



THE GLOAMING (2008)

DIRECTORS: John Bradbury and Andy Paton

SYNOPSIS:

A young 'just married' couple become lost in the woods in this experimental horror which leaves the viewer to draw their own conclusions about what might have happened.

SCENE DESCRIPTIONS:

EXTRACT 1: Break-down

The couple's motorbike runs out of petrol leaving them stranded on a remote country lane. They share a cigarette and look out for passing cars.

Look out in the rushes of this scene for the different camera angles the filmmakers have experimented with, as well as listening out for the director's instructions to the actors. Also note the use of diegetic sounds and lack of dialogue and any additional soundtracks.

EXTRACT 3: Caravan

The two explore a caravan they've discovered in the woods. The husband manages to retrieve some petrol out of its tank, while his wife is shocked to discover a skull next to an old typewriter and a script. She takes the script with her.

The rushes show that there are a number of shots for this scene that didn't make it into the final cut, such as an extreme long shot of the couple walking towards the van, and a long shot of them with some horses. There are also a few takes which only show the girl's reaction to finding the skull, but not the skull itself.

EXTRACT 3: Disappearance

After a night spent sleeping out in the woods next to a lake, the girl wakes up to discover that she's alone and her husband has disappeared – his only traces are a t-shirt pulled from the lake and his wedding ring on the ground.

After a long shot, the jerky motion of the handheld camera captures the girl's panic with a close-up of her looking around anxiously and her face moving in and out of focus. Apart from one shot where the camera is positioned just behind her, most of the shots in this scene concentrate on the girl's shocked expression at the realisation that her husband is gone.



Useful Links

Directors' interview:

http://www.screenwm.co.uk/swm_channel/watch/46/Digishorts_interview_The_Gloaming/

Curriculum Links:

- Key Stage 3: English, Art and Design, Music, ICT
- Key Stage 4: English, ICT
- 14-19 subject areas: Film and Media Studies, English, Performing Arts, Art and Design

Key Stage 3

English

Key concepts:

- Competence: Reading and understanding a range of texts, and responding appropriately.
- Creativity: Making fresh connections between ideas, experiences, texts and words, drawing on a rich experience of language and literature.
- Creativity: Using inventive approaches to making meaning, taking risks, playing with language and using it to create new effects.
- Creativity: Using imagination to convey themes, ideas and arguments, solve problems, and create settings, moods and characters.
- Critical understanding: Engaging with ideas and texts, understanding and responding to the main issues.
- Critical understanding: Exploring others' ideas and developing their own.

Key processes:

- Speaking and Listening: understand explicit and implicit meanings.
- Speaking and Listening: explore the ways that words, actions, sound and staging combine to create dramatic moments.
- Reading: understand how meaning is created through the combination of words, images and sounds in multimodal texts.
- Reading: how texts are crafted to shape meaning and produce particular effects.

Art and Design

Key processes:

- Explore and create: develop ideas and intentions by working from first-hand observation, experience, inspiration, imagination and other sources.
- Explore and create: investigate how to express and realise ideas using formal elements and the qualities of a range of media.
- Explore and create: make purposeful images and artefacts, selecting from a range of materials, techniques and processes.



- Understand and evaluate: appreciate how codes and conventions are used to convey ideas and meanings in and between different cultures and contexts.

ICT

Key concepts:

- Capability
- Communication and collaboration
- Exploring ideas and manipulating information
- Critical evaluation

Key processes:

- Developing ideas: bring together, draft and refine information, including through the combination of text, sound and image.
- Evaluating: review, modify and evaluate work as it progresses, reflecting critically and using feedback.

Key Stage 4

English

Key concepts:

- Competence: Demonstrating a secure understanding of the conventions of written language, including grammar, spelling and punctuation.
- Creativity: Using imagination to create effects to surprise and engage the audience.
- Creativity: Using creative approaches to answering questions, solving problems and developing ideas.
- Critical understanding: Engaging with the details of ideas and texts. Connecting ideas, themes and issues, drawing on a range of texts.

Key processes:

- Speaking and Listening: work purposefully in groups, negotiating and building on the contributions of others to complete tasks or reach consensus.
- Speaking and Listening: use a range of dramatic approaches to explore complex ideas, texts and issues in scripted and improvised work.
- Speaking and Listening: select different dramatic techniques to convey action, character, atmosphere and tension, and justify choices.
- Speaking and Listening: evaluate drama performances that they have watched or taken part in.
- Reading: analyse and evaluate the impact of combining words, images and sounds in media, moving-image and multimodal texts.
- Reading: analyse and evaluate how form, layout and presentation contribute to effect.



- Reading: compare texts, looking at style, theme and language and exploring connections and contrasts.

ICT

Key concepts:

- Capability
- Communication and collaboration
- Exploring ideas and manipulating information
- Critical evaluation

Key processes:

- Communicating information: create quality solutions that show they have considered how the information should be interpreted and presented in forms that suit audience, purpose and content.