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ENG 131
12 February 2018

Essay 2

The Revenant is a cinematic thriller with an western spin, mixed with amazing camera work and scenery makes it an excellent movie to watch. Directed by Alejandro G. Iñárritu and stared by Leonardo DiCaprio, it does what my be one of the greatest depictions of the story of Hugh Glass. Hugh Glass is a man who worked for the Rocky Mountain Fur Company, when he was mauled in the wilderness by a grizzly bear. His companions assumed he was good as dead and left him in the frozen wilderness of North Dakota. Hugh then crawled and stumbled across what was estimated to be 200 miles of wilderness. The entire time avoiding packs of wolves, aggressive native americans, all the while fighting off starvation and frostbite. The movie and the actual story do have some significant differences. The movie gives Hugh a son and a native american wife, whereas in reality there is no proof of that Hugh had either a wife or a son. Despite the movie having some alteration towards the story the variation only adds the suspense and emotion of the movie. With the death of the son in the movie it gives a different kind of drive for Hugh, rather than to just survive he continues for revenge. The best part of this movie is the acting, the devotion that cast puts into this film it seems as they came straight from the story of Hugh Glass themselves.

The review The New Times gave the Revenant especially praised the actors. How they all seemed to be “mountain men” themselves. After one of the best part of a film is when the actors really do feel like they’re the character themselves. I believe that a good way to tell if an
actor has played their part well, is when you see them outside that movie and all you can see them as is that character. Another important part of a movie is the setting. Although the actual story of Hugh Glass took place in pre-colonized North Dakota, the filming of the movie took place in Alberta, Canada. A movie should have shot that really blow you away with vastness of an area. While at the same time there should also be scenes where the camera is focused in and gives off a more focused vibe. A good movie should be something that you get attached to while it throws you around, with every twist and turn of the plot.

The Revenant does have some drawbacks to it though. Although it is a great movie, it's really something you can only appreciate the first time around. During the second view the suspense is taken out of the film and you begin to see things that don’t make sense. For example the character Glass goes into an abandoned building and reminisces about his dead wife and son. Whereas the son was understandable, the showing of the mother throws one off. The reason for this is because, you are given very little information about her other than the fact that she was an native american and that she was killed. Whereas with the son he was alive with his father, we saw how they lived together what their relationship was like, and we saw him blatantly killed. Now both the mother and the son are ideas unique to the film and don't have anything to do with the actual story of Hugh Glass, but they do succeed in making it seem that Glass has a little more emotion.

The actors and director showed raw devotion when it came to the making of this film. During the filming DiCaprio actually bit into a raw cow liver to get the perfect effect for the scