

Reading Movies

Interpretation

Movie

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

Spectator

- specific movie (version)
- specific context information
- general 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?
