

SHADOWS

Logline

Shadows is a supernatural horror short film about a teenage girl who is tormented and chased by a monster lurking in the depths of the darkness as she makes her way to a late-night party.

Treatment

ACT ONE

Insecure, and worried she's late, a teenage girl walks down a dark empty street, making her way to a party. Pausing shortly to put on makeup, she then puts everything back in her purse and begins to walk again.

Treatment

ACT TWO

Moments later, a sinister whisper freezes her. She whips around. Nothing. Taking a deep breath, the girl begins to walk once more. Suddenly, a bell tolls and a hooded, masked figure steps into view. She sees him unnervingly pick up Rubik's Cube and rotate it calmly. The sound of clocks ticking add tension to the scene.

Terrified, she runs. As she turns the corner, a harsh, distorted voice reverberates from everywhere, threatening her. She freezes and spins around desperately trying to locate the source. The figure reappears and calmly turns the cube again.

The girl runs again, the figure following. Thinking she has outrun it, she catches her breath behind a wall.

The bell tolls again and the figure comes into focus once again.

Horried, she gets up and runs – but trips and falls. Gasping in pain, she touches the wound – suddenly the voice is back in her head, from everywhere. She lets go – now the figure is there, walking towards her! She cries out, trying to get up. He edges forward as she crawls back.

Treatment

ACT THREE

The figure turns the cube – the colours align perfectly! The figure howls triumphantly, and begins edging forward.

Audience profile

Gender: my target audience are male teenagers, as the majority of audiences that enjoy horror are male because they empathize with the dominant victimizer.

Age: teenagers from ages 13 to 17, as the protagonist is a 15-year-old girl and audiences will sympathize with her; they will better connect with her.

Ethnicity: this short film is not targeted towards a specific ethnicity, although it may appeal to Asians simply because the protagonist is Asian and it is filmed in Hong Kong. Nevertheless, both narrative and production style are not aimed specifically towards one audience group.

Demographic: the plot and narrative of this short film does not discriminate between demographic groups. However, the demographic that this short film may appeal to more than it will to others are teenagers from middle class (and above) families, as the protagonist is seen putting on makeup for a party and wearing fancy clothes in the beginning. However, other audiences may also find diversion from this and as such may enjoy it.

Genre fans: fans of horror (specifically, supernatural) will enjoy this production as it aims to incorporate conventions of this genre. This includes a monster-victimizer, a chase scene, a dark and cold palette, canted angles and handheld shots, etcetera.

Audience appeal

Diversion: this horror short exists to entertain and offer an alternative world for viewers. Male teenagers, the target audience, will find this production appealing as

- they have a higher tolerance to and find enjoyment in the horror genre, and
- the victimizer is a dominant male.

Personal identity: male teenagers will empathize with the male victimizer, while the female audience will sympathize with the female protagonist.

Genre codes: the narrative follows a three-part, recognizable structure.

- **Equilibrium:** the girl is on her way to a party at night
- **Disequilibrium:** she is tormented and chased by a supernatural being in a mask
- **New equilibrium:** she is attacked. The film ends at a cliff-hanger; the fate of the protagonist is left for the audience to decide.

Challenges

- Filming at night
- Filming a chase scene
- Finding locations
- Sound design and layering
 - Sound effects
 - Score
- Editing techniques
 - Match cuts
 - Jump cuts