English exam

Respond to an oral or visual text studied

Film- heavenly creatures

Director- Peter Jackson

Topic number: one

Films are designed for many different purposes. The roles of a film to the audience can vary: they can be to entertain, challenge and educate the audience and the last role is to educate the audience about a different world to their own. **Heavenly Creatures** directed by **Peter Jackson**, this movie shows all of the roles, which affects the audience and also allows the audience to make an emotional connection with the characters.

My rewrite. DON’T GROAN!

Films are designed for many different purposes, therefore the role, or ‘job’, of film - as far as an audience is concerned - can vary greatly. Film can be to entertain, challenge and educate the audience, as well as to inform the audience about a world different to their own by transporting them into this space through the viewing experience. Heavenly Creatures, directed by Peter Jackson, is a movie that takes on all of the roles outlined above. It is a movie that affects the audience and also allows it to make an emotional connection with the characters.

Jacksons **Heavenly Creatures** fulfills the “job” of entertaining the audience by capturing the descent of two teenage school girls in 1950’s Christchurch: this is shown by the girls ever increasing seclusion into their own world and the madness it entailed; how the world they began became an integral part of their lives. Examples of this are: the girls refusing to participate in class activities like P.E or how they wrote to each other as their imaginary characters. From the examples shown here we can see that the world these two girls threw themselves into reflected the madness within their minds and allowed the audience to see what was going on inside the girls head. So therefore the film Heavenly Creatures showed one of the key “jobs” of any film by entertaining the audien*ce. ----- these examples don’t really reflect the madness in their minds ‘cause many teenage girls do both of these things without being crazy.*

------------ also if it was an example of the kids going mad it is NOT an example of the film entertaining them (an audience). Do you see?

MY REWRITE : Jackson’s Heavenly Creatures fulfills the “job” of entertaining the audience by capturing the descent into madness of two teenage schoolgirls, living in Christchurch during the 1950’s. This is shown by the girl’s increasing seclusion in their own world and the madness that that world, and its point-of-view, contained. The Fourth World and Borovnia became the home of reality for Juliet and Pauline as their friendship grew into teenage obsession and they couldn’t bare the thought of having to part. The audience was entertained by Juliet and Pauline’s acting out the parts of Desdemona and Charles, their “Borovnian” characters. But it was an entertainment born of morbid fascination: the Borovnian characters were very reactionary and brutal if someone crossed them. For example, we watch as plasticine characters emerge from the girls’ minds to skewer and behead people in their daily life who have hurt them or a annoying them. It is “kind” of entertaining, simply because it is so bizarre, and because it does not auger well for those who really impact on Juliet and Pauline’s lives: Honora, Pauline’s mother, who is seen as the reason why Pauline can’t sail to English with Juliet when she leaves New Zealand. Therefore Heavenly Creatures fulfills the first “job” of a film as far as an audience may be concerned. It entertained them. Not in a “jolly” way, but by capturing the audience with a morbid, eyes agog, kind of fascination.

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Another job the film **Heavenly Creatures** fulfills is challenging the audience to think beyond the two girls just going mad but what triggered this journey into madness: this is shown by the fact that they are both outsiders so when they meet each other a bond is made; this then develops into something more psychological than anyone of the friends or family could imagine. An example of this from the film could be the fact that before they met they had no friends and since then on they developed this strong bond; but when the parents threaten to break them up it is then that they decide to formulate the plan of murdering Pauline’s mother. From the example shown here we can see that the mind frame of the two girls were extremely unstable so when their strange world they had together was threatened, they began to lose their conscious grip on reality. So therefore this film showed us another “job “of any film by challenging the audience and their thoughts on the film.

MY REWRITE: Another job the film Heavenly Creatures fulfills is challenging the audience to think beyond the plot of the two girls going mad to what triggered this journey into madness: loneliness, outsiders, a deep psychological need to belong and be accepted. This is shown in the film by the fact that both Pauline and Juliet are “outside” the norm of the Christchurch schoolgirl of the 1950’s. Juliet came from England but had lived in and visited many countries around the world by the time she stepped into Pauline’s working class life. She literally shone with sophistication, could speak fluent French, had a great big house, a wealthy family, a mother who worked as a marriage guidance counselor and a very privileged life. Pauline was an outsider because, although she attended Christchurch Girls High School, she came from a working class family where their home was a boarding house. Pauline was sullen which could drive potential friends away. They were also outsiders because they had both suffered from childhood illness and now could not take part in P.E. Juliet was able to confirm that they were different because “only the best people had scars and diseases”. The audience is shown that Juliet is left desperately insecure by the experience of having her parents leave her in a children’s hospital in the Bahamas for an extended period. When these two friendless girls discover each other, they latch on to each other for dear life. Pauline is besotted with Juliet and Pauline is Juliet’s “sister”. This is the kind of information that Peter Jackson gives his audience about the girls’ unstable background. As a result of this we can understand and accept “to a certain extent” why they could decide to formulate a plan to kill Pauline’s mother. The audience were challenged to understand that they were extremely unstable and so when their strange world was threatened they could rationalize murder as a necessary action. Therefore Heavenly Creatures carries out the “job” of challenging an audience to look beyond a plot for the causes and consequences of actions and decisions by taking us into the mind and lives of its unstable protagonists.

I HAVE JUST EDITED THIS ONE

The final job shown in the movie **Heavenly Creatures** is educating the audience about a different world to their own: that of the world of the “outsider” in the 1950s society of Christchurch. An example of how the film demonstrates this different world is when we see Pauline distance herself from the lives of all the other girls around her. Pauline did this because she considered that she was too working class compared to the other girls that she went to school with. She didn’t bring friends home because her parents ran a boarding house and the place was filled with strangers wanting to take over the lounge or bathroom. Nobody else’s parents appeared to be doing this. Further examples are >>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>.. So from these examples the audience is taken into the world view of an outsider in 1950’s Christchurch society. We can see the world of an outsider; this also allows the audience to make a connection if they have ever been in that position. So therefore this film showed the final “job” of a movie which was to educate the audience about another world.

I HAVE JUST EDITED THIS ONE TOO

In conclusion, movies have many “jobs” to perform and primarily they are: educating an audience of another world, entertainment and challenging audiences to think. These are very important roles that a film should include as it allows the audience to take away more than just pure “jolly” entertainment from a film. Peter Jackson’s Heavenly Creatures carried out these primary “jobs” with vivid, brutal horror. Our “entertainment” was through a captive morbid fascination, and our minds were stretched to contain the twisted world view of Pauline and Juliet. We were left understanding their motivation, if not accepting it.