

Film Review

HIS 228 Survey of American History

Yolanda Hamilton

Beulah Heights University
October 28, 2017

Featured Film (Courtesy of Netflix) **1922**

Background

One of the most legends surrounding Stephen King was about the time that he sat at his desk around the early 1980s, as he proceeded to go on a cocaine binge, and when he regained consciousness, found a complete manuscript in front of him. Many years later, he barely remembers writing the book *Cujo*, which was like King's works was soon adapted into film.¹

Another of King's tales, *1922*, centered on Winfred James, a farmer who brutally murdered his wife after she gets tired of farm life and wants to move to the city. However, Winfred can't allow this, so naturally killing her is his preferred option. With his wife out of the way, and increasingly unhinged Winfred attempts to move on, but to say that things just get worse and worse for him would be an understatement. Playing Winfred in this film adaptation is Thomas Jane, and played the lead character David Drayton and Frank Darabont's 2007 adaptation of *The Mist*, the other cast members in *1922* included Molly Parker as Winfred's wife Arlette, Dylan Schmid, played as her son Henry, and Neal McDonough as Harlan, father to Shannon, (Kaitlyn Bernard) Henry's pregnant girlfriend.²

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1922 is a terrific example of just how powerful horror movies can be. Not only does writer-director Zak Hildrich, reflected a wonderful psychological slow-burn approach in the storytelling, He emphasizes it with sudden burst of terrifying horror. The scenes bared Stephen King's uncanny adaptations like his Landmark Films such as The Shining and Carrie.

Plot Summary

The book itself which was about 1,300 pages is a Monumental work of horror fiction.

1922 is based on 117-page short story, written in the manner of a confession by a man orally consumed by the guilt of his actions, by murdering his wife, and attempt to cover it up in front of a suspicious lawyer and Sheriff. Winfred set into motion a change of tragic events that take away not only his pride, but also his sanity. As Thomas Jane is quite terrific at the central role. He adds a tiny, but unnoticeable implications to his performances, such as frowns of confusion, sharp looks of warnings, that helped create a character that is both cunning and pathetic at the same time.³

His crimes haunted him so often that he turns into a paranoid wreck of a man, plagued with the sounds of scurrying mouse and the rotting smell of flesh and the sight of his decomposed wife.

The visuals of DP Ben Richardson and the grand score of Mike Patton, Hildrich made a stately, a Horror Picture about broken family, jealousy, and the sins of a father, that chose the wrong decision.

The setting of the film included notions of the honor of manhood, and a woman's place in this world, that is as relevant to us today, as it was in the turn- of- the-Century America.

The appeal of the story is the work of an expiring High grossing horror picture of all time. In 1922, growl's Thomas James in a voiceover that looms like a, tragic Greek chorus, throughout the film, "a man's Pride was a man's Land."⁴

Winford James, a tobacco chewing, perpetually sweating character, that lives on a sprawling property with his wife and teenage son. He is a proud man, as he says it that in the voiceover, because of his land and his son, Henry, who will inherit it when the time comes. He works in the field in the days, and sits on the porch in the evenings, sipping cold beers and surveying his vast Kingdom. Then suddenly, his wife snatches it all away. She proposes that the family sell the land and move to the city, and idea that Winfred reacts to as a demon would be to the sight of Holy Water. He tells her NO, but receives only an ultimatum in the response: If Winfred does not comply; She would file for a divorce and immediately take her son to the city with her.

So, Winfred was left with a choice, (which is the key thing in the film): to give in, and be controlled by woman, or listen to that voice in his head. A voice that reminds him that he is the man of the house. He utters, "Every Man Has a Choice," and in 1922 Winford James makes the wrong one choice: together with his son, who he coerced into joining him in his fool-hearted plan. He attempts to murder his wife in cold blood, and makes a

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mess of it. After slicing the wrong arteries, Winfred resorts to hacking away at her repeatedly, mauling her face beyond recognition. She dies a horrible death, and is laid to rest among hungry mice and dumped in a forgotten well. What an appealing story that is surrounded by one year alone.

Historical Accuracy

Stephen King's work has inspired the highest-grossing horror films of all time. After a critical and commercial disaster of (The Dark Tower), and two other films that were not released in theaters at all. However, they were released on Netflix.

Stephen King's reputation of adaptation are so universally terrifying, that they could be transported to anytime, to any place, and still resonate, always uncomfortably close to the truth. The ideas he toyed with in 1922 could be easily brought to modern-day rural Alabama, because of its toxic patriarchy systemic inequality.⁵

Rated R

Duration: 101min

Quality: HD

Genre Crime, Drama, Horror, Mystery

Country: USA

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