LOW KEY LIGHTING PLAYS AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN HOLLYWOOD HORROR FILMS

VINOSHINI D/O SASI

BACHELOR OF CREATIVE TECHNOLOGY IN SCREEN STUDIES WITH HONORS

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Low key lighting plays an important role in Hollywood horror films

By

Vinoshini d/o Sasi

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ABSTRAK

Kajian ini adalah mengenai kepentingan low key lighting dalam filem seram Hollywood. Lighting memainkan peranan penting dalam setiap genre filem seperti aksi, fantasi, romantik, sains fiksyen, dan crime. Terdapat pelbagai jenis lighting yang digunakan dalam setiap filem yang memberi nyawa kepada genre filem tersebut. Low key lighting merupakan lighting yang sering digunakan dalam filem seram. Low key lighting lebih mementingkan fokus terhadap kegelapan. Filem seram biasanya memberi keutamaan terhadap pengunaan lighting supaya dapat memberi perasaan takut kepada penonton yang juga meningkatkan perasaan ingin mengetahui jalan cerita filem hingga akhir. Lighting memainkan peranan penting dalam filem seram dimana lighting memberi perbandingan terhadap genre filem yang lain. Lighting juga memainkan peranan dalam memberi pandangan kepada krew produksi untuk menggunakan prop, pelakon, dan scene tertentu. Selain itu, lighting memberi petunjuk kepada penonton mengetahui perwatakan watak dalam filem tersebut. Lighting juga dapat dilaraskan dengan emosi watak seperti dalam skrip dalam filem seram. Bagi memberi pandangan yang luas pengkaji telah menggunakan dua filem seram Hollywood sebagai contoh untuk menyokong tajuk kajian ini. Filem seram yang digunakan adalah Annabelle dan Conjuring yang merupakan filem seram yang ditontoni oleh ramai penonton. Kedua-dua filem seram tersebut menggunakan low key lighting yang membuatkan filem tersebut lebih realistik. Kaedah lighting yang digunakan harus disampaikan kepada semua generasi yang di bawah bidang filem supaya kaedah-kaedah ini dapat digunakan selamanya. Peralatan lighting yang digunakan harus mudah diperoleh oleh setiap produksi yang mempunyai budget yang rendah dan juga tinggi.

ABSTRACT

This research is about the role of low key lighting in Hollywood horror films. Lighting plays an important role in every genre such as fantasy, romantic, action, science fiction, and crime. There is a lot of types of lighting that is used to in films that brings the genre alive. Low key lighting is a lighting that is mostly used in horror films. Low key lighting focuses on contrast in dark areas. Horror films usually use low key lighting to give a feeling of fear to the audience as their interest to know the ending of the film. Lighting plays an important role in horror films that creates and differentiate with other genre films. Lighting plays an important role where the lighting setup guides the viewers to a specific prop, actor, or a part of the scene. Lighting shows a hint of the characters role and psychology. The lighting can be adjusted towards the character based on the emotion that is scripted. To give a better view about the research title the researcher used two Hollywood horror films as an example. The Hollywood horror film that was used is Annabelle and Conjuring which is known by a lot of viewers. Both of the film used effective low key lighting that made the film more realistic. The film industry should inspire the young film makers about the techniques that is used to create a successful low key lighting to the future generation that wants to be a film makers and also young film makers so that the techniques will continue. Low key lighting should also be a lighting that should be produced with equipments that is easy to provide so that not only high budget film can do successful low key lighting but also low budget films.

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CHAPTER 1

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This case study is about The role of low key lighting in Hollywood horror films. There is different types of lighting that is used to create a film that represents a different view in every lighting. Horror films usually use low key lighting to give a feeling of fear to the audience as their interest to know the ending of the film. Lighting plays an important role in horror films that creates and differentiate with other genre films such as fantasy, romantic, action, science fiction, and crime. Lighting plays an important role where the lighting setup guides the viewers to a specific prop, actor, or a part of the scene. Lighting shows a hint of the characters role and psychology. The lighting can be adjusted towards the character based on the emotion that is scripted (M.Sipos,2010).

As you work with light you will most likely be surprised of the number of its features are already familiar with every day experience. You will perceive the impacts, regardless of whether you will see have not recently considered their reason of lighting techniques. Preoccupied with daily life, the greater part of us give just half an eye to our general surroundings. We react to its impact yet only occasionally investigate its effect all that closely. We acknowledge, for instance, the well-worn idea of romantically soft candlelight. However in the event that you check out a light lit room, it is soon evident that a candle's little flame projects firm obvious shadows, and tosses texture and shapes into sharp help. There's nothing delicately diffused about candlelight. If light from a candles flame on the table does flatter, this is expected exclusively to its low point (Millerson, 1991).

Lighting is important in a film due to the reason cameras do not respond well to lights in the same way human eyes does. Every detail and and lighting contrast a humans eye can can see are fantastically developed. Additional lighting is necessary to make the quality of

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lighting comparable with the humans sight. The more advanced the film production is the more advanced the equipments the production uses. There is a lot of types of lighting that is used in a film based on their genre. Lighting such as 3 point lighting, natural lighting, low key lighting, and high key lighting is a common lighting that is used to differentiate the film based on the genre.

High-key lighting is portrayed by low contrast between the bright and dim areas. The lighting proportion between the key and fill light is low. A low lighting ratio makes a uniform appearance since everything is evenly lit. That can mean equally dim, but ordinarily it means evenly bright. Sitcoms and Television news shows by and large courtesy low lighting ratio. Low-key lighting is described by hard lighting, high contrast between light and dark areas, strongly defined shadows, and high lighting ratios that is typically somewhere in range of 4:1 to 8:1. Low-key lighting is mainstream with noir and horror films (M.Sipos,2010).

Both sets and lighting will help create an original and creepy vision, but one less dependent on Germany Expressionism than Dracula (1931), Frankenstein (1931), or even Murders in the Rue Morgue (1932), three of the big contributions to the 1930s horror films cycle before White Zombie's production. Darkness and lightness is the mainstream throughout in the lighting schema, but— even remembering our discussion of fairy tales and their tendency to externalize inner feelings—they do still exhibit a less overarching, enunciative capacity than in the other films (D.Rhodes, 2001).

"I do a lot of tests in different kinds of lighting. Makeup and hair test, wardrobe tests, and so forth. In those tests I have them moving around in five or six different types of lighting, so that the director can look at is and say, "I like that, I don't like that". We try different lenses, different sizes for close-ups: a 50mm or a 150mm, to see how the perspective changes. We don't just stand an actor and say. " Turn three different ways," and that's it. We choreograph moves for all these test," said by John Alonzo, ASC (Malkiewicz,

2012).

During the primary camera practice the video Operator works 'hands off' until the lighting balance has been adjusted. Otherwise we can find that while the individual at the lighting control board was intentionally dimming a lamp to decrease overall picture brightness the Video Operator was opening up the camera lens aperture to redress. In inventive lighting, balance is a necessary piece of the whole visual idea. When the general forces of all the lamps have been adjusted, the Video Operator can subtly rearrange the camera channels to improve the coordinating of pictures, and upgrade the pictorial effect (Millerson, 1991).

1.1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In the film, Kirk Douglas plays as a producer named Jonathan Shields, and Barry Sullivan plays as a director named Fred Amiel, who has been allocated a low budget thriller titled "The Doom of the Cat Men" as their first production. This circumstances was motivated by real-life producer Val Lewton and director Jacques Tourneur,who in 1942 made Cat People, a film that goes after dread of the dark while never indicating the films title creatures. *"Put five men dressed like cats on the screen, what do they look like ?"* asks Douglas. *"Like five men dressed like cats,"* answers Sullivan, before long adding, *"Suppose we never do show the cat men, is that what your thinking?"* (Hantke, 2004).

At the point the audience remarks on 'great lighting' you will normally find that they are reacting to a particular impressive sensational effect. However, most talented lighting is self-facing. The more subtle the treatment, the more natural or 'obvious' it gives off an impression of being. As the audience focuses on the performance they do not 'notice' the lighting, but they are influenced by its impact. Taking a gander at a set in the studio, we can

value the skill which the Designer has re-created a kitchen, living room, and so on. However, when we glance around at the lighting for that scene we just observe a ton of bright lights. A carefully balanced lighting treatment just shows up as so much illumination (Millerson, 1991).

"*The less you see, the more you believe*," says director Jacques Tourneur about this vital role that darkness played in *Cat People* (Scorsese and Wilson). The film is one of the uncommon models from the horror genre that is really paid attention by most film critics, maybe because its look is obvious noir, cinematographer Nicholas Musuracsa's work for producer Lewton "(for whom he shot five horror films all together) build up him as an expert of highly dramatic lighting (Hantke, 2004).

