BGE Drama

Film Review

Media Studies
Developing Evaluation Skills

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Unit Aims

- To develop evaluation and feedback skills by thinking about what I liked and didn't like when analysing acting and story development in films and trailers.

- To think like and take on the role of 'Film Critic'.

- To improve research skills by finding information needed.

- To develop literacy skills by writing my own film review.

What is the importance of a Film review?

- Most people love watching movies. Millions of pounds are spent every year in British cinemas and online video streaming websites. With such huge amounts of money being spent, **reviews** can be vitally important to the profit of the film production companies. Without the reviews of Film Critics and the opinions of audiences there would be too much to choose from.

Trailers

■ Movie trailers are short clips (1-3 minutes long) that shows a collection of footage for the upcoming film.

■ They grab the attention of audiences, they build hype and can be the deciding factor in audiences going to see that film.

Reviewing Trailers

- Films which are highly anticipated are sometimes initially reviewed by a <u>film critic</u>.

- This review can help potential audience members get a feel for what the film is about and whether or not the film is for them.

- On the next two slides you will see examples of this.

Example: Black Panther

The first teaser of Ryan Coogler's film, hinted at a film where action is king with the usual car-flipping action. Marvel's original black superhero sharpens his claws and as the teaser debuted the first shots of Chadwick Boseman, as T'Challa – aka the Black Panther, the would-be ruler of the fictional African country of Wakanda.

The trailer starts with Andy Serkis and Martin Freeman talking about how Wakanda is actually the mythical golden city El Dorado, with Serkis's character boasting: "I'm the only one who has seen it and made it out alive."

A voiceover goes on to predict that "soon there will only the conquerers and the conquered", as armed groups attempt to stage what appears to be an invasion.

Coogler's film is to debut in February 2018 with the main tagline "it's hard for a good man to be a king".

https://youtu.be/dxWvtMOGAhw

Example: War for the Planet of the Apes

Mortars, missiles and murder are the order of the day as ape-human relations reach an all-time low in the latest trailer for Matt Reeves' primate extravaganza. The third installment of the recently rebooted franchise sees humans and apes go to war with Woody Harrelson's authoritarian colonel looking like a less stable version of Marlon Brando's colonel Kurtz.

The trailer starts with audio from the two previous Ape films telling a potted history of the rise of Caesar, the ape leader played by Andy Serkis, who is still in charge after surviving a coup in the last outing.
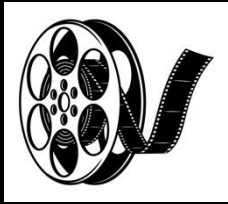
This time Caesar and the apes are hidden away in the forest while Harrelson's colonel seeks them out with the apparent goal of extermination. "Sometimes it is necessary to abandon our humanity, to save our humanity" is his argument, which has more than a few holes in it when it comes to logic.

The film is set to be released in the US and UK on 14 July.

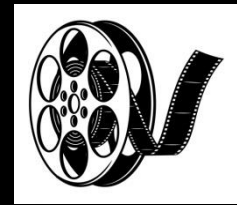https://youtu.be/JDcAlo8i2y8

What to include in a trailer review

You will see each review includes:

- The name of the director
- A punchy opening description for the film
- An actor named in a leading role
- Summary of what happens in the trailer
- Release date

Task 1: Trailers

You will now choose 3 Film trailers to watch and review - try to pick a mixture of films you like/dislike:

You **MUST** select 3 Films that have already been released on DVD/Netflix/Other Streaming Service and you **MUST HAVE ACCESS TO THE FULL FILM** as you will choose one of the 3 to go on and watch in full.

Using YouTube, watch the 3 film trailers . Then, using the 'Trailer Review Sheet' write your own reviews. Remember to include all information in the criteria – this may require some research.

Film Review

You are now going to be a Film Critic!!

- Film Critic's are renowned for their reviews - Sometimes they are quirky and sometimes just downright horrible! Their reviews can help to boost film sales or can put an end to the film altogether.

- On the next slide you will see some extracts of film reviews from 'Empire Online'.

Extracts

Harley Quinn: Birds Of Prey (2020)

"When she's on screen *Birds Of Prey* has the impact of a baseball bat to the head."

★ ★ ★

Joker (2019)

"Bold, devastating and utterly beautiful, Todd Phillips and Joaquin Phoenix have not just reimagined one of the most iconic villains in cinema history, but reimagined the comic book movie itself."

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Frozen II (2019)

"*Frozen II* still delivers where it really counts - the emotional beats and relationship between Elsa and Anna, who continually strengthen and uplift each other."

★ ★ ★ ★

Catwoman (2004)

"This is only worth seeing if you can handle shallow characters and dull, plastic action scenes for the sake of unintentional laughs."

★

Alternative Film Reviews

Not all film reviews have to be written. Some can be done online!!

Below are some examples from YouTubers "Screen Junkies":

- Star Wars IX: The Rise of Skywalker
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O7dq_wo5eto

- Moana
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R9ct8VLK95Q

- Shrek
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OCr1xWuk1UA

Task 2: Film Review

You will now select ONE of the 3 Films you chose earlier when reviewing trailers and watch the entire film!

Then, using the 'Film Review Sheet' you will write your own review for the film. You want your review to be detailed and honest.

Sharing Your Work

Once you have completed both worksheets you can share them with your teacher via your online classroom or via email:

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Bonus Activity

Now choose a film to watch that you dislike - a film that in your mind would win a Golden Raspberry Award (This is a parody award show honoring the worst of cinematic under-achievements!).

Once watched, write another review following the same structure as before.

Don't hold back on this one!