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Film Analysis Essay on “Nosferatu”.

I chose the movie Nosferatu because I like scary movies. I also like spooky things and celebrations like Halloween where people wear scary customs. In my hometown in Mexico, we celebrate Saint Francis of Assisi day. Is celebrated on October 3rd, hundreds of people of all ages and gender wear a custom. The customs go from the cutest to the scariest. I could not wait for this Holiday to come. Here in New York, I love Halloween, it reminds me the Saint Francis of Assisi Holiday from back home.

Nosferatu is a film based on the Dracula novel written by Bram Stoke. The film was adapted by Henrik Gateen and directed by F.W. Murnau. The movie starts by introducing the film cast. Is divided into 4 acts, each act lasting about 30 minutes. The picture is in black and white with noticeable grainy black and white spots. There is no voice sound, but there is a background music playing the entire movie. The majority of the subtitles are written with a gothic black font, but there are some green font subtitles.

The movie starts with a happy couple, Hutter and his wife Ellen who live in small town called Wisborg. Hutter worked for a real estate agent called Knock who received a parchment written with symbols, crosses, and seals. It was a message from Count Orlok(the vampire) from Transylvania who wanted to buy a house in Wisborg. Hutter was assigned to sell the house, so he

traveled to Transylvania by carriage and horse to meet the feared by people buyer. The vampire bought the house and moved to Wisborg. Deaths started to occur in the town. The real state agent Knock went crazy. The movie culminated when the vampire sucked Hutter's wife blood at sunrise and the sun made the vampire to succumb to the sun rays.

I will be analyzing "Nosferatu" through the lens of Psychoanalytic theory. According to the Poetry Foundation, The Psychoanalytic theory is "A critical approach influenced by Sigmund Freud's work on the unconscious and human behavior. Freud believed that the existence of three competing impulses in the psyche -the ego, id, and superego- and the conflict inherent in child-parent relations structured human responses to the world. Initially, psychoanalytic literary theory consisted of applying psychoanalysis to either the author or the main character of a work, seeking unconscious or latent meaning underneath the manifest language and analyzing the symbols contained in a given work".

In "Nosferatu", when Knock the real state agent talked to Hutter about the client that wanted to buy a house. He told him "... It will cost you a bit of effort... a bit of sweat and perhaps ... a bit of blood" (Nosferatu, 00:06:44-00:06:55). Hutter traveled to Transylvania to meet Count Orlok (the vampire), Hutter spent a couple of nights in Count Orlok's house. Count Orlok id behave by focusing on hosting, caring, and talking to Hutter regarding the purchase of the house. He acted like a normal human being the whole time. Although he was a vampire and we know from watching movies that vampires feed from human's blood, he did not fall into temptation to Hutter's vital precious fluid.

Count Orlok's id finally gave up behaving and started to cause trouble. Once he bought the house he got on a ship and headed to Wisborg, the town where he purchased the property. Count Orlok malicious and malevolent id made everyone on the boat sick "It spread like an epidemic

through the ship” (Nosferatu, 00:57:22-00:57:39). Every single person on board succumbed to this unknown illness. “The first infected sailor dragged the entire crew with him into the dark grave of the waves” (Nosferatu, 00:57:22-00:57:39). The id caused death, when he arrived in the town. People in Wisborg began to get ill and died.

Once Orlok took position of the house, his id instinct started to prey on Hutter’s wife. His evil desire for blood made Hutter’s wife to feel sick so Hutter went to get the doctor in order for the id to quench his thirst. The id quickly got into the house and proceeded with his malevolent plan to empty Elle’s veins and arteries. Soon after the sun rose, and the sun rays ignited the id’s body along with evilness.

In conclusion, I think that horror movies never go out of style because the number of people who like spooky things is greater than the people who do not enjoy them. Regarding “Nosferatu”, it is a great film regardless of its black, white and voiceless characteristics. I believe that it was a total hit in 1922.

Works Cited

“Nosferatu”. Directed by F.W. Murnau, Performances by Max Schreck and Gustav von Wangenheim, 1922. www.archive.org/details/nosferatu_201508

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