One stun for aspiring filmmakers is the high level of films that utilize the use of artificial light for both interior and exterior shooting. The need for interior lighting shocks nobody, yet the quantity of lights and the multifaceted nature of their execution, often do. Delightful exterior light such as natural light has consistently been found by still photographers, yet it happens too unpredictably and changes too quickly to ever be a good partner of filmmakers. On his film Ran (1985), it is said that director Akira Kurosawa kept a cast of thousands remaining by for few hours, sitting tight just for the right cloud formation (Mamer, 2009).

The lighting Cameraman has the extensive obligation of making the visual image that is the summation of the whole production crew's efforts. He controls both the camerawork and the lighting, and is a significant specialist whose work cannot be completely evaluated until a graded print can be seen some time after shooting has stopped. In many situations there is no open doors for later corrections. Light-control facilities in film making are largely based on actual strategies of adjustment, utilizing scrims, flags, and so on. Transportable wheeled dimmer units and switches give electrical control (Millerson, 1991).

Kurosawa was one of the greats, and his cast, team, and producers would give him that scope to make inconceivable images. Most of the filmmakers do not have that luxury.

Since the light in any circumstance may not exist in the volume or with the features or characteristics wanted, a filmmaker must realize how to assess existing lighting circumstances turn out to be totally familiar in the uses of artificial light. Similarly as a painter begins with a clear canvas, a filmmaker begins with a dim space. Lights is the filmmakers brush and palette.(Mamer, 2009)

John [Janis] Valtenberg, the person who was the director of photography, was a splendid lighting man. John was from Germany. Furthermore, he'd come over and by one way or another Jamieson had the option to discover him and recruit him. He was only a genius lighting guy. However, he was a perfectionist, so John would not let us shoot until he was totally prepared. It would simply take him such a long time since everything must be perfect. If you look at that image and take a look at lighting, its not normally lighting for a low budget horror movie. Its just super great, yet at the same time John would say, "*Give me five more minutes*" (Albright,1973).

"What mood am i trying to convey? Where are the practical lighting sources in frame? All these things—hard light or soft light, what color temperature?—you have to make all these decisions very quickly. I always insist on having a moment, a few minutes, to use my imagination; I ask my gaffer and my crew not to start asking me questions immediately. I use this time to figure out a lighting strategy that will allow freedom for the actors and will help create the appropriate atmosphere for the scene", said by Matthew Libatique,ASC (Malkiewicz, 2012).

We are all waiting, and everyone is pacing and all set, and John is around putting barn doors on this one, and having the gaffers get up on a ladder and tilt that light here and put a gel on. It just continued endlessly until we were shouting and pulling our hair out. Be that as it may, the footage was simply excellent. The goal was not just to complete it but it was to complete it well. Obviously, completing it on time was significant for the financial plan yet i have that covered. We did affirm from that perspective (Albright,1973).

During camera rehearsal the Lighting Director sits by the lighting control board, watching review and line picture monitors, assessing the lighting treatment and also picture quality. You may have to change the lighting arrangements for various number of reasons that is, *Inaccurate lighting* — very bad positioned lamps, poorly set lamps, unsuccessful effect. *Productional changes* — reexamined action, modified shots, diverse camera positions, extra shots, changed treatment. *System failures* — lamps thats is blown or accidentally moved. *Operational problems* — boom shadow, camera shadow, lens flare. *Scenic changes* — set dressings or scenic pieces added since the set was lit. *Scenic defects* — helpless setting, shiny surfaces, unacceptable apparent values (Millerson, 1991).

Film is a specialty of light, yet the art of Hollywood lighting remains so unpretentious that it normally gets away from our attention. This is unfortunate, in light of the fact that Miller and his friends did a lot to shape our experience of the traditional Hollywood film. If it is seen, light can sharpen our consideration, move our desires, and shape our feelings. For an example, when lighting a murder scene, think about projecting the killer's shadow on the wall. No cinematographers was needed to utilize this stunt, in any case, the gadget shows up in various films, from a wide range of studios, so it appears reasonable to say that this was a mutual strategy that most cinematographers can decide to utilize or disregard. On the other hand, a few conventions are obligatory. As a free tips, consistently use enough light to get an required exposure.

A cinematographer who decide to violet this standard was putting his position in danger. In between of the discretionary rule and obligatory law we have an assortment of default shows. For example, when lighting an individual, use three-point lighting as a beginning stage . Cinematographers were not required to utilize three-point lighting in each scene, however it was a protected alternative much of the time. We should oppose the compulsion to allocate a fixed importance to any one lighting method. A similar gadget can show up in

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many various shows, for example, in the accompanying alternatives, when you are shooting a night exterior, think about low-key lighting. When you are capturing a male character actor entertainer, think about low-key lighting. At the point when you are capturing a crime scene, think about low key lighting. The way that low key lighting can serve in different conventions implies that its own noteworthiness is not fixed.

Low-key lighting does not signify 'sinister' lighting, and back lighting does not signify 'angelic' lighting. Just as we need setting to comprehend the significance of a word, we need setting to understand the importance of a lighting technique. Since a show is a suggestion about what to do given a specific setting, the setting goes about as a organizing segment of the standard. Looking at shows, rather than singular methods, will permit us to grow more exact practical clarification. This in turn will permit to connect shows to the organizations that embraced them (Keating, 2010).

1.2 RESEARCH PROBLEM

In every research there will be situation where the researcher's will face many obstacle to complete this research. The problem that will be faced should be noticed to make the process of this research more easy to complete. In completing the research there are problems that should be pointed out to get a better solution. As the problems are :

a) Researcher face low understanding about the role of lighting in horror films. Researcher face situation where they have low source regarding the topic to figure out the types of lighting that is used in horror films.

b) Lack of documentation regarding low key lighting in Hollywood horror films that is complicated to refer to such few information .

1.3 OBJECTIVE

1) Identify the role of lighting in horror films.

2) To Analyse the use of low key lighting in Hollywood horror films.

3) To develop a product based on low key lighting.

1.4 RESEARCH QUESTION

In this research , it is known that there is questions to achieve the objective of this research that is accurate to the title.

The questions is :

1. What is the way to research about the role of lighting in horror films.

2. How can it be define that low key lighting plays an important role in Hollywood horror films.

3. How to develop product based on low key lighting.

1.5 RESEARCH SCOPE

Based on the objective the researcher will focus on the role of lighting in a film and also low key lighting in Hollywood horror films. The researcher will also do observation on the ways of film directors creatively start using low key lighting in Hollywood films. Beside that, low key lighting is not only used in horror film but also crime and thriller films that requires a scary scene to gain the interest of the audience. The key to know that the scene used low

key lighting is when the scene is taken in a dark area with less brightness. Low key lighting needs less lighting equipment than a normal lighting for a film, for an example, three-point lighting. The researcher will use qualitative and quantitative method to analyze the low key lighting that is used to get a better view for this research. The researcher gives extra effort to research about the meaning of low key lighting and the circumstance it is used in. Besides that, director and crew members of certain films has their own strategy for exposing low key lighting that makes the film more interesting. Every crew and director has a lot of strategy of lighting that is also follow by the other films if the strategy is a success. Low key lighting was first used with a great risk that the film might face a huge loss or profit. Yet at the end low key lighting become famous in most horror, thriller, and crime films. Low key lighting is not only used particularly in only horror, thriller, and crime genre films, but it is also used in film with romantic, fictional, noir genre and so on that requires low key lighting for certain scene but not as the main lighting for the film. For an example, in a romantic genre film where the actors have candlelight dinner requires low key lighting to make the circumstance romantic.

CHAPTER 2

2.0 LITERATURE

2.1 Low key lighting in Hollywood horror films

Literature focuses more about the research that it includes philosopher's theory and research. For the research about the role of low key lighting in Hollywood horror films that includes the view and theory of every crew member in a film. Every member in a crew have different role to enhance the lighting effect in their own way that is their strategy. John Valtenberg, the person who was the director of photography, was a splendid lighting man. Furthermore, he'd come over and by one way or another Jamieson had the option to discover him and recruit him. He was only a genius lighting guy. However, he was a perfectionist, so John would not let us shoot until he was totally prepared. It would simply take him such a long time since everything must be perfect. If you look at that image and take a look at lighting, its not normally lighting for a low budget horror movie. Its just super great, yet at the same time John would say, "*Give me five more minutes*" (Albright,1973).

The most fundamental lighting setup is known to be three-point lighting, which comprises of a key light, fill light, and backlight. The key light points straightforwardly at the subject and doubtlessly the main character or object in the shot and it is the brightest light source for the shot. The fill light is a softer light, and is normally positioned opposite the key light where the fill light eliminates shadows made by the bright key light. Also, the backlight shines behind the subject or object, separating that person, or the background. All in all, improving the feeling of depth in the shot. Backlighting in some cases makes a halo effect around a character's head, especially at the edge of the hair (Sikov,2010).

