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### Zombieland Film

“Zombieland” is an American zombie comedy that was released in 2009 under the directorship of Ruben Fleisher. In the film, people are infected once bitten by zombies and they become diseased. The virus which is associated with mad cows has the ability to turn people into flesh-craving zombies. Only a few of the people have remained unaffected and devise ways for survival reasons. The major survivors central to the zombie apocalypse are Emma Stone, Woody Harrelson, Abigail Breslin and Jesse Isenberg who take a road trip across U.S in an attempt to locate their families and a refuge free from zombies. One of the key characters, Columbus (Jesse Isenberg) has devised some rules for survival such as “be aware of bathrooms”, “seatbelts”, do not be a hero”, “always check the back seat”, and “enjoy sweet things” among others. Woody Harrelson (who acts as Tallahassee) does not fear zombies and is on the quest of killing zombies and finding the last twinkle on earth. The main ideas and core concepts portrayed in the film are overcoming adversity, rules, relationships, trust, love, loneliness, family, and death. The movie Zombieland is about overcoming adversity during the zombie apocalypse after every person changes into flesh-craving zombies.

The movie is an effective tool used by the screenplay writer and the director to communicate the concept of overcoming adversity of the zombie attacks. As the movie begins, Columbus is on his way to find his parents and establish if they have survived the attack. As a

way of survival, he has established thirty two rules which he uses to evade zombies he comes across while he is on road (Zombieland 2009). On his way, he meets Tallahassee, a zombie-killing maniac who is on the verge of killing as many zombies as possible. The two later meet two teenage girls Little Rock (Abigail Bresilin) and her elder sister Wichita (Emma Stone) who pretend to have been bitten by the zombies. As a way of survival, the two use their beauty charms to swindle money, and robe Tallahassee and Columbus the Escalade and their remaining weapons. The two teenage girls have devised some rather unorthodox means to survive amidst the chaos. Although the characters had different methods for survival, they forge alliances in the middle of the movie and later realize that they have formed a new family (Nguyen 56). For this reason, they plan to work together as a way of overcoming adversity resulting from the zombie chaos and attack. As a result, all the four characters are happy and alive and they together drive off in search for a new home.

Films conventions used in the film have been effectively applied to convey a message which is overcoming adversity to the targeted audience. Some of the more elaborate and useful film conventions used in *Zombieland* are such cinematography, sound track, costume, and editing and camera angles applied. *Zombieland* as a movie delivers its theme through different ways. There exists a series of great zombie re-deaths, and the movie uses conventional tools to make killing of zombies look original. For example, blood is all over the movie, which as part of cinematography is used to show how the characters overcome adversity of the zombies menace. There is a lot of gore and blood in the *Zombieland* movie which is used by the director to show the extreme conditions the world has come into. The blood is from the killed zombies, and in this context, cinematography has been used effectively to communicate to the audience.

With regard to editing, the editing was fast-paced. It was used in the movie to provide the audience with a sense of rush required by the actors while overcoming the zombie adversity. The effect is comfortable when viewed but very strange when embedded in the mind. For example, the thought of zombies and adrenaline used while fleeing from them, indicates that there is no time to wait for the zombies. Editing in this context shows that people have to rush and flee the zombies for survival reasons. The film begins with a static filter and distorted vision which creates unsafe feeling to the targeted audience. This aspect is used to tell the audience to be ready since something does not seem to be right. Additionally, all the major shots are in slow motion an aspect used to show how the actors kills the zombies and how blood splash to the windows and walls. The effect is used to create a tension between horror and comedy where the last shot fades to black to signify closure or death of zombies. This effect has been well used to communicate the concept of overcoming adversity through killing and blood.

As the movie opens, loud and sharp sounds are heard which are conventional to the movie horror genre. In this context, sound is used to make the targeted audience jump. In the background, additional soundtracks are heard which sound strange and terrifying. The core soundtrack used in the opening of the movie is "For Whom the Bell Tolls" by Metallica, this is followed by ringing of church bells which has been used to symbolize the coming of the end (Zombieland 2009). The ringing of church bells catches the attention of the audience since traditionally, ringing of church bells signifies attention for something is about to happen. Death is the theme of the song "For Whom the Bell Tolls" used in Zombieland. The song is used to communicate the tragedy facing people. It is also used to alert the people that something is wrong and as a result, they need to overcome the adversity. Sound and sound track are used in

the movie to convey horror genre, build tension and cause discomfort to show the situation in which the protagonists are in.

Zombieland is a great horror movie which combines great characters, a good script, great comedy, and awesome action. With reference to structural conventions used in the film, the protagonist (Columbus) is projected as a smart guy who knows how to kill and evade zombies. Through his rules such as “be aware of the backseat” and “always look at the bathrooms” he overcomes the tragedy (Zombieland 2009). By giving out rules to overcome the tragedy and survive the zombie apocalypse, Columbus creates trust which is necessary in attracting the audience. This way, he communicates the concept of overcoming tragedy to the audience. Tallahassee on the other hand, is a strong character who is not afraid of zombies and is willing to kill as many zombies as he can as a way of saving the humanity (Nguyen 56). To him, overcoming the tragedy can only be achieved by killing several zombies and evading their traps. The other characters, Little Rock and Wichita use unorthodox ways to overcome the tragedy. Thus, the characters are used well to communicate the premise of the movie to the targeted audience. The characters though strangers end up working together and looking at each other’s backs. This is fitting for a zombie horror movie, since the rest of the population continues to eat each other; the four characters are busy overcoming the tragedy.

Zombieland revolves around the zombie apocalypse and survival. The survivors of the adversity have come to learn that the only way to survive is avoid any form of attachment with other survivors because they could succumb anytime. Avoiding each other is a way of survival and is used to overcome the tragedy. Lastly, the movie shows that people can survive the zombie horde through the use of guns and SUV.

It is conclusive that the movie *Zombieland* is about overcoming adversity during the zombie apocalypse after every person changes into flesh-craving zombies. Drawing from the evaluation, the movie is an effective tool employed to communicate to the targeted audience. For example, Film conventions such as cinematography are well applied to show how the survivors overcome the adversity. Editing on the other hand is fast paced and is applied to show the adrenaline rush used while dealing with the zombies and the need to rush for survival reasons. Other elements such as sound and soundtracks convey the message of death and the church bells alerts people to run and overcome the adversity

Work Cited

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