

## Viewing Extracts

Clips mentioned in this section are not available to view on the website but are readily available to buy or rent from the usual outlets.

### The Horror Genre

**Frankenstein (1931):** (00:01:58-00:04:56) **and** (00:22:04-00:24:16)

The opening sequence of Frankenstein contains many of the key elements of the horror genre – the graveyard setting, the religious icons, the mad scientist and his deformed assistant. The creation of the monster sequence is one of the famous scenes in the history of the genre.

**Bram Stoker's Dracula (1992):** (01:29:30-01:31:50)

This modern version of the Dracula story was directed by Francis Ford Coppola (the director of The Godfather trilogy and Apocalypse Now). The lush colour cinematography, high production values and special effects signal that this is a big budget movie, but the genre elements are drawn from the earlier film versions and the original novel itself.

**Halloween (1978):** (00:02:08-00:06:40)

Some genres have specific stylistic characteristics or employ techniques that are a key way of generating suspense or fear. Point-of-view is one of the principal techniques of the horror genre (for example, the sequence of the serial killer stalking Jodie Foster in Silence of the Lambs in Lesson 1). This extract from Halloween is one of the most famous examples of the use of point-of-view in film with the movie beginning with the point-of-view of an anonymous murderer as he stalks and kills a victim and then the camera draws back at the end of the scene to deliver the final shock – the revelation that the eyes that we have been looking through are those of a child.

**The Sixth Sense (1999):** (00:40:17-00:43:32)

Another example of the use of point-of-view. The director employs the identification techniques of point of view in a particularly powerful manner drawing us into the young boy's fearful world. A whole series of techniques are working together to create fear, claustrophobia and paranoia in this scene - the low angle view looking up the stairs/the high angle view looking down, the lighting, the sinister music, the staircase, the use of slow motion at the very end of the scene. As with many of the viewing extracts, this sequence can be used to study all aspects of the Classical Hollywood style.

**The Blair Witch Project (1999):** (00:07:14-00:08:49) **and** (00:44:20-00:45:25)

These sequences provide an opportunity to compare different storytelling techniques. For example, the documentary-like feel (the use of black & white and a shaky, hand-held camera) of The Blair Witch Project is very different from the high production values and digitally generated special effects of Bram Stoker's Dracula. The Blair Witch is not shot using the conventions of the Classical Hollywood style as it is filmed as a mock documentary.

## The Science Fiction Genre

### **Metropolis (1926):** (00:16:07-00:17:02) **and** (01:07:00-01:09:49)

Fritz Lang's silent Expressionist masterpiece is one of the most influential films in the history of the genre, inspiring key scenes, characters and set designs of films such as Star Wars and Bladerunner.

### **Blade Runner (1982):** (00:03:05-00:04:41) **and** (00:07:19-01:08:54)

Ridley Scott's adaptation of the Philip K Dick novel, 'Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep' has become a classic of the genre. Bladerunner retells the Frankenstein myth retold for our age. With their artificial memories and tragic quest for eternal life, Ridley the replicants – the real heroes of the story - are on the side of humanity, while man is unmasked as both God and Monster. The visual style, noir cinematography and set design of Bladerunner created a hypnotic vision of the city of the future that is so far unequalled.

### **The Day the Earth Stood Still (1951):** (00:07:17-00:12:04)

The Science Fiction B-movies of the 1950s explores the fear of nuclear war and mass destruction in the cold war between America and the Soviet Union. This film conveys a message of pacifism through the story of an alien visitor who warns mankind to give up weapons of mass destruction.

### **Independence Day (1996):** (00:20:18-00:23:09)

In this big budget version of the alien invasion B-movies of the 1950s, the White House is reduced to an inferno. Independence Day revisits many of the genres most enduring elements to explore American anxiety about race, sexuality, disease and war.

### **Terminator 2 (1991):** (00:50:18-00:03:26) **and:** (00:27:40-00:30:47)

The second extract from Terminator 2 is a good example of the use of inter or cross-cutting to create dramatic tension and tell the story visually until the narrative gets to the point where all three characters meet.

### **The Matrix (1999):** (00:33:55-00:39:38)

These two genres often contain similar elements. For example, compare the 'creation' scenes of Metropolis and The Matrix (Science Fiction) with Frankenstein (Horror).