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Abstract

Eat the Rich: Anti-Capitalist Thought in the Horror Film

By

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As horror films once again gain popular and critical praise, horror film scholarship continues to expand in analyses of these films through the lens of now-prominent theoretical frames like intersectional theory, critical race theory, and fourth wave feminist theory. However, many analyses miss a class component.

Therefore, this article demonstrates that a significant anti-capitalist history exists in horror film, that analysis of anticapitalist themes in these horror films is essential to a complete understanding of American genre film as an art form, and that these anti-capitalist themes can be important in the overall work of radicalization and consciousness-raising. I will be focusing on three films from various sub-genres and time periods: Alien (1979) a science fiction horror film; Society (1989) a body horror political comedy; and Ready or Not (2019) a supernatural horror comedy. The article concludes that all three of these films flip the category of monstrosity on its head, choosing to make the most privileged classes amongst us the monsters instead of those who are usually Othered such as racial others, gendered others, or working class others.

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Major Professor: Dr. Nathaniel Cadle