

## My First Love, My True Love

By Nick Schwab

The rebellious siren song of horror films surely saved my life in my awkward early teenage years, but I soon found that they have much more to offer than just dead bodies hitting the floor. While my early entry into the genre was the fun, albeit campy, Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> series, it wasn't until a few years later in college that I started developing my tastes and literary eye as I watched more-and-more of them. I soon realized that the genre is just as artistic as any other, and it continues to be my first love until this day.

I find ever-more increasingly that the horror genre is very diverse in the spectrums of emotions and tones that the form can convey. The early subdued Apartment Trilogy of Roman Polanski and the splatter-period of David Cronenberg showed me the different approaches that can be taken to style and content in these directors' social-political critiques, while more recent entries, such as the zombie-infused character study, *The Battery* (2012), the psychological, chamber-drama, *The Invitation* (2015), and the slasher-comedy, *The Final Girls* (2015), later proved to me that my favorite genre can be experimental and can also be combined with an art-house aesthetic. I soon realized that the genre serves as not just as an outlet for rebellion, but also as a highly artistic and often metaphorical analysis of society and humanity, as well. Horror can be deeply emotional, subversive, and highly meaningful. And it can be all these at once.

This is the type of films that I like: deeply emotional and personal stories that touch one's heart and soul and (sometimes) rattle-and-shake them up. The horror films that I often love do this not really because they are scary, but rather because they are human. And like humans, they may have a dark side, yet often still find beauty and humanity in oppressive darkness.

Although I do want to write many sorts of stories in many genres, but I think deeply emotional and uber-dark films that capture the purity of human existence are what draws me to the artform. And horror will always be my first love. The best films don't necessarily go for scares, but rather go for 'scars'. They have a great emotional and psychological effect that stays with you until the credits. They are also the type of films that one can still remember the power contained within them long after the credits roll. The horror genre, I believe, can be just as strong at this scarring as others, if not even more-so.

Therefore, I think pursuing my interest in writing in this genre in school here at Boston College will be very beneficial. Upon reading up on your institution, I know I will not just value the instruction and the high placement rate in the field for the program, but will also appreciate the small class size that will help me build strong relationships with my fellow students. I will nurture and better at my abilities to have a long career in my dream field.

I have already faced a lot of obstacles in my life, from the death of my mom when I was only 8 years old, to dealing with being bi-polar, and writing and expression has always helped me persevere. I practiced my artistic ability in a number of outlets, from newspaper journalism, to fiction writing, and of course, screenwriting. Having gone back to college when I was older made me even more disciplined and focused towards my dream of being a professional writer.

Moreover, I believe that these sorts of deeply emotional and human stories in the realm of the dark delicacies of horror need to be told. The genre is just as important as any other. I would love the opportunity to be one of the vital screenwriter's that shows the genre's endless potential in the future. And I know that Boston College can be the school that gives me the know-how to do that.

Sincerely, Nick Schwab