All things consider, Hollywood lighting shows were regulating, as in they empowered

more prominent normalization. Learning the exchange included learning the list of circumstances in which a specific set of gadgets could be utilized. In theory, we can envision a cinematographer who never considered why he was using any of his gadgets, yet who in any case turned into a specialist expert of the Hollywood style since he realized what to do when recording a prison scene, when shooting a horror movie, and when recording a female star.

Practically speaking, most Hollywood cinematographers were positively significant more insightful than these models propose, yet we should expect there to have been a sure measure of unthinking guideline following. Between getting all the scrims on all the lights, all the flags on all the stands, and all the moves in all the magazines, the cinematographers and his team had an excessive number of functional commitments to permit them time for perpetual aesthetic consideration. The capacity were incorporated into the standards that a cinematographer could achieve a wide scope of stylish capacities only by following the most mainstream show (Keating,2010).

The term key light is the source of two normally utilized adjectives; low key and high key. To call something high key is to state that it's extreme, though low key means subdued. The excessive lively atmosphere of a television game show would be portrayed as high key, while the smoky state of mind of jazz club would be called low key. These expressions come from cinematography. At the point when cinematographers, otherwise called as Director Of Photography (DOP) utilize a high extent of fill light to key light, it's called high-key lighting; the impact is both brighter and more even than when they use low extent of fill light to key light, which is called low-key lighting (Sikov,2010).

Low-key lighting is delivered by expanding the intensity of the key light comparative with the fill. In low-key lighting the lighting proportion (key/fill) is somewhere in the range of 16:1 and 32:1. The much more prominent force of the key light makes is unimaginable for the fill to dispose of shadows, delivering a picture with various shadows (frequently on

character's appearances) and high difference (numerous evaluations of lightness and darkness). Low-key lighting makes a grave or forbidding mood and is frequently used in crime drama's and films like noirs. It is likewise the supported lighting style for gothic horror films since it adds a feeling of unhappiness to any setting. Note that few lighting styles possibly utilized in single film, as the Von Trapp family escapes from the Nazis in The Sound of Music, low-key lighting move the film's temperament from the brilliant scenes to mean the danger involved (Pramaggiore, 2005).

The lower key the light. The more shadowy the impact. The contorting, creepy nature of amazingly low-key lighting is perfectly outlined by a trick almost every kid has played; in the dark, you sparkle a flashlight up at your face from beneath your chin. That flashlight was your key light, and since there was no fill light by any means, the key light was, or whether there was some top lighting(lighting from overhead). All things being equal, you will probably will see the impact of the lighting in a offered scene, to depict these effects precisely, and to venture analytically a few thoughts regarding what the effects mean (Sikov,2010).

2.2 types of low key lighting used in films

In horror films, there is a lot of things that is used to create a scary vibe towards the audience. This make the filmmaker to create types of low key lighting for a film. There is a lot of low key lighting such as uplighting, silhouette, spotlighting, underexposure, harsh light(chiaroscuro, hard light), shooting through objects (internal frames), shooting through elements and prominent and projected shadows.

2.2.1   Uplighting

This lighting effect is a lighting that is used in horror films and also images. It does not look natural and distorts even the faces we are familiar with. To produce this lighting effect in a scene, have only one source of lighting and let it below the subject (below face). By this, the lighting effect is created and it is provided in a minimum budget. Beside that, uplighting create a weird shadow around the eyes and distorts the face.

Uplighting is a lighting we are really familiar of cause we used to play with flashlights by holding it below our face and without noticing we already know one of the low key lighting that is used in horror films. Uplighting shows the characters face in a creepy angle where the light is from below the face. It makes the the characters face hard to recognize due to the dark shadows that appears on the face(below the chin and eyes). Most horror films use this lighting effect when the shot zoom the characters face. Lighting the characters face from below is a usual technique in horror films, it cast darkness, looming shadows with high contrast (Kindersley,2017).
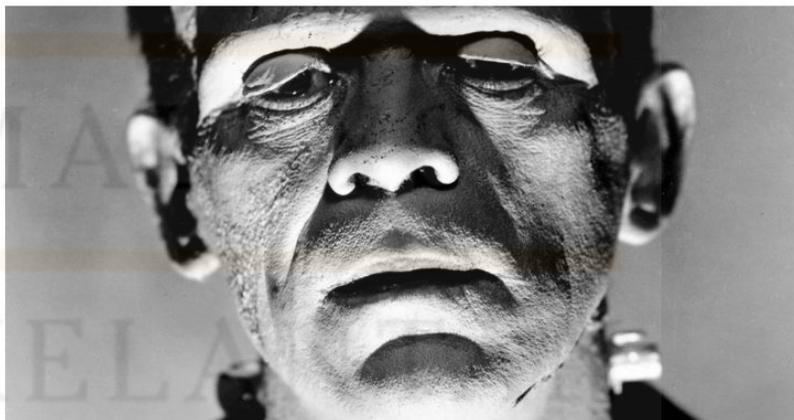
Figure 1 : Uplighting from Frankenstein (1931)

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2.2.2   Back lighting

Eventhough backlighting is not necessarily used in horror films but it still can add a mystery vibe to a particular scene. It adds a mystery vibe to the set and especially the character. This lighting effect is simple to produce: place the light at the back of the subject or character. In films, the subjects usually slowly comes straight toward the camera or even stand still and the scene will be more creepy if it is added with some fog. Backlight that is used in horror films shows the character from behind and with a dark surrounding that makes the scene more mystery and scary. Mostly this shot will not have dialogue and is more cinematic whether to show the character is watching something from a far distance. The film Unheimliche Geschichten electricity is not only to show the scene but it is used as a backlight in the scene to create a dramatic shot (Sadowski, 2017).

Figure 2: Backlighting from Unheimliche Geschicten (1919)

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2.2.3   Spotlighting

Most of the horror films has this scene where the character walks into the dark. This lighting is called spotlighting. Spotlighting builds tension slowly and leads the audience eyes through the scene. This lighting basically show the character only and the whole background and surrounding is dark. To get this effect, expose the shot so that everything around the circle of the light is fully dark. The effect gives the feel of fear to the audience because the surrounding is so dark even they can not see the body of the character, they can only see the face. This makes it more scarier to watch due to the reason the viewer can not fill the imagination of what is behind that darkness. In the 1980s, most of the horror films was taken, and the most famous one was Parasite that had a shot that spotlighting literally the monsters mouth and teeth (Muir, 2007).

Figure 3 : Spotlighting from Marnie (1964)

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2.2.4   Saturated red

Saturated red lighting is used in horror films and also video games a lot. It gives the feeling of immediate danger is approaching and its more highlighted if it is paired with another saturated color. To produce this type of low key lighting, add highly saturated red gels to the lights. But should be remember that it cuts 50% of the lights output. The saturated red color is of course red color, most of the scenes that involve this effect is to show the situation is critical. Other than that this effect is used also to show anger as red is the symbolic color of anger. Saturated red lighting effect is a easy way for the director to send the message that the character is in danger. Saturated lighting give a sense of threat to the horror film. Saturated lighting do not match with natural lighting and is opposite (Lanier, 2018).

Figure 4 : Saturated lighting from Suspiria(1977)

2.2.6   Silhouette lighting

Silhouette lighting is created when the source of light is behind the subject, with a little light to no light in the front of the subject. When the subject is fully pitch black and using the right camera setting, it is possible to take a silhouette shot. For this, the camera strobes or flashes needs to be turned off. The advised time to take a silhouette shot is either early in the morning or in the late evening when the sun is on at the horizon. In that way there will only be an average light towards the subject. Silhouette lighting usually gives a striking introduction to a personage apprehension (Backer,2015).

Figure 5 : Silhouette from double indemnity (1944)

Figure 6 : Silhouette from Suspiria (1977)

2.2.7   Underexposure

In a horror film, the effect of underexposure may be really effective as it will leave a lot of areas of the frame in the shadow and give a mysterious feeling. Although it can be technically expose and just color grade the footage to make it dark in the shot, the last result is not the same as if it was done with underexposure effect. Underexposure is a lighting that lose the details of the shot in purpose as that what the lighting is suppose to be. It also gives an artistic view of the scene. Based on the directors view, it will be decided of what to expose and what to be underexposed. Underexposure and overexposure will hide threats, either in darkness or brightness of the shadow (Sipos, 2010).

Figure 7 : Underexposure from Zodiac (2007)

Figure 8: Overexpose from The Redeem

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2.2.8   Obscuring through lighting

Not like other techniques, hard light, spotlighting, underexposing, and shooting through objects and elements do not distort or hides the subject. This creates the feel of tension, suspense and also mysterious feel. This is because it only let the audience see the subject and not the surroundings. When a subject is viewed from a low angle, it projects a power alone. Besides that, with lighting from the back the subject is partially obscuring the brightness (Barry, 1997).

