Media Essay

“How crime has evolved over time and the impact audience has had on it”

Chosen Genre: Crime

Crime is a popular genre among movie fans worldwide, often praised for its thrill, twisted plot lines, and crafty cinematography. This particular genre has changed a severe amount since 1912 (A cinematic History of crime, Part 1, 2024)when the first proper crime movie was screened, due to improvements on film technology, various audiences wanting different things out of a movie, and socio-cultural influences.

As with almost anything in the world today, it has been impacted in some way by technology, and movies are no exception. With improvements to various aspects such as camera quality, editing software, and the rising popularity of AI, it makes sense that new advancements are made in the film industry daily. To start off, directors now have a large availability to use cameras with quality as high as 8k as well as 3D effects, to shoot their projects. Not only does this make the shots seem more life-like, but it also adds a new dimension and viewing experience for the viewers of the audience, due to its mesmerising, nature that captures the audience’s attention, engaging them further into the film experience (How Technology is Revolutionising Film Production: SAE Blog, 2024). Secondly, with new software emerging, producers can store data, add sound and visual components, and create new forms of media never seen before. Despite not seeming all that major, these editing effects enhances the viewing experience for the audience as they all add small elements to a film that makes the scenarios seem more realistic, as well as creating certain differentiable features that make each movie different from the next whilst still maintaining the same conventions which many audience members find “comforting”. Putting both of these into the context of a movie revolving around crime, the camera quality can make for a larger range of intense scenes to properly immerse the audience within the world of the film and the advancements in editing could possibly add elements to the film that would not only add extra touches of realism, but also ideas and themes to invoke certain feelings in the audience such as: excitement, anxiousness, and anticipation.

With the rising popularity of newer subgenres such as rom-com and Avant-Garde, it is apparent that the audiences of the film industry are having some changes. Many viewers are finding that some movies, for example in the superhero genre, are getting to repetitive, and their filmmakers aren’t changing up the storyline to keep them intrigued, whilst still maintaining their usual conventions that audience’s globally find comforting. However, generally it seems that many audiences worldwide enjoy the crime genre as it is. Audiences enjoy it for many reasons, some being: it can be crossed with multiple other genres to form subgenres, the element of thrill that comes with crime, and the plot twists executed to perfection (Why do we Love the Crime Genre?, 2025). An example of an extremely successful hybrid crime movie is the 1996 classic: Scream. Scream spins an element of murder with classic horror conventions to create an enthralling atmosphere for the viewer, keeping them on their toes at all times. However, despite many audiences enjoying the classic plotlines of generic crime movies, there have been changes in the conventions over time. An example of this would be the style of crime happening in the movie. In previous years, it may have involved a murder plot or terrorist scheme, however in the current era – yes, those plots do still exist – themes of more technology-based crimes are arising, simply because that it what is happening in the real world in the present day.

Alongside audience preferences changing, many socio-cultural preferences are also changing. With many more people becoming aware of different perspectives certain groups have on the world, it is clear that the film industry is catering towards this. Whether it is including characters of a certain ethnicity or gender, or setting the film in an otherwise looked over country, producers are trying to be more inclusive and give light to certain groups around the world. An example of this would be Moana, which in November of 2024 was followed up by a sequel: Moana 2. This film shows a Polynesian tribe being the stars of the film, including many different aspects of Polynesian culture, life, and some of their struggles placed upon them by the western world. Due to this global recognition of different groups perspectives worldwide, certain conventions of films are also changing, such as now, producers often include a variety of characters with different backgrounds, ethnicities, genders, or disabilities. Filmmakers are doing this to not only in some cases promote awareness to some struggles these characters may have for this ‘trait’ of theirs, but also to give people in the real world who are ‘affected’ by these, a character (or multiple) to look up to, as they share a common trait.