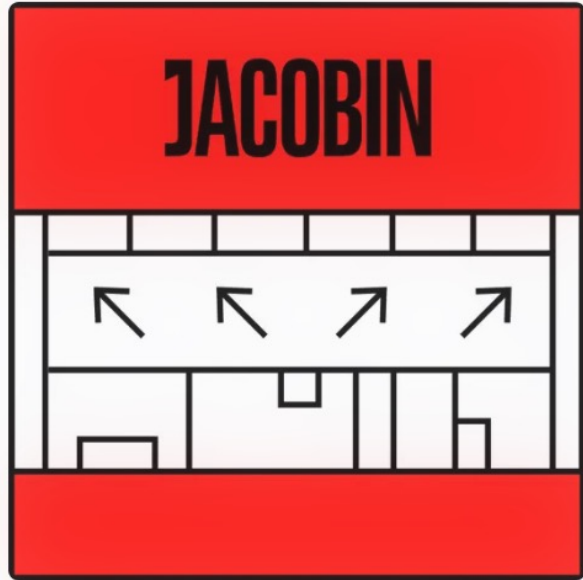


ELENA FURLANETTO | UNIVERSITY OF DUISBURG-ESSEN

TERRORS OF WHITE AMERICA

HORROR, RACE, AND SUBURBIA
SINCE *GET OUT*





"IS CULTURE DEAD?"
THE JACOBIN SHOW

EILEEN JONES: There is no corresponding, at least that I know, certainly not in the cinema that I am seeing, that is really reflecting the extremity of what our circumstances are.

CATHERINE LIU: I think it does exist in some way in horror. ... [Horror] really did get to the moment where we are at.

Why movie theaters show so few films now



By Frank Pallotta, CNN Business

Updated 11:48 AM EDT, Fri July 29, 2022



CRITIC'S NOTEBOOK

And Now Let's Review ...

A.O. Scott conducts his own exit interview as he moves to a new post after more than two decades of reviewing films.



Is Hollywood Dead?

Updated: Feb 21

How *Top Gun: Maverick*, *Jurassic World Dominion* and others have played as a safe ploy across the movie industry.

BLOG

Going, Going...Gone? Is Hollywood Dying?

Something was always going to kill the movies...



By Bill Mesce on August 8, 2021

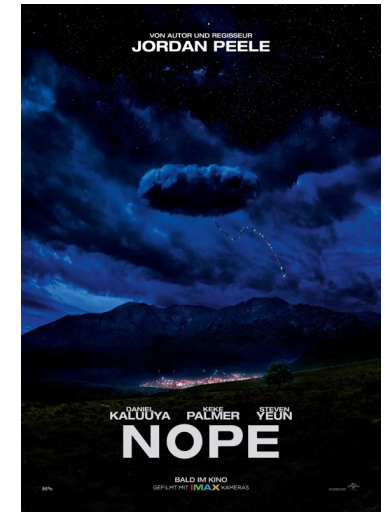
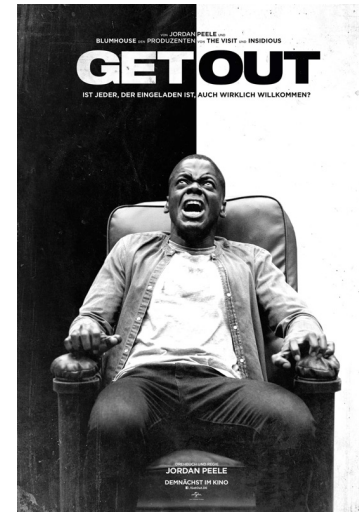


The Screen Room · Aug 26, 2022 · 3 min read

Matt Damon Has Explained Why They Don't Make Decent Movies Anymore (and it makes total sense)

BLACK HORROR, HORROR VERITÉ, SOCIAL THRILLER, BLACK BODY HORROR

A form of political horror that reverses the tradition of using Blackness and the Black body as site of fear, and transfers it to the white body, white supremacy, white spaces, or whiteness in general. What in this paper I will simply call Black horror uses the tropes, formulas, and aesthetics of the horror genre to expose racism in an allegedly post-racial america.