Figure 9

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2.2.9   Distorting through lighting

Prominent shadow, uplighting and silhouette produce a full distortion of the real world. As explained, shadows on the subject when lighting is from below is usually not nature but it creates an alerting fear towards the viewers. This is know as a language that is imagery that create a visual through lighting. The director and crew take effort for setting the light and adjusting the lighting that is important to show the elements of cinematography (Erdem, 2021)

Figure 10

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2.2.10   Harsh light (Chiaroscuro effect)

Chiaroscuro lighting is mostly played in theater and films to give a mysterious view to the audience. Not only that it has a very attractive element that makes the shot in the scene more eye catching. This raised question from the filmmakers whether this effect was the influence for other lighting. Chiaroscuro lighting is chosen by filmmakers in a lot of country. This is pictured in the article "The International Exploration of Cinematic Expressivity", written by Kristin Thompson. This lighting effect have to be shown from expression due to its different style of lighting (Prince,2004)

Figure 11

2.3 Product Development

2.3.1   5 stages of making a Documentary

Development
Pre-production
Production
Post-production
Distribution
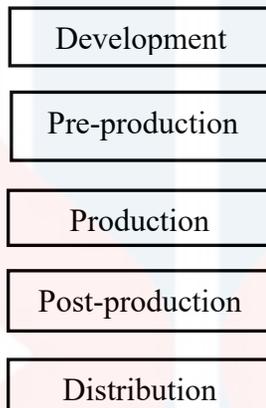
There is 5 stages in making a short film that is development, pre-production, production, post-production, and distribution. Each process has different purpose to be achieved. Each process has different roles that suit different stages.

<u>DEVELOPMENT</u>

This stage is where the creation, writing, organizing, and planing of a project starts. In development stage, the budget for the short film is decided, key cast is attached, and main location places is drafted. This stage is all about the work that shows what project we are going to do and how much it will cost to prepare all equipment's. Development may take a lot of time or months to get it done and go to the next stage that is pre-production. The crew that is involved in this stage is minimal if it is compared to other stages. Once the project find finance, it will move to the next stage that is pre-production.The budget for the film is based on the film genre that is after discussing with the crew. At this stage, there was a transformation of the New Hollywood Era where it focuses sense of awareness (Robbe, 2008).

PRE-PRODUCTION

Pre-production is where the actors and actress is cast, location is searched, shooting schedule is done and costume is fitted for the actors and actress. Besides that, the costume team will make sure the actors know what they are going to wear on shooting, by that the team will know whether the actors is comfortable in wearing the costume and agree with it. The script is created in this stage and will be distributed (Ohanian & Philips, 2013).

PRODUCTION

Production stage is where the Director, Producer, and many creative minds finally see their ideas are taken as camera shot for the film. All the crew members was busy and worked hard to give excellent results at the end of the shooting. In this stage there will be digital process will take place (Ohanian & Philips, 2013).

POST PRODUCTION

In this stage,all shots of the short film is taken as is given to the editor to edit. The footage is edited, the background sound is in process, visual effects is added, and the project is completed and prepared for distribution. The editor creates teaser and make sure it is approved by the director. Editing will begin once all the footage is received (Ohanian & Philips, 2013).

DISTRIBUTION

Distribution is the last stage in making a film, the short film is created and is ready to be uploaded in media. The producer will plan the strategy to distribute the short film. Finally the project will be received a lot of comments from the viewers and also the project course lecture. The time of the outcome received from the media source depends from film to film (W.Cones, 2013).

2.3.2   Product type

Documentary

A documentary is using pictures and interviews with people involved in real events to provide a factual report. It is also to document reality,primarily for the purpose of education or maintaining historical record. Not all films that count as documentaries bear a close resemblance tp each other as many disparate the sorts of transportation devices can count as a 'vehicle'. A documentary organized as 'it speaks about them to us' that will have different qualities and affect that is different from one organized as 'we speak about us to them' (Nichols, 2001).

The list for mode of documentary is 6 that is expository, poetic, participatory, observational, performative and reflexive. The poetic mode is that presents modern characters by the qualities of emotionalism, ambiguity, fragmentation, and expressiveness. The expository mode has the purpose to disseminate the information or either persuade it. Footage's and image's is used to give a strong narrative. A common feature of expository mode is voice over is used like news and television programs. The observational mode is using film footage's to chronicle a shot or scene as it occurs. It is to be objective that the camera take role of the audience, and observing the action. Participatory mode relies on the interviews, considering them to be a source for the topic of subject. Reflexive mode ia mainly about the act of filming to apprise the viewers about the film making process. For an example, a camera is recording another camera that is taking the shots of the filming. Performative mode is about being subjective. Its about acts with emotional intensity or also known uniqueness of the vision that is recorded to express the director to enhance the narrative (Natusch and Hawkins, 2014).

CHAPTER 3

3.0 METHODOLOGY

Methodology is one of the way for the researcher to achieve the objective of this research that it help to gain more information and strong support for the research.This research refers to the method that is appropriate for this research that is 'Low key lighting plays an important role in Hollywood horror film'. The method that is choosen for this research should be effective enough to give an answer for the research question and research problem. The objective of this research is to define the role of lighting in horror films and to analyse the use of low key lighting in Hollywood horror films. The researcher will research more detailed about the lighting that is used for horror films and the main fact that low key lighting is used in most of the horror films. Lighting comes with a lot of equipment that makes the lighting ratio in the correct temperature according to the scene. Hollywood horror films is different from other country horror films that mainly uses dolls as the ghost in the film such as the movie 'Annabelle', and 'Conjuring'. Most of the scene's in Hollywood horror films uses low key lighting to make the circumstance more scary and give a clue to the audience that something is about to happen so that the audience gain interest in watching the film till the end.

Annabelle

The movie annabelle is a story about a couple that got married. In Santa Monica, Mia and John Gordon are a happily married couple and Mia is pregnant. John is going to finish his medical school and does not spend much time with Mia. So, he bought her rare doll named Annabelle that she was looking for a long time for her collection. But soon after their next door neighbors are attacked by two person from a satanic culture that break in their house

25

and attack them after killing the neighbors. Mia and John was saved by the police officers and Mia needed to take rest until her delivery. There was a fire in their house and made Mia deliver her baby girl early. The family soon moves to a new apartment in Pasadena but first Mia throws the Annabelle doll away in the garbage. However she was clueless when she finds the doll in a box while unpacking the things at the new apartment. Weird things started to happen to the family, Mia become friends with Evelyn, who works in a bookstore, and she learns about an evil culture that wants Leah's soul. John and Mia calls Father Perez fot help to eliminate Annabelle, but its spirit is stronger than the priest and he got injured and sent to the hospital. Without any choice when Mia was about to jump out the window to suicide and get her baby back, her friend Evelyn jumped before her and saved the family.

Low key lighting that is used in the film Annabelle

Figure 12

Figure 13

Figure 14

Figure 15

In the horror film Annabelle, it is know that the story is about the possessed doll that kills people, its the Antagonist of the film. The low key lighting is mainly used when the doll gives its presence in the scene as the pictures shown above. Low key lighting creates a dark and scary moment to make the antagonist presence more scarier. Low key lighting played an important role in the film Annabelle where every horror scene involves low key lighting. Low key lighting is a technique to show the appearance of the dolls spirit. Low key lighting is when the scene involves dark areas but its still possible to see the character and the things surrounded in the area. The dark situation in the room of one of the horror scene involves the mother (Mia) to protect her baby from the evil spirit. Besides make up, properties, background sound, and sets, the lighting gives the final touch that makes the scene go as planed. The darker the surrounding the scarier the scene will be.

