

HORROR MOVIES AREN'T WHAT THEY USED TO BE. WHERE ONCE THEY DREW ON PRIMORDIAL FEARS ABOUT DEATH, DARKNESS AND THE UNKNOWN TO HAIR-RAISING EFFECT, 21ST-CENTURY MOVIES HAVE UPDATED THEIR TACTICS TO EQUALLY SCARY EFFECT.

"HORROR IS ALL ABOUT MONSTERS, AND THOSE MONSTERS ARE OFTEN THE EMBODIMENT OF SOCIAL ANXIETY," SAID JASON WALLIN, A MEDIA AND CULTURE EXPERT IN THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA'S FACULTY OF EDUCATION.

"IT'S NOT ABOUT THE SCARE TACTICS SO MUCH AS THE UNCONSCIOUS FEARS. HORROR IS A SPECULATION ON A POTENTIAL FUTURE AND IT TRIES TO ELEVATE THOSE ANXIETIES TO CONSCIOUS THOUGHT."

HE SAID CONTEMPORARY HORROR MOVIES TRANSFORM HIGHLY RELEVANT CONCERNs ABOUT INVASIVE AND ISOLATING TECHNOLOGY, THE WHOLESALE DESTRUCTION OF NATURE, INCURABLE DISEASES AND FEAR OF DIFFERENCE INTO THE STUFF OF NEW NIGHTMARES.

AND THOUGH MOST PEOPLE DON'T BELIEVE THE STREETS WILL BE OVERTAKEN BY THE UNDEAD WITH AN APPETITE FOR HUMAN FLESH, THE HORROR GENRE FORCES BOTH CHARACTERS AND VIEWERS TO CONFRONT THEIR FEARS, WHICH IN THE 21ST CENTURY OFTEN REVOLVE AROUND THE FRAGILITY OF HUMAN SOCIETY.

"THAT'S ONE OF THE THINGS I LOVE ABOUT HORROR FILMS--THEY PULL THE RUG OUT FROM UNDER ALL REFERENCE POINTS. PEOPLE HAVE TO ACTUALLY START THINKING FOR THEMSELVES SINCE THERE'S NO FRAMEWORK TO FALL BACK ON TO MAKE SENSE OF THINGS," SAID WALLIN. HOW CHARACTERS RESOLVE THEIR SITUATIONS ALSO REFLECTS THE WAY SOCIETY THINKS ABOUT THESE ISSUES OUTSIDE OF THE GENRE.

"INSTEAD OF TRYING TO UNDERSTAND DIFFERENT BODIES, GENDER, RACE OR HOW OTHER HUMANS RELATE TO NON-HUMANS, WE HAVE THIS REALLY STARK DIVISION BETWEEN HUMANS AND OTHERS. HORROR TRIES TO PLAY AT THE INTERSECTION OF THOSE FORCES, BUT IT ALSO TRIES TO UNDERSTAND HOW WE RECONCILE HUMANITY AND THE UNCANNY."

IT HAS LARGE HORNS
AND A BIG STRONG
BODY. IT WALKS ON
TWO LEGS AND IS
VERY DANGEROUS!

IT HAS SCALY SKIN
AND SCALY MOVING
HAIR. IT'S EYES ARE
DANGEROUS SO DON'T
LOOK AT IT!

IT'S COVERED IN FUR
AND HAS SEVERAL
HEADS. IT USES
LARGE CLAWS AND
FANGS TO ATTACK!

IT HAS SCALY SKIN
AND MANY HEADS.
ONE OF THE HEADS
WILL LIVE FOREVER!

IT HAS SOFT SKIN
AND LARGE WINGS.
IT CAN TALK AND IS
DANGEROUS TO MEN.

IT IS VERY HUNGRY
AND LOOKS LIKE US.
IT CAN RUN VERY
FAST!

IT IS COVERED IN FUR AND HAS LARGE FANGS. IT IS MOST DANGEROUS AT NIGHT!

IT HAS FANGS AND IS VERY STRONG. IT LOOKS LIKE US AND HATES SUNLIGHT!

IT LIVES IN THE SEA AND HAS LARGE TENACLES. IT CAN DESTROY MANY SHIPS!

IT HAS SCALY SKIN AND LARGE WINGS. IT CAN BREATHE FIRE AND IS VERY INTELLIGENT!

IT HAS LARGE HORNS AND IS VERY HUNGRY AND SMELLY. IT CAN WALK LIKE A MAN!

IT HAS NO SKIN AND SMELLY BREATH. IT HATES FRESH WATER IS HAPPY IN WINTER!

IT HAS LARGE CLAWS AND WINGS AND IS COVERED IN FUR. IT'S VERY STRONG AND VERY SMART!

IT WEARS CLOTHES BUT CANNOT SPEAK. IT GOES OUT AT NIGHT BUT CANNOT WALK!

IT HAS BRIGHT FEATHERS AND LIVES FOREVER. IT LOVES FIRE!

IT HAS MANY TAILS AND IS VERY SMART. IT CAN ALSO CHANGE SHAPE!

IT IS SMALL AND HAS WINGS. THEY ARE DANGEROUS AND NOT TO BE TRUSTED!

IT HAS LARGE WINGS WITH FEATHERS AND LOOKS LIKE US. IT CAN FLY AND IS VERY STRONG!

IT HAS HORNS AND
LARGE WINGS. IT IS
DANGEROUS AND
EVIL!

IT CAN'T BE
TOUCHED BUT CAN
MOVE EVERYWHERE.
THEY LIKE TO STAY
IN ONE PLACE!

THE BOTTOM HAS
SCALES AND A TAIL.
IT IS BEAUTIFUL BUT
DANGEROUS!

IT HAS WHITE FUR,
FOUR HOOVES AND A
SINGLE HORN. IT'S
NOT VERY
DANGEROUS!

IT HAS A SPINY TAIL,
LARGE CLAWS AND
BIG FANGS. IT'S SKIN
IS SCALY AND FURRY!

IT IS VERY BIG, VERY
STRONG AND VERY
UGLY. THE SKIN IS
COLOURED AND IT'S
HUNGRY AND
DANGEROUS!