

Final Film Critique Draft (Movie The Shining 1980)

About The Movie

Shining is a 1980 horror movie based on Stephen King's novel. A writer, Jack, takes a part time job as a caretaker at an isolated hotel but his son possessed psychic abilities that enable him to see things both in the past and the future. Soon after they settle, the family is trapped by a snowstorm in the hotel. At this time Jack gradually becomes affected by supernatural powers where he descends to madness as he attempted to murder his wife and son. As things continue going badly, it fleshes out their city life and includes an intriguing television watching motif.

At first, the movie has a feeling of emptiness where Nicholson appears nutty from frame one by providing little arch for his character. Each of these characters sees visions that leave the audience uneasy about the identification of the main points. The apparitions appear to have a clear knowledge about the story than the audience do, thus fostering some real twists and turns. The movie is actually one of the scariest movies of all times and was not intended for the faint hearted. The producer cautions the viewers to exclude the teens and children due to its menacing atmosphere that could be harmful to kids and some adults (Kubrick et al, 2007).

The Process of Making The Movie

According to the Kubrick's legend, the movie making process took meticulously to unstable levels where the team was forced reputedly to do not less than 130 take of a single scene. Nicholson was endlessly forced to loath sandwiches so as to generate a sense of inner revulsion that fuelled obsessive quest for perfection. The use of sound especially the remarkable rhythm of silence, poses a captivating image of fear.

Every frame of the film symbolises a living portent implying a psychological purpose of setting the hotel. These symbolic figures include: the tight sinister labyrinth of corridor, the sterile cold bathrooms, and lavish illusionary ballrooms. This was just a horror of the mind transported to a place or the other way round. The title itself come from the line, “we all shine on”, in the song by Instant Karma. This represents an uncanny ability to see dark illusions of truth.

Mistakes in the movie

This section deals with questions that might have been realised by the viewer in the movie or issues about some sections that one didn't understand. It also tackles queries on the music played in various scenes. The viewer also needs to ask himself whether this was the first movie to use such effects.

1. What is the significance of the old woman in room 237 and who was she?

In the movie, the woman is Mrs Massy, an oldie seducer of young men. She seduces men far much younger than herself until one night Danny leaves in the car and arrives in only not to return. Distressed, the woman kills herself with sleeping pills and liquor while she takes a bath. However, since all these are not in the actual film critics have always questioned of the importance of this scene in the whole movie. The best theory to explain this is to leave the fact that room 237 is where he murdered his family.

In the movie, it is not clear on what happened to Danny once he went to room 237, we only see him after he has been hurt. The question that remains unclear on who hurts him. In the movie, after Danny visits room 237, he is menacingly choked by the ghost of the woman who had committed suicide in the bath.

2. What exactly happened to Jack and why is he in the picture at the end of the movie?

In this case, there are two possibilities. It is most likely that Jack's soul remained linked in the hotel, and keeps reincarnating to the world once in a while only to return to it and instigate additional killings. He is basically resuming his duties as a caretaker of the spirit in the hotel. The other explanation is that each time someone dies in the hotel, their souls are linked permanently to the hotel and the photo at the end of the movie varied to illustrate that link. However, the theory is also questionable, because if it were true, the cook would have also been in the photo. Another explanation of the walled picture of Jack in the hotel may be explained as being an interpretation of the symbolic representation of Jack's working mind in the hotel. Whenever Jack gets crazier, it also gets crazier. Grady's commented once in the restroom to that effect that, "you have always been the caretaker". This signifies that he had always been responsible of what goes on in the hotel.

3. Are the ghosts genuine and who is this Tony?

The ghosts presented in this movie are real. Danny's middle name is Anthony but, Tony is his imaginary friend whom he fears at first but in the end he becomes Danny's source of strength.

4. Why do the ghosts in this movie want Jack to kill his family? And why does the possessor want to drive Jack insane?

The ghosts want to be in possession of Jack and his family impends to that and therefore, they want him to murder his wife and child. Nothing is said in the movie to answer the question on why the possessors want to drive Jack out of his sanity. But in the book, Jack was driven mad by excessive consumption of alcohol combined with isolation drove him mad.

Could there be any continuity in mistake attributed to overlook the ability to shine jacks mind and perception of his environment or are there certain incongruous items that were deliberate specimens of the hotel “shining”? A person could argue in that dimension, but Kubrick had particular incidences in mind. However, other incidents are just genuine oversights of the movie editor.

Possible mistakes in the movie

When Danny plays along in the corridor with his toys, in the overhead shot, the small vehicles are set up on the brown and orange patterns. The ball rolls down the centre brown path in the hexagonal pattern. However, when the balls get closer to him all the little toy vehicles are set up in the opposite side of the carpets different pattern and he also face the opposite direction. This mistake was absolutely nothing to do with the ghosts moving the balls (Thomas, 2010).

When Jack breaks the bathroom door and reaches to unlock it, Wendy cuts him, but later, there is no blood on the knife. This mistake can be revealed as a mistake of speed in which the knife swipes on the hand. There is no contact between the knife and the bleeding hand.

In conclusion, the question that the entire movie assumes to pose is: does the possibility for evil reside in all people, just waiting for them to come to life? The last shot of Torrance that is trapped inside the photograph of the bathroom in the year 1921 provides a hint to his destiny. As he always said, death is not the end pointed out that he has become one with the outlook. Although Kubrick was always keen to keep the answer to these questions out of reach, the point is that all things that happen mysteriously are never explained. Ostensibly, the verdict of the whole house story manages to traverse a complex world of incipient craziness, supernatural visions and spectral murder.