CONJURING

The film Conjuring is about a family that moved to a new house which was haunted. In 1971, Roger Perron and his wife Carolyn move to an old house in Rhode Island with their five daughters which are Andrea, Christine, Nancy, and April. The family finds a hidden basement but the entrance was blocked by planks. Soon they scared with the haunted noises and ghosts. Carolyn was so desperate for help she meets the paranormal investigators Lorraine and Ed Warren to end the misery they were facing. When the paranormal investigators visit the house they can feel the presence of the ghosts. Lorraine and Ed brings their friends Brad and Drew to help them to collect evidences to convince the church that it was necessary to save the Perron family from the ghosts.
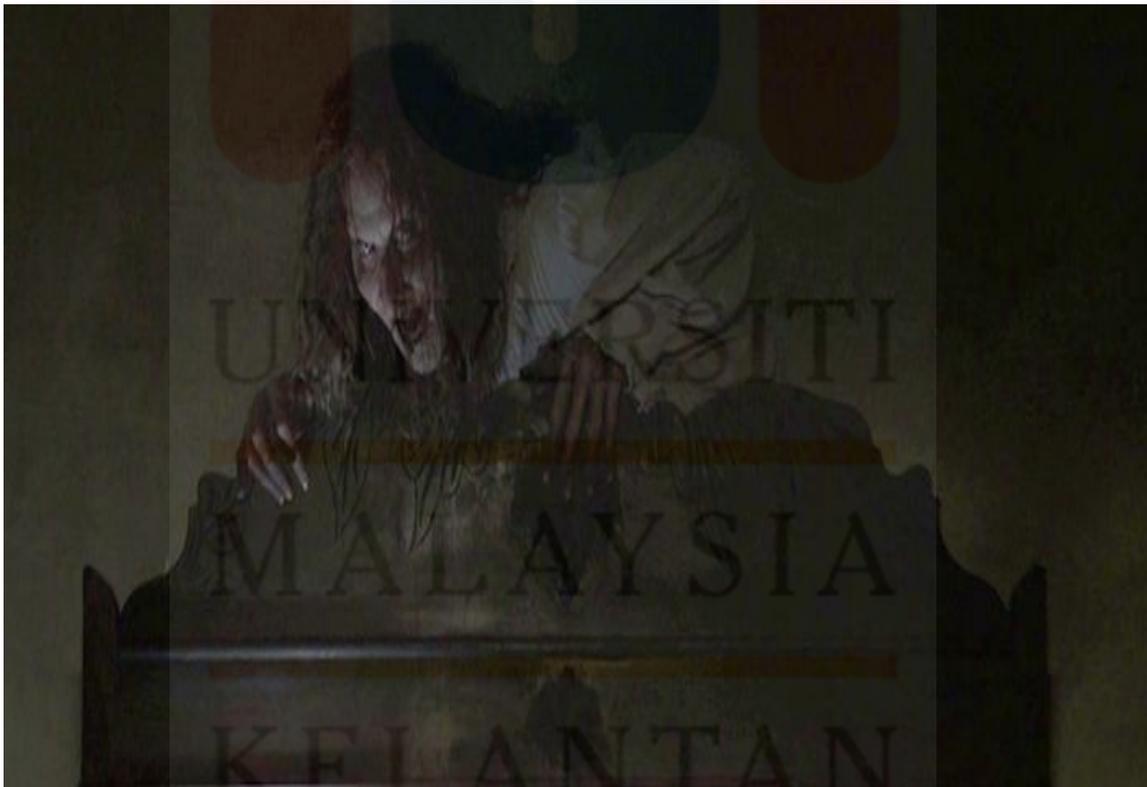
Figure 16

Figure 17

Figure 18

Figure 19

The film Conjuring is a horror genre film of the creepiest kind. The lighting that was used for this film was extremely low key lighting. Low key lighting is known as marked with use of deep shadows, with high contrast between darkest part of the scene and also the brightest part of the scene. The type of lighting that was used in the film Conjuring gave a huge impact to the film. The low key lighting that was used make the film and scene seem more realistic to the viewers. This lighting role contributed to the theme of the film by making it more real as the film is also based on a real life story. The scenes that used low key lighting raised the anxiety and fear of the viewers as they do not know whats hiding in the darkness.

3.1 Research approach

Research approach is based on procedure and plan that gives detailed data information, analysis and interpretation. The research approach is also refer to solving the research problem. Research approach is also about taking further action to search for information for the research of the role of low key lighting in Hollywood horror film. There is two method that is used for this research and that is qualitative method and quantitative method.

3.2 Research design

Research design is specifying methods and also procedures to collect and analyze the needed information for the research. Research design is also known as the researchers overall plan that answers the research question. The method that is used are :

3.2.1 Qualitative method

Qualitative method is where the research uses a lot of ways to collect information and analyze all the information that is gathered. Based on this method the researcher can access information about the role of low key lighting in Hollywood horror films. The Qualitative method that is used to gather information for this research are :

a) Documentation

The researcher will use this method in searching for written information that is useful for this research. The information that is choosen from this method will be accurate and true for this research.

b) Observation

Observation is where the researcher will be observing the research by watching Hollywood horror films that have used low key lighting and get more hidden information about the lighting strategy that is shown in symbolic ways that most of the people watch do not realize. The observation will be done to get more knowledge and idea's for this research that can be studied deeply. By observing the film the researcher will get to know the lighting effect towards the character and which it plays an important role where the low key lighting gives the creepy feeling towards the character. Besides that, the lighting that is used in horror films will be observe to notice the change of feeling towards a normal lighting and low key lighting is the Hollywood horror films.

c) Notes

Notes is also one of the ways to gather information that is based on the researches understanding and observation from the information that is collected. This also helps the researcher to collect information to do a documentation based on the collected data. The researcher takes note of every information that is gathered from documentation and also observation. The notes will be also used as reference to get a wide view of low key lighting in Hollywood horror films.

d) Internet

The source of internet is used the gather more information that is to get a better field to research about the title of the research. The source of internet is a easy access to go through for preventing idea's and knowledge, it is even easy to get the information we need in a short period of time. The information in the internet will change by time for the latest information that is why before collecting a info the researcher will

identify the internet source.

3.2.2 Quantitative method

Quantitative method involves survey that collect information by the respond of the respondents. This method gives a huge platform for the researcher to get different opinion from other and what other peoples view about 'The role of low key lighting in Hollywood horror films'. The survey gives results by table, graph, or pie chart that makes it easier for the researcher to compare to the viewers respond for the survey.

3.3 Sampling

In a research sampling is a group of object or people that taken for measurement in statistical analyzing. It is also about the number of observation taken for the research that is done. Sampling is important to ensure the gather the population and make statistical inferences. Sampling is to provide a lot of qualitative and quantitative information by examining the selected units.

3.4 Data collection

Data collection is gathering all the information and measuring it to answer the research question. Data collection allows to gather important information by using qualitative and quantitative method. The goal for data collection is to get quality evidence that support the analysis of the research about 'The role of low key lighting in Hollywood horror films' . An accurate data collection will maintain the integrity of the research.

3.4.1 Survey

Survey is where there is a list of question regarding the research about 'the role of low key lighting in Hollywood horror films'. Survey is from quantitative method that involve a group of targeted people to answer the survey. The survey for this research is given online to the targeted group. By this, the researcher can identify peoples view of low key lighting that is used in Hollywood horror films. This is also a tool to get answer for the research question and research problem.

3.5 Data analysis

Data collection is where the researcher gather all the information and analyze it. Data analysis in for both method that is qualitative and quantitative method. The survey, observation, and referring to the internet for the director and crew's knowledge about low key lighting in Hollywood horror films that helps the researcher to get a better view about the research. After collecting all the information the researcher analyze it based on the research question and solves the problem of the research with strong evidence.

4.0 RESULTS

Gender

52 responses

● Female
● Male
● Prefer not to say

73.1%

23.1%
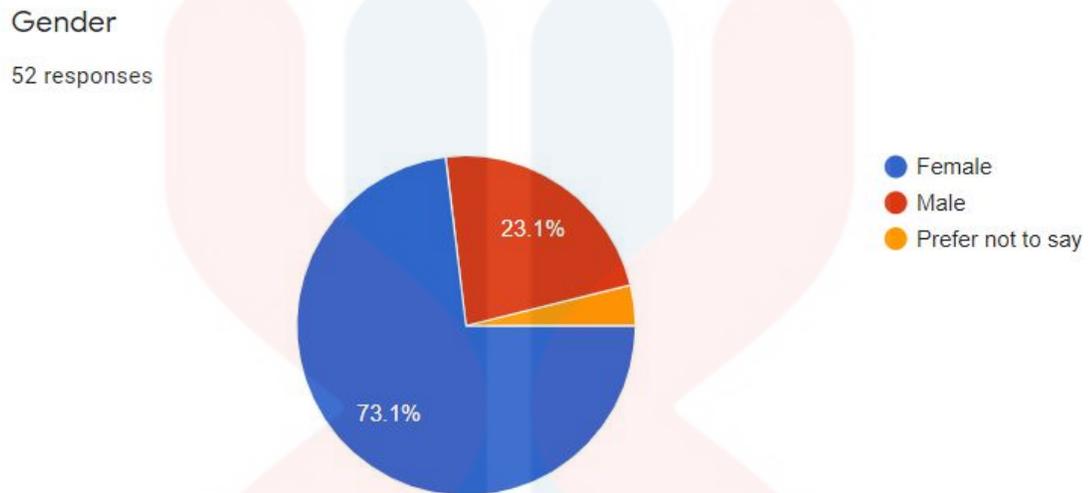
Diagram 1

The survey shows that there is 52 respondents that responds to the survey. The majority respondents gender is female which shows 70%. The gender of male respondents for this survey shows 20% and 10% of the respondents prefer not to say their gender. This shows that the female respondents is more interested in responding to the survey given to them. The male respondents is less due to less interest in responding to the survey.

How old are you ?

