
Senior Projects Spring 2023

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HONEY

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Senior Project: HONEY

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This last Senior semester was not a honeyed experience. The reasons are an amalgamation of personal, political, and social issues. However, my dedication to my senior project allowed me to elude the impending reality of the real world. The symptoms of these human rights issues, specifically oppressive ideology, was the catalyst that spurred HONEY into existence. I believe that art should both be an expression of pain and a ‘relief’ from the worst parts of our lives.

The title, HONEY, was derived from the usage of the prop within the film but also in reference to its association with bees and the danger that these insects possess. This supports a mental image of being small but mighty; a potential underdog rhetoric for the Killer’s victims. Another usage of the word honey is in reference to ‘honey pots’ or ‘honey traps’. This plot device, wherein spies use seduction or romantic entanglement to execute karmic justice and steal information, is conveyed through the visualized seductive powers of honey itself. It is also a term of endearment. I seized on this sense of karmic justice and carried it further through the plot, particularly highlighting it at the ending. The Killer gets his comeuppance in this scene where a laundry machine, possessed by one of his victims, attacks him. This establishes a lesson of “What comes around, goes around”. These lessons and social implications play a role in

establishing a sense of consequence for the Killer's persistent violence and the symbolization that honey is a tool that utilizes deception to allow the continuation of such violent actions throughout the film.

As a Senior in the Film and Electronics Department my ambition to generate this project was born out of the human rights injustices currently plaguing this country. With this in mind, my intent was to pay homage to the social and political climate in America while distancing and personifying these issues as established characters, with individual stakes, in a digestible manner for an audience. While making circumstances that are meant to be engaging for your audience, films are readily prepared to talk about their world but somewhat more hesitant to show it. I wanted to confront the audience with the stakes through sound cues, ambient music, and other editing tools. This effectively concocts a superbly immersive experience; as opposed to over-explaining the situation and having the dialogue be a diversion from the suspense of the setting.

In essence, this is what HONEY is about. It maintains its status as a diversion from reality whilst preparing the audience to deal with real oppressive rhetoric being targeted at the general public by governing powers in America. The Killer played the role of the United States government and his victims the United States citizens. The entirety of the film is a metaphor and symptomatic of current events, while still allowing room for escape into the world that it has created.