GCSE Genre conventions KO

GENRE Key words...

Genre

Hybrid Genre

Western Action Spy Musical Romance Teen drama Sci Fi

Comedy Horror Crime Family Christmas

Genre tropes/conventions

What do we expect to see as an audience?

Audience expectations

Setting

Themes

Characters (Costume, hair and make up)

Props or key objects

Narrative and plot

Aesthtic/Style

Lighting and colour

Singing and Dancing

GENRE CONVENTIONS

Setting

Themes

Characters

Props or key objects

Narrative and plot

Aesthtic/Style

SETTING

What is the location of the film?
Where is it set?
What do the buildings or rooms or outdoor spaces look like?
What is the time period of the film?

THEMES

What are the main themes and ideas of the film?
What ideas do they suggest to the audience?

These should be in keeping with the genre of the film and be understandable within the world of the film and the audience expectations.

AESTHETIC/STYLE

The style and look of the world of the film has a huge impact on the genre. All elements of the mise en scene and sound must fit within the genre or genres being used. This includes the colours, lighting, costume, hair and make up, set, and locations and sound to really place the film within that genre.

GENRE definition...

Genre can be defined as a style or category of film whereby, developed over time, socially-agreed tropes and conventions help to depict categories.

Genre is eminently fluid and often a film may straddle the distinction of many genres. Over time, genres may change, become recognisable, and fall out of generally-appreciated recognition.

Similarly, new genres will develop and grow and bring prominence to themselves.

The study of genre in film is concerned with examining a film to appreciate its generic conventions, i.e. the elements that help to denote the genre/s in which it belongs.

CHARACTERS

The characters in the film should fit into expected types for that genre.
Their character type should create an expected reaction from the audience.
Costume, hair and make up are really important in explaining to the audience what type of character this and establishing the genre quickly.

For example: In Grease Danny is the lead male character in the musical film, he is very good looking and it is possible for the audience to believe that Sandy would fall in love with him.

PROPS

The props in the film should fit into expected types for that genre.
The type of prop should create an expected reaction from the audience.

For example: In Grease Danny carries a comb to comb his greasy quiff. This connotes to the audience he is confident in his appearance and possibly vain.

NARRATIVE AND PLOT

The narrative and plot are both very important as the audience will expect a certain type of plot and narrative structure depending on the genre.

For example: The use of horror in a family film would not work as the audience would not accept it. A plot about cute and sweet characters with a villain who only do good would not work in a horror film

A film not fitting audience expectations about genre will often not be a success.

Genre theory Steve Neale states:

that genres all contain instances of repetition and difference, difference is essential to the to the economy of the genre. Neale states that the film and it's genre is defined by two things:

- How much is conforms to its genre's individual conventions and stereotypes. A film must match the genre's conventions to be identified as part of that genre.
- How much a film subverts the genre's conventions and stereotypes. The film must subvert convention enough to be considered unique and not just a clone of an existing film. https://revisionworld.com/a2-level-level-revision/media-studies-level-revision/genre-theory

GCSE Genre conventions KO Musical Films

GENRE Key words...

Genre
Hybrid Genre
Musical Romance
Genre tropes/conventions
What do we expect to see as an audience?
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Setting
Themes
Characters (Costume, hair and make up)
Props or key objects
Narrative and plot
Aesthtic/Style
Lighting and colour
Singing and Dancing
Extras

GENRE CONVENTIONS OF MUSICAL FILMS

- Over the top sets and locations
- Themes of love and romance, good wins
- Stero typed characters
- Colourful costumes
- High Key lighting
- Dancing
- Everyone can dance
- Lots of extras
- Singing to convey characters thoughts and feelings
- Songs sung to advance the plot
- Booming Broadway-style singing voices
- Music that comes out of nowhere

Musical film genre history

1920's
- Hollywood musicals had achieved initial success in the early sound period as a form where songs were interruptions to the loose narrative thrust of the drama. They were 'Revues' or 'backstage musicals' of the kind directed by Busby Berkeley.

1950s
- Singin' in the Rain is a kind of hybrid as it draws on this tradition but also exemplifies the 'integrated musical' where musical numbers are integrated to character and plot.

1980s
- Musicals were not a popular genre as audiences preferred realism in films.
- Grease's phenomenal success was, to some extent, attributed to the buoyant 1950s pop-style original musical score. It was released in the same year as Midnight Express, Halloween and Dawn of the Dead – it offered audiences total escapism and was the highest-grossing film of the year.

Grease and Singing in the Rain are musical films

Grease follows typical musical film genre conventions: Setting and Themes
- The film also has conventional elements of the teen genre: high school setting, pressures of adolescence, as well as elements of a rom-com.
- For example: Frenchy's bedroom; a cluttered pink room full of beauty paraphernalia but also contains pictures of horses as well as heartthrobs. This highlights the transition to adolescence and how the Pink Ladies are still young and inexperienced.

Characters
- In 'Beauty School Drop Out' & 'Greased Lightning' the characters are transported from the realism of the setting and are transported to a lavish sound stage. This reflects a more traditional musical genre.

Props or key objects
- Props are limited and are only used to add to sterotypes e.g. a comb for Danny, books for Sandy

Narrative and plot
- A linear narrative taking place over a few weeks or months
- Song performances are used to show inner feelings of characters e.g. Hopelessly devouted to you
- Non Diegetic sound is turned into Diegetic music;

Aesthetic/Style
- the rules of realism do not apply;
- musical performances have a 'show-like quality' with dance routines and a large cast.

Singing in the Rain follows the genre conventions for musicals in the 1950s:

Setting and themes
- The film takes place in Hollywood and all the locations in the film are filmed on sound stages.
- For example: RJ'S house is a set the audience are not shown whole rooms

Characters
- Characters are stereotyped the famous film star, the young actress, the jealous female star, the studio boss

Props
- Props are limited and are only used to add to sterotypes e.g. the sweets that Kathy throws as a dancing girl at the party

Narrative and Plot
- A linear narrative, taking place over a few weeks or months.
- Song performances are used to show inner feelings of characters e.g. at the end You are my lucky star sung by Don.

Aesthetic/Style
- the importance of dance as something that must be shown as 'un-faked' through the use of long takes and wide frame.
- the male 'athletic' body is the primary object of the audiences gaze