52 responses
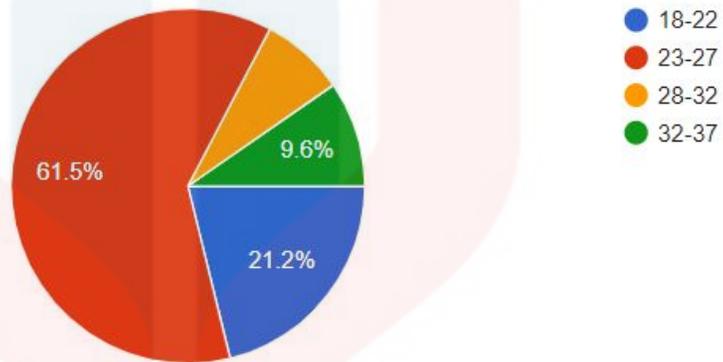
Diagram 2

In the survey the lowest percentage for the age group shows 10% that stand for the age group of 28 to 32 and 32 to 37 years old. In this age group most of the people have low knowledge in using technology gadgets therefor they face difficulties to fill up the form that was done in Google form. The survey shows majority of the respondents are from the age group 23 to 27 years old which recorded 60% and and followed by the age group of 18 to 22 years old that are 20%. This shows that the age group of 18 to 22 years old and 23 to 27 are very active in responding to the survey.

Race

52 responses
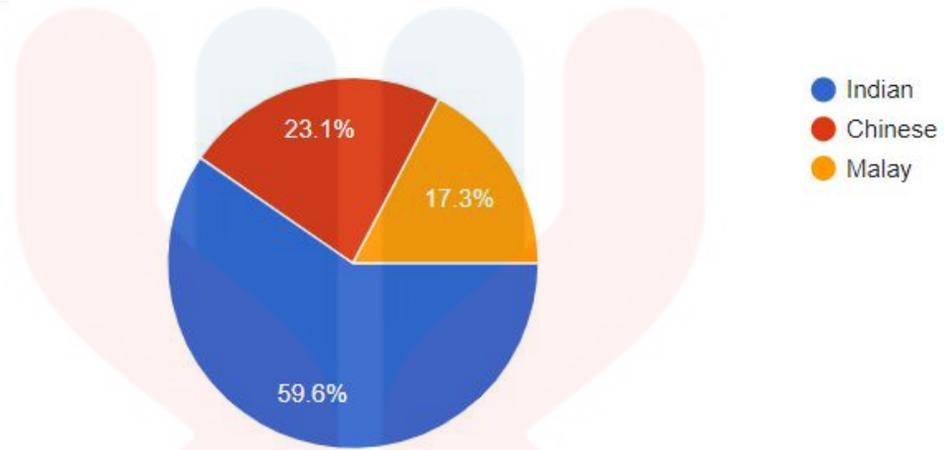
Diagram 3

The survey show the respondents are from the race Indian,Malay and Chinese. Indian respondents recorded 60% while Chinese respondents recorded 25% and the Malay respondents recorded 15% in the survey. The majority respondents is 60% which is recorded my Indian respondents followed by Chinese and Malay respondents.

Level of education

52 responses
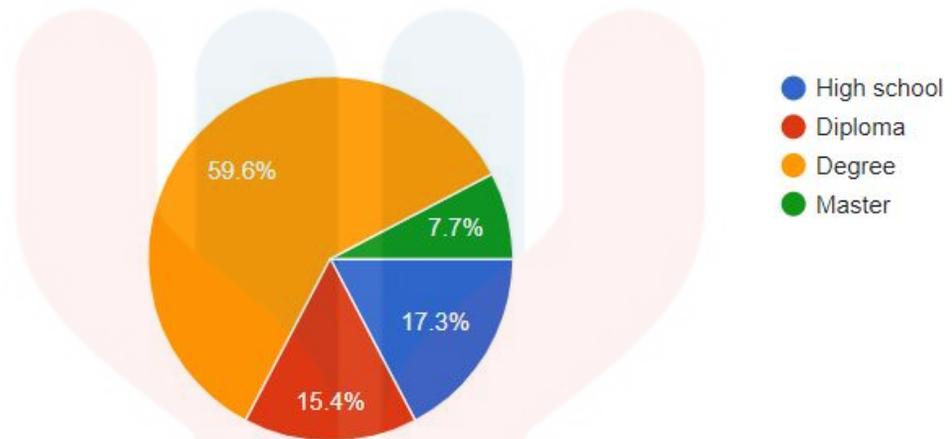
Diagram 4

The level of education for the survey shows 60% for Degree, 20% for Diploma, 15% for High school, and 5% for Master. The survey show most of the respondents are Degree level where most of them know the importance of the survey followed by Diploma, High school, and Master level.

39

What is your current relationship status ?

32 responses
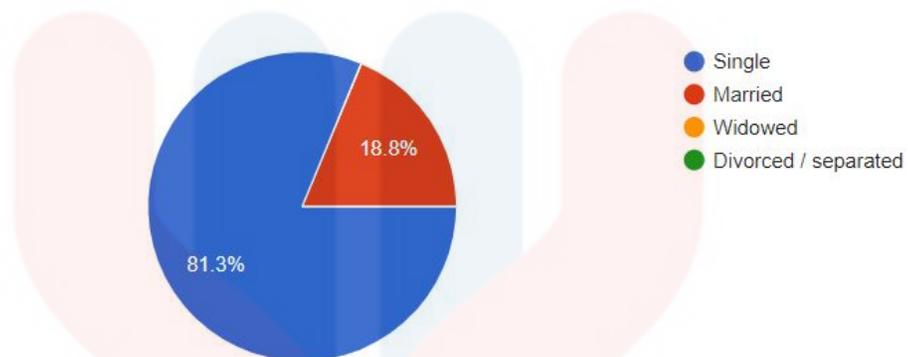
Diagram 5

The survey shows the majority of the respondents relationship status is single that recorded 80%. The percentage for respondents that are married shows 20%. This is due most of the respondents are youngsters and still focusing in their studies and carrier for their life. The married respondents are mostly adult at the age of 25 and above. In this survey it shows there is no respondent that is widowed or divorced.

Do you feel afraid in the dark ?

52 responses

Legend:
- Yes
- No
- Maybe

26.9%

67.3%
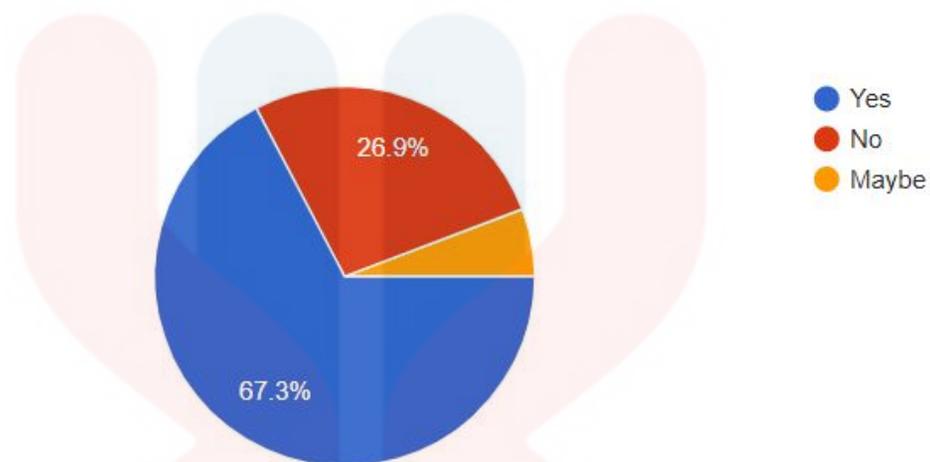
Diagram 6

In the survey it shows that the majority of respondents answered that they are afraid of the dark which recorded 70%. Respondents that is not afraid of the dark recorded 25% and followed by the respondents that is maybe afraid of the dark that recorded 5%. Most of the respondents in this survey is female that maybe the reason most of the respondents answered that they are afraid in the dark. That doesn't mean that male is not afraid of the dark due to the fact that some male respondents also are afraid of the dark. Few respondents are maybe afraid of the dark because it depends on the situation they are in, if they are in a dark room going to sleep it doesn't scares them but if they are walking through a dark alley that will rise their fear.

41

Do you like watching Horror movies?

