Horror of a boy washing his face in the bathroom. When he looks up at the mirror, the ghost of a tortured Native American appears in the reflection.</p>
<p>Interview with Michael Sergi (cont.):</p> <p>"The camera position is vital to a shot being successful. The idea of having the ghosts appear behind you or in the mirror is scary because our minds conjure situations in which we imagine the scariest things possible. We are constantly looking over our shoulder or looking up while washing our face to make sure nothing is creeping up on us"³</p>	<p>3min</p>	<p>Cut to split screen. On one side is a clip from Sukob where ghost can be seen as a blur behind Sandy. The other side of the screen shows a scene from Ju On where Kayako can be seen in the mirror staring at Rika.</p> <p>Montage of clips from ghost movies where the ghost grabs the main character suddenly:</p>
<p>Movie Soundtrack (Ju On)</p>		<p>Ju On - The girl backs up against a statue and her face is grabbed by a ghost</p>
<p>Movie Soundtrack (The Ring)</p>		<p>The Ring - Rachel is sleeping and dreaming when Samara (the ghost) grabs her arm</p>
<p>Movie Soundtrack (Sukob)</p>		<p>Sukob - A pair of hands come out from the bushes and grabs Sandy</p>
<p>Interview with Takashi</p>	<p>4min</p>	<p>Cut to clip of hair washing</p>

<p>Shimizu "When people are vulnerable, I learned, that is when they are defenseless and the most likely to be frightened - so that's how the hair-washing scene came about. I got those ideas just from talking to people, and finding out what would scare them."⁴</p>		<p>scene from Ju On, where the fingers from one of the ghosts appears in Rika's hair as she is shampooing it.</p>
<p>V/O: We've explored some visual techniques used in ghost films but it takes more than an unsettling picture to strike terror in an audience.</p>		<p>Black screen. Various soundtracks are played from: The Sixth Sense Ju On Sukob Amityville Horror</p>
<p>V/O: Let's examine how audio plays a part in the effect a scene has on the audience</p>		
<p>Movie Soundtrack (Ju On)</p>	<p>5min</p>	<p>Scene in Ju On where Izumi wakes up and pulls the curtain open to see her late friend, who is now a ghost</p>
<p>Movie Soundtrack (Amityville Horror)</p>		<p>Cut to shot in Amityville Horror of a boy washing his face in the bathroom. When he looks up at the mirror, the ghost of a tortured Native American appears in the reflection.</p>
<p>V/O: And now without sound</p>		<p>Cut to a scene in Ju On where Izumi wakes up and pulls the curtain open to see her late friend, who is now a ghost</p> <p>Cut to shot in Amityville Horror of a boy washing his face in the bathroom. When</p>

