Andrew Calderon

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Symbolic Imagery in Silent Films Essay

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In the beginning when movies were just starting to come out and were seen without any dialogue or sound it was important to understand the visuals that were being presented. A film isn’t a film without being able to see what is going to understand the film and what will be occurring next. I have chosen to watch the film “A Quiet Place” which is a newer film than the early 1900s films which had no choice on being able to use any sound and how these films rely on it to progress the film into a suspenseful adventure. This film succeeds in providing a compelling story with great cinematography and the use of production design to let the viewer know where everything is taking place and how to follow the story to understand what is going on in that scene. As little dialogue was used here and there in the film it was a smart choice for the characters in the film to take upon learning sign language to communicate with each other and to avoid the antagonists of the film which were creatures that attacked anything that made noise.

To begin with, describing the different elements are important to bring a film together and is also important for the film to have a great script and bring it to life visually. The film “A Quiet Place” directed and starring John Krasinski takes place in New York hundreds of days after it has been attacked by the alien creatures that came from the sky and follows a family who adapts sign language for communication to survive in this new world (Kransinski, 2018). This film does well with hooking an audience's attention as it begins with eerie suspense sound effects and learning how the family operates in the environment they are in and with the loss of their youngest child who broke the rule of being silent. The film allows a viewer to feel a part of the family and the journey of they are in making it day by day to survive and figure out new ways to survive from being put in an unexpected situation. As the film progresses more challenges are presented amongst the characters how they feel their journey is going and what to do to be protected and safe. The choices the director made to make this film were very unique and grabs the attention of the viewers to be on their feet to try to figure out what might happen next as there is no dialogue but sounds and stunning visuals that help carry the film to being successful. Every action a character does in the film can lead to consequences and if something bad were to happen the character must be ready to defend themselves without impacting the others around them.

Nonetheless, as one element can greatly impact the film many others are just as important to make the film complete. Elements such as cinematography, set design, and sound not only support a film but can affect the direction the film is going to go. Within this film, we are exploring a world of silence and how every minor detail with sound is allowing us to understand what is happening in that scene. The cinematography is done well by letting the viewer see the stunning shots of the location and the expressions of the characters when it becomes a closer shot. In the film, we are set to be on a farm for the majority of the film and get to see how the family adapts to the new world by making everything they do as silent as possible (Kransinski, 2018). The sound production was very important in this film in particular as it carried the story into the suspense feel it was going for and how a viewer would want to pay to every little action that was done by the characters to understand what could happen next. Since the film is quiet and it gets you to be on your feet so you can prepare for the attempts to scare you it allows for another challenge to be set and to make the viewer focus on the film.

Likewise, when it comes to wanting to produce a short film for yourself it is a great idea to explore the different key points you want to include in a film. Many different elements can make a film and focusing on certain elements can greatly drive that film into the direction you would want it to go. In my film, I would like to utilize different shot types and the cinematography that would go along with it as I would want to express the different emotions going between my characters in the film. I would also focus on the sounds and music for my short film as it can add attention to what kinds of sounds are being used to keep the film progressing and what kind of music is being used to understand the mood of the current scene. In every film, there has to be a want and need from the character and understand why different choices were made to advance into the later scenes what drives to keep the film interesting and not something to avoid. In my short film, I would like to use graphics to convey the story and to show what different elements were used to this film unique than others and why it should be a film to see and not dismissed.

In conclusion, visuals are just as important as other elements that bring it all together and can tell a story without needing to use dialogue. As dialogue can help a viewer understand what messages are trying to be said; visuals allow a viewer to figure out what is going on in that scene and what actions are being done to carry the film towards its goal. As many films come out there are always some that try to take an element into another perspective and how you can enjoy that film without missing other elements that make most generic films. It can get repetitive for a studio to alter films that have been made and those films won't be successful as viewers want something new that is built from the ground and can create new elements that other studios can inspiration from.