52 responses
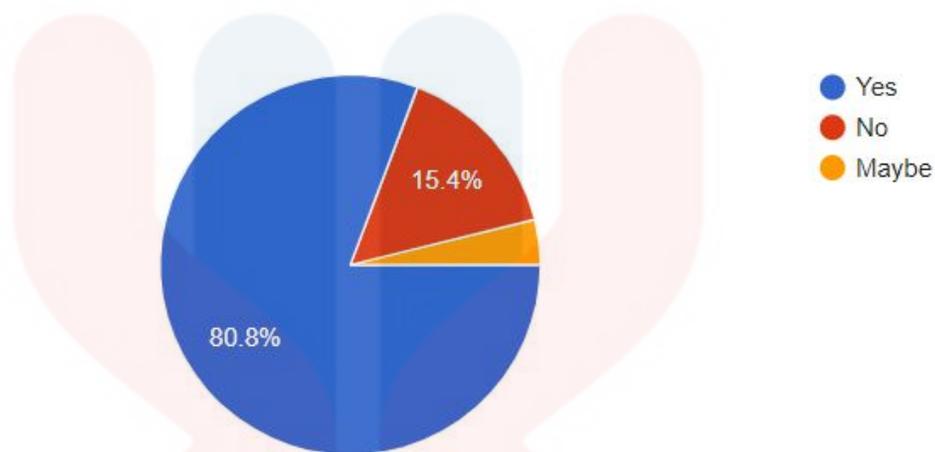
Diagram 7

The survey shows 80% of the respondents like to watch horror movies. This shows that horror films has a huge audience to watch it. Horror films in general has different stories to share and horror movies from different country or religion has different ghost such as Hollywood that uses Dolls as ghosts, Indians uses death people that came back as ghost, and Malay's usually uses Mummies (puntianak) as their ghost. This shows that every film has its own idea to portray the ghost that gains the audience interest to watch it till the end. Some of the respondent do not like to watch horror films that is 15% of them and the rest maybe like horror movies that recorded 5%. Everyone has their own opinion in everything and same goes for this survey. People that do not like horror film may have a bad experience in watching horror film, can not bare the scary scenes that pop out all of a sudden, or even do not like the storyline of the horror film.

Does horror movies gives the same feeling as other genre movies ?

52 responses
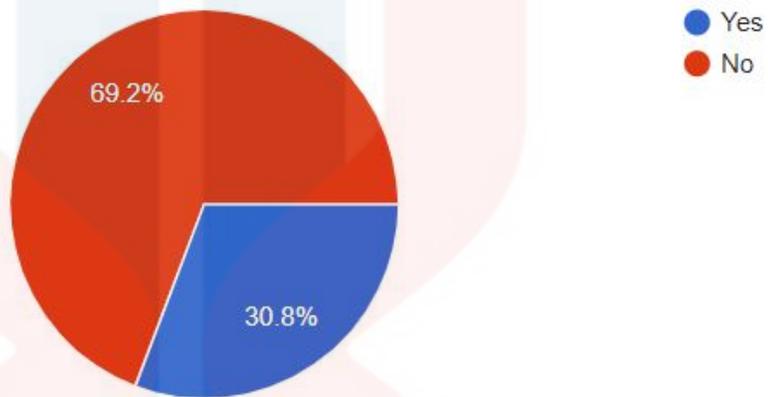
Diagram 8

The majority of 70% the respondents in this survey feels that horror genre movies gives a different feeling compared with other genre movies, while 30% respondents feels that horror film does give the same feeling as the other genre movies. This is due to the reason some genre like thriller movies also gives the tension and scary moment when seeing a certain or most scenes. Thriller movies like 'Hush' is also a movie that is taken in only one location and it is indoor. This movie involves low key lighting and a serial killer that keep the audience interest in seeing the movie till the end. That is the reason why 30% of the respondents feel that other genre movies does give the same feeling as horror genre movies. On the other hand, horror movie does give different feeling to majority of the respondent that it does give a different feeling because it has creepy background set and surely low key light, haunted location and also a ghost character.

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Do you know what low key lighting is?

52 responses
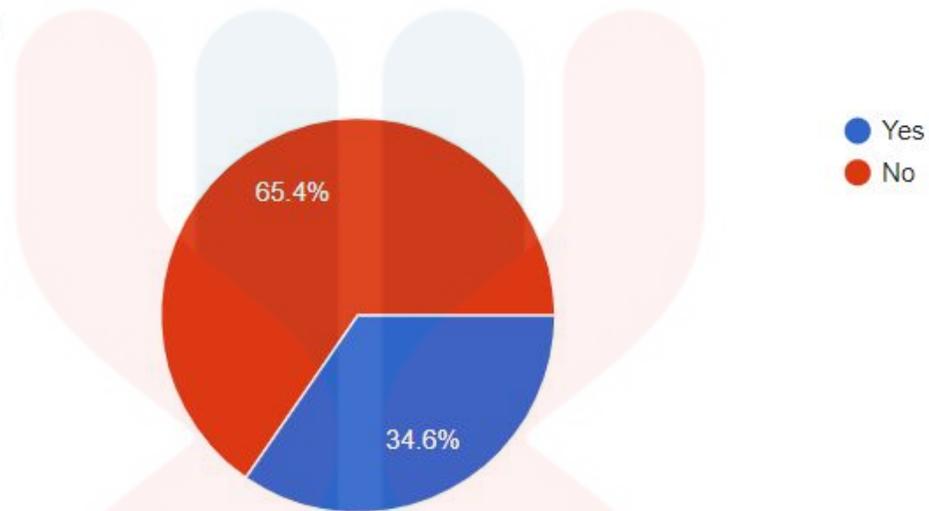
Diagram 9

The survey shows 70% of the respondents does not know what low key lighting is, while 30% knows low key lighting. Most of the respondents are not from a film studies field that is why they do not know low key lighting. People tend to watch a horror movie with high interest that they did not notice every method and equipment that is used to bring the movie to a success. The audience knows the lighting but will address the background as dark background because they do not know the real name of the lighting is low-key lighting. Some of the respondents knows the basic about the film industry that is why they know low-key lighting.

Do you get a creepy feeling when a certain scene in the horror film involves a dark background ?

52 responses

- ● Yes
- ● No

94.2%
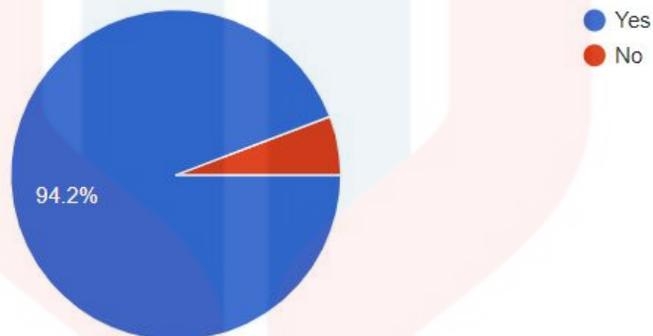
Diagram 10

Majority of 90% respondents gets a creepy feeling when a certain scene in the horror film involves a dark background. This is because most of the scene with dark background involves the presence of the antagonist (ghost) character. This scene includes the fight between antagonist and protagonist or other characters. Dark background is one of the clue that shows that the antagonist is going to appear. On the other hand, 10% respondents does not get a creepy feeling when a certain scene in the horror film involves a dark background. This is because, not most of the dark background has a creepy situation but also fun moments such as giving a surprise birthday party.

What type of lighting should be used in a horror film ?

52 responses

○ High-key lighting (bright light/sunny day)
○ Low-key lighting (dark light/ night)
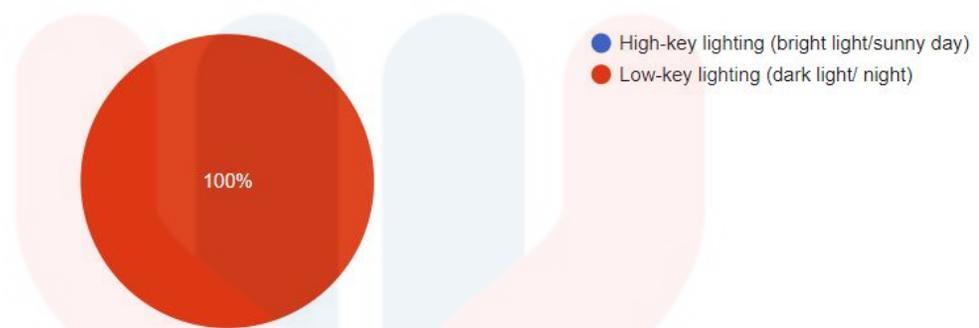
Diagram 11

This survey shows 100% of the respondents agreed that horror films should use low-key lighting . Horror film is a genre that should give a scary feeling to the audience. Low-key lighting plays the role of fear and tension to the audience, it is recommended to horror films to use low-key lighting and accept the audience expectation. Low-key lighting gives a dark background that makes the situation more scary. A horror scene with a character running with body full of blood and with a high-key lighting will make the audience anxious but not scared. At the end of the day low-key lighting gives life to every effort that was put in by the character, make-up, set, and editing.

On the scale of 1 to 5, 5 being the highest, how scary is Hollywood horror films such as Annable, Conjuring, and Insidious ?

52 responses

Graff1

The survey shows 50% of the respondents says that Hollywood horror films such as Annable, Conjuring and insidious is really scary horror films. While scary shows 30% and neutral shows 20% of the respondents views towards Hollywood horror films such as Annable and Conjuring. Every respondents have different views of the level of fear based on the movie they watch that make them feel scared or otherwise. The respondents feel neutral with the fact that they have watched more scary movies than Annable, Conjuring, and Insidious. Besides that, most of the respondents have a high expectation of fear that they want to explore that is why they answered neutral and scary. This give a clear view to the researcher that every respondents have different opinions and view about horror films.

What would be suitable setting location for a horror scene ?

52 responses
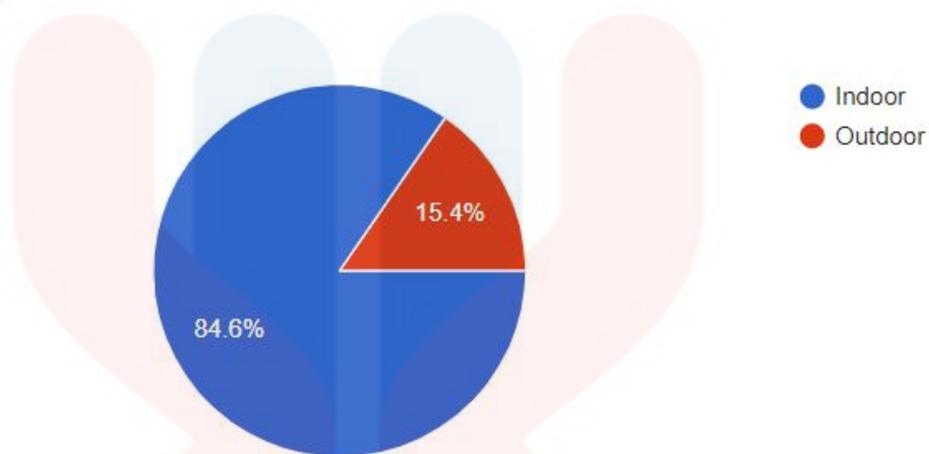
Diagram 12

The survey shows 80% of the respondents feels the setting location for a horror scene should be indoor. Based on the respondents experience in watching horror movies most of the scary scene appears to be indoor. To the respondents perspective is that indoor location makes the situation more scarier and thriller to watch compared with outdoor. It show that only 20% of the respondents feels that the setting location for a horror movie should be outdoor. Based on few Hollywood horror movies there is certain scenes that is also scary when it is taken outdoor with the situation of running from a character at night with heavy rain. The scene put the audience at the edge of their seat watching the scene. This shows that outdoor and indoor both has the scary situation that is expected by the audience.

Would you prefer to watch horror genre movie on a movie night ?

52 responses

● Yes
● No
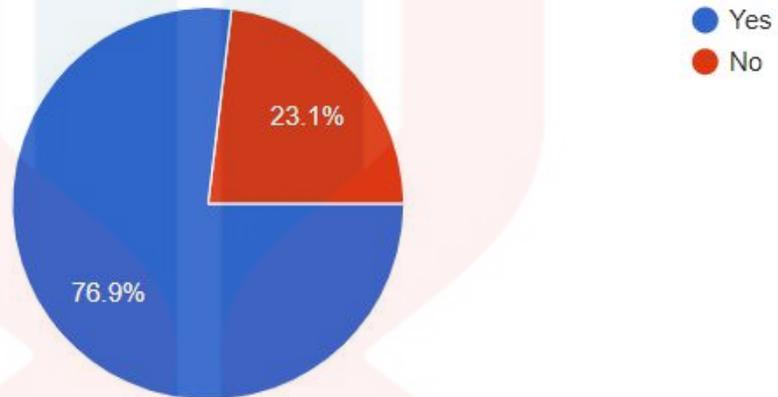
Diagram 13

Majority of 80% of the respondents prefer to watch horror genre movie on a movie night, while 20% prefer to watch other genre movies. This shows that most of the respondents are expecting for horror movies on a movie night rather than other genre movies. Other genre movies such as love, crime, noir, and fiction is less attractive than horror movies, because of its way of giving a sudden fear and interest of the viewers to watch the movie till its end. On the other hand, some of the respondents has their option in watching a film on a movie night they would rather choose other genre compared to horror due to the fear that they do not want to experience.

Do you agree lighting plays an important role in Hollywood horror films?

52 responses


- ● Yes
- ● No

15.4%

84.6%
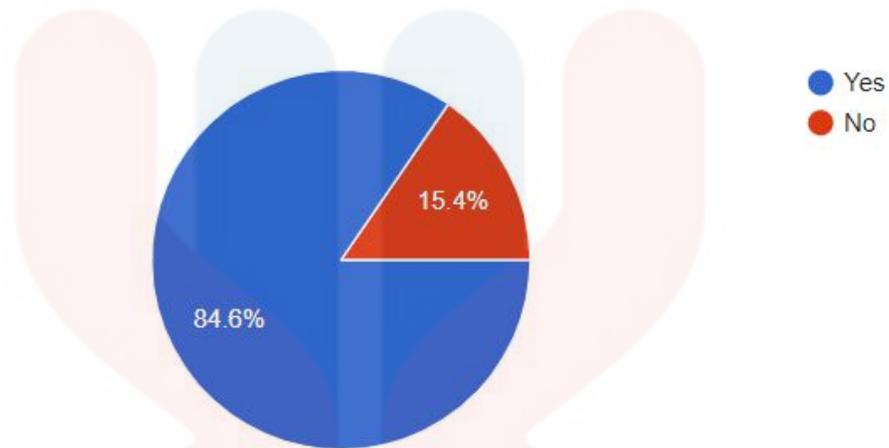
Diagram 14

The survey shows 80% of the respondents agrees that light does play an important role in Hollywood horror films. Few of the respondents disagrees that recorded 20% respondents. Most of the respondents agreed with the question because most of the Hollywood movie tend to take risk and end with a great success, same goes for Hollywood lighting that was started with a lamp and improved to a higher level and is still improving based on the technology today. Hollywood movies basically gives every detail very accurately to give live to the film and they give main importance to lighting to make sure it suits the scene and genre of the film. Other than that, few respondents disagree due to the reason all films gives the same attention to lighting like Hollywood horror films. Lighting is the basic of every films and is differently used by every genre based on the crews idea that leads to a good film.

5.0 ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

The analysis is done based on the survey that is given to the respondents that is 52 of them. The respondents answered all the question in the survey based on their opinion of what they know, feel, and went through their life. All of the respondents given a supporting and open minded answer that made the researcher to think in a lot of angle. The survey has proven that low key lighting does play an important role in Hollywood horror films. Most of the respondents answered to the questions as the researcher expected but still some of the respondent answered opposite answers from the researchers point of view. This made the researcher to think in other angles to make the research more detailed based on the different experience of the respondents.

The researcher used quantitative and qualitative method to gather all the information and analyzed it. Based on the observation it is known that lighting comes with different method that is low-key lighting and high-key lighting. In most of the horror films low-key lighting is a lighting that is usually used and suits the genre horror. This is not only realized by film study students but also all the audience and respondents. Most of the respondents agreed that they feel the tension when a certain scene in a horror film uses a dark background. In general most of the people are afraid of the dark and this is observed by film makers and is conveyed to the horror films which was a risk worth taking.

Lighting is one of the main tool used in making a film. Some of the respondents has basic knowledge about lighting that is used for film and most do not know. Most of the respondents agrees that Hollywood horror films gives importance to lighting. It is known that almost all of the respondents prefers to watch a horror film on a movie night rather than other genre films. Most of the people especially teenagers will choose to watch a horror film in theater because of the thrilling feeling everyone is feeling. On the other hand, some of the respondents has their option in watching a film on a movie night they would rather

choose other genre compared to horror due to the fear that they do not want to experience.

Based on the respondents experience in watching horror movies most of the scary scene appears to be indoor. To the respondents perspective is that indoor location makes the situation more scarier and thriller to watch compared with outdoor. Every respondents have different views of the level of fear based on the movie they watch that make them feel scared or otherwise. All the respondents agreed that horror films should use low-key lighting as they also know that low-key lighting is a dark background for a certain scene where the evil spirit gives its appearance.

6.0 RECOMENDATION AND CONCLUSION

Low-key lighting plays an important role in Hollywood horror films. Low-key lighting is a lighting that gives a dark background to make the audience in a scared and tension mood. Every scene that involves murder, breaking into a house, and hiding from the villain, involves low-key lighting not only in horror films but also every genre films that involves the mentioned scenes. Overall lighting does plays an important role in a horror film as same goes for make-up, camera shots, sets, and the character. Lighting is the key that gives life to the other four department. This proves that lighting has a main role to make sure that every scene is as the director's expectation. Every countries film industry gives importance to lighting as same goes for Hollywood films. Hollywood horror films always puts extra effort to make the low-key lighting more advanced. Every Hollywood horror films puts the audience in a scared and tension mood as its what is also expected by the filmmakers. The film industry should inspire the young film makers about the techniques that is used to create a successful low key lighting to the future generation that wants to be a film makers and also young film makers so that the techniques will continue. Low key lighting should also be a lighting that should be produced with equipments that is easy to provide so that not only high budget film can do successful low key lighting but also low budget films.

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