<p>Interview with Michael Sergi: "The musical score in a horror film also contribute to suspense building and adding to the feelings of fear in a film. The score of a film could make or break a horror film so it must be done carefully. The audience should be in fear even if nothing is happening visually onscreen"⁵</p> <p>Sounds include: screaming, yelling, growling, accents with musical instruments</p> <p>V/O: Everyone's heard of ghost films, but how do they vary in different areas of the world? First, we'll look at the Philippines</p> <p>Interview with Noel Vera: "Horror isn't a respected genre in the Philippines--actually, it gets little respect everywhere--but there's been good, maybe even great, work done in the country."</p>	<p>6min</p>	<p>he looks up at the mirror, the ghost of a tortured Native American appears in the reflection.</p> <p>Interview with Michael Sergi. MS</p> <p>Montage of short 1-second clips from various ghost films</p> <p>Images depicting the artwork of Philippine ghost movies including: Sukob White Lady Sigaw Feng Shui</p> <p>Images depicting creatures of Philippine ghost stories including: White Lady Mananangal</p>
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<p>"There are so many stories in the Filipino culture about ghosts. Everyone's bound to know about monsters such as the White Lady and the Mananangal. Growing up as a child, my lolo used to tell me stories of the different creatures and I would have nightmares. Knowing these stories makes watching the Filipino movies scarier."⁶</p> <p>V/O: The Philippines is not widely known for its success in the ghost film industry however. Could it be the limited budget these films work with? Let's ask an expert on the horror genre</p> <p>Interview with Wes Craven: "The thing about a horror film in general is that it can be very impactful for a very low budget. It doesn't have to involve a great many people and you can work well in a very small enclosed set, like the cabin in the woods."⁷</p> <p>V/O: So we've learned that the budget of a ghost movie may not have an impact on whether it is effective or not. What could it be?</p> <p>Interview with Noel Vera: "You must understand all the stories in order to</p>	<p>7min</p>	<p>Images showing ratings of: Sukob White Lady Sigaw Feng Shui</p> <p>Cut to interview with Wes Craven. CU, low angle</p> <p>Zoom to ECU. Freeze. Still shot on Wes Craven</p> <p>Interview with Noel Vera. CU</p>
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<p>gain the full impact from the movies. If one does not know the many stories associated with the White Lady, they will not find the movie scary, or as scary."⁸</p> <p>V/O: Is the effectiveness of a film based on the understanding of the culture from which that film was made? Let's explore a widely known culture, the United States.</p> <p>Interview with M. Night Shyamalan: "I get asked whether the Indian-American culture influenced the filmmaking and it never occurred to me because it's not like you sit outside yourself and say, "this is really unusual" but perhaps the acceptance that the body is not the end of your life, that the spirit continues is something that I just accept because all these Indian ceremonies about ghost and spirits in the house and protecting the house from spirits... It's just an accepted thing over there and I assumed it was common but I guess it's not."⁹</p> <p>V/O: Nominated for 6 Oscars with 30 other wins and 35 other nominations, the Sixth Sense found its way to 25th on the list of all-time top box-office</p>	<p>8min</p>	<p>Panning shot on artwork of different American ghost movies including: The Shining Thirteen Ghosts White Noise Fragile The Sixth Sense</p> <p>Interview with M. Night Shyamalan. ECU</p> <p>Archival footage of award ceremonies and newspapers inclusive of lists and charts. Data of success, news of Oscars</p>
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<p>money earners."</p> <p>Interview with M. Night Shyamalan: "My goal as a filmmaker is to try to make cultural phenomena. How do you make that happen? How do you get under the skin and define a time and a place and really take your place in society that I affected you."¹⁰</p> <p>Movie Soundtrack (The Sixth Sense)</p> <p>Interview with M. Night Shyamalan: "It was everywhere. I've heard Rabbis giving sermons about it. There's this economics class where they were teaching it like 'Six Sense tickets cost...' and on Jay Leno they did a spoof about it and they refer to it in sitcoms. I was playing basketball... one of the guys threw the ball and he threw it to nobody and the other guy on the team said, "what do you think you see dead people or something?" He didn't know I directed the movie but it seeped in the culture. 'I see dead people'"¹¹</p> <p>V/O: Let's move on to a culture that more people are gaining knowledge of every day. Let's examine how it differs from some of the cultures we've</p>	<p>9min</p>	<p>Cut to clip from The Sixth Sense where Cole is in bed telling Dr. Malcolm Crowe that he sees dead people</p> <p>Cut to interview with M. Night Shyamalan. ECU</p> <p>Shots of Japan (Tokyo). Clips of life in the city. Busy nightlife, lots of color from lights</p>
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<p>studied in this investigation.</p> <p>Interview with Takashi Shimizu: "In my opinion, to American people real things like serial killers or murderous neighbors, that sort of notion is more scary. But in Japan, and in Japanese culture, the ghosts - particularly people who died with a grudge can turn into a ghost. That is the most scary thing in Japan. Since I was a little boy, I've always thoughts of ghosts - so I've had this idea since I was a kid."</p> <p>Interview with Takashi Shimizu (cont.): "People in America might compare my movie to 'The Ring' because they don't have anything else to compare it with. And it is similar, in that Japanese ghost culture is much different than in America. But I expose the ghosts more often and more dynamically. In 'The Ring' the ghosts were shown in an elegant way. I'm just exposing as many as I can, which is actually a lot more similar to the American style."</p> <p>Interview with Takashi Shimizu (cont.): "The only reason I decided to make this film is because preceding two films,</p>	<p>10min</p>	<p>Interview with Takashi Shimizu. MS</p> <p>Cut to picture accompanied by text (fade in): "Onryō is a Japanese ghost who is able to return to the physical world in order to seek vengeance" Fade out</p> <p>Images of different kind of ghosts split screened with the ghost from The Ring (Ringu) and The Grudge (Ju On)</p> <p>Images and archival footage of the first two films of the Ju On series.</p>
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<p>which were V-Cinema, turned out to be such a great success. Not only were the films big in Japan but many people in the US and other places began to notice it. In a way, this was an opportunity to share a piece of the Japanese culture with the world."¹²</p> <p>V/O: So why are people jumping out of their seats in the cinema? What makes a ghost movie prevent people from sleeping at night? There are some factors to consider</p> <p>V/O: First off, although the budget is not key in the making of such films, it might help to have a fair amount of cash handy. It helps if the viewers know what you're talking about, including any ghosts specific to your culture. You need to make sure to have music that will chill the bones of the audience and shots that'll make them want to scream "WACTH OUT!" to the character onscreen. Most important of all, it needs to seem REAL. It should seem like at any moment one of these ghost can just come up and-</p> <p>High pitched scream</p>	<p>11min</p>	<p>Images depicting people getting scared in a movie theater. Montage of photos of people jumping out of their seats and screaming</p> <p>Cut to Ethan, alone in movie theater holding popcorn. Slow zoom to MS of Ethan.</p> <p>Pair of gray hands grab Ethan and pull him over his seat.</p> <p>Black figure with gray face and bloodshot eyes flies towards the screen</p>
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¹Michael Sergi. Interview. June 2005. 23 Oct.-Nov. 2007
<<http://www.abc.net.au/westernplains/stories/s1404209.htm>>.

²Michael Sergi. Interview.

³Michael Sergi. Interview.

⁴Takashi Shimizu. Interview. August 2005. 23 Oct.-Nov. 2007
<<http://www.horror.com/php/article-605-1.html>>

⁵Michael Sergi. Interview.

⁶Noel Vera. Interview. May 2005. 23 Oct.-Nov. 2007
<http://movies.monstersandcritics.com/features/article_1154377.php/Special_Philippine_horror_flicks>.

⁷Wes Craven. Interview. Aug. 2007. 23 Oct.-Nov. 2007
<http://classic-horror.com/masters/wes_craven>.

⁸Noel Vera. Interview.

⁹M. Night Shyamalan. Interview. Sept. 2000. 23 Oct.-Nov. 2007
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_CpEpPbc4g8>.

¹⁰M. Night Shyamalan. Interview.

¹¹M. Night Shyamalan. Interview.

¹²Takashi Shimizu. Interview.

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MAQ Productions, 2006.

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DVD. Brightlight Pictures, 2005.

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