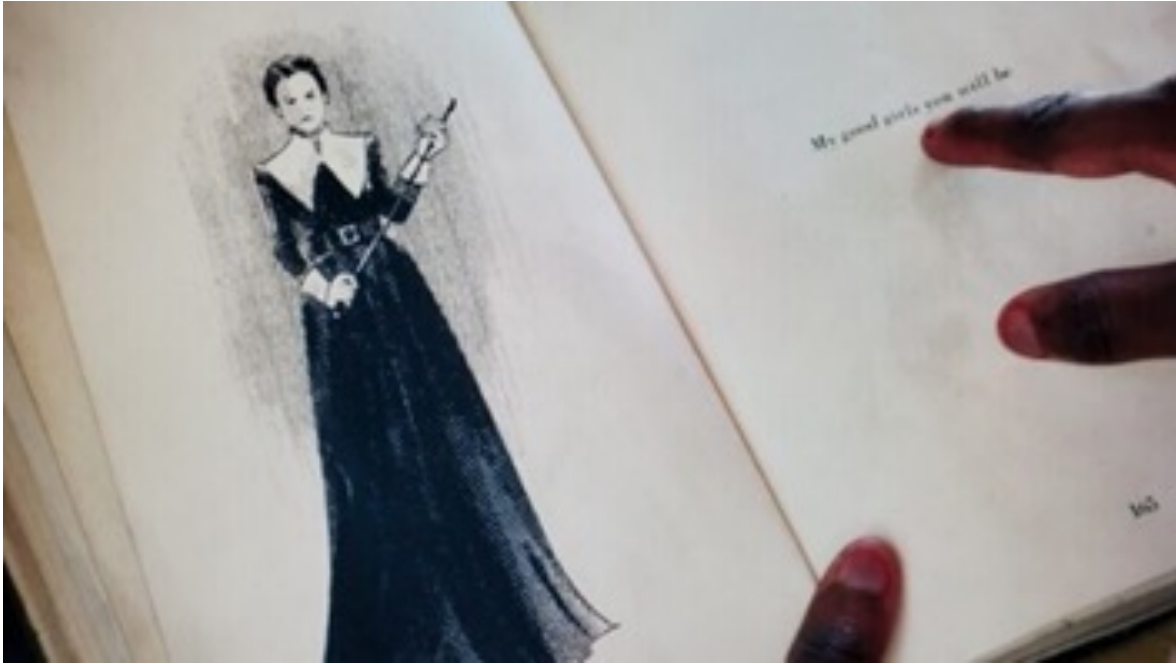


HORROR RENAISSANCE

Comparatively highbrow

"Prestige," "cerebral," "artful," "boutique," "soft," "quiet,"
"indie," "slow," and, inevitably, "post-"horror.

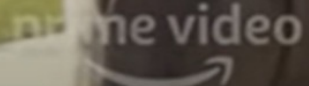
Caetlin Benson-Allott, "They're Coming to Get You . . . Or: Making America Anxious Again."



HYPERWHITENESS



WHITE GAZE, SURVEILLANCE





WHITE SPACES

prime video

Black horror reorients topoi of the genre to reconfigure white supremacy as the seat of terror.

Aspects of white supremacy such as the white gaze, police brutality, lynching, harassment, or surveillance are reworked into formulaic and traditional horror narratives in a way that politicizes horror and inserts Black history into the genre.

I argue that white spaces are part of this process. A number of films and TV series belonging to Black horror resort to spatial manifestations of the white bourgeoisie such as suburbia or gentrification as *locus horridus*.



prime video



AMAZON ORIGINAL



THEM, THE COVENANT

- First season of the Amazon Original horror anthology series *Them*
- 2021
- Created by Little Marvin and executive produced by Lena Waithe
- Starring Deborah Ayorinde (left) as Lucky Emory, Ashley Thomas as Henry Emory, Alison Pill as Betty Wendell

“It’s not you, it’s not any of us, it’s this place, and we are leaving”

“There is something wrong with this place, something rotten”

“There is something bad in this house”

“Folks in Compton are straight up evil, man”

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TIME

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‘Haunted Countries Deserve Haunted Stories.’
How America’s History of Racial Housing
Discrimination Inspired Amazon’s New Horror
Series *THEM*

7 MINUTE READ





deliver all policies and the renewals thereof to the said Mortgagee, and in the event of default so to do, the holder hereof may insure the same. In case of the foreclosure hereof the said Mortgagee agrees to pay a reasonable attorney's fee the same to be a lien upon the said premises and due and payable when suit is begun.

No lot in said tract shall be sold, rented or leased to any persons whose blood is not entirely that of the Caucasian race. No persons of Negro blood or heritage shall occupy the premises, notwithstanding domestic servants actually employed by a person of the Caucasian race.

The signatures below indicate the execution of this agreement which becomes legally binding once signed and witnessed.

prime video

"Southland Trust Realty"

COVENANTRY



online video



THEM, THE SCARE

- Second season of the Amazon Original horror anthology series *Them*
- Out in April 2024
- Created by Little Marvin and executive produced by Lena Waithe
- Set in LA, 1991
- Starring Deborah Ayorinde as Detective Dawn Reeve and Luke James as Edmund Gaines (left)



prime



prime

BLACK SKINS, WHITE MASKS

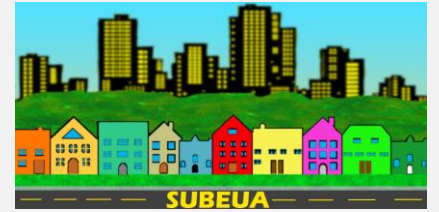
"Raggedy Ann, a widely recognized stuffed doll of the American childhood experience, is an unexpected preserve of racism. Racism and segregation, Bernstein posits, "Racism and segregation could maintain their presence in society through appearing "natural" in children's toys."

Robin Bernstein in Alexandra L. Almore, *The Harvard Crimson*, February 21, 2012





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