Reading Movies

Interpretation

Movie
source
director
cast (screenwriter, producer, cameraman, actors)
studio
censor
society (indirect censorship: positive and negative)

Spectator
specific movie (version)
specific context information
geneneral historical/sociological/political context

And another specter from film theory: the "spectator"

Theories

Critical Theory
psychoanalytical film theory
Structuralism
apparatus theory ("the author doesn't write, he is written")
auteur theory
feminist film theory
deconstructionism
Dangers of interpretation

Overinterpretation
Underinterpretation

Famous gay couples?

Underinterpretation
Over/Under?

Robin Wood’s Views of the Author

1. Author’s intentions
   (the author wants to express something)
2. Author’s personal psychology
   (the author is a real person)
3. The author and ideological construction
   (the author is a real person – in society)
4. Narrative Patterns/Generic conventions
   (symbols have conventional meaning)
5. Signification/Expression
   (symbols have meaning)

adapted from Robin Wood. Hitchcock’s Films Revisited; Introduction to revised edition.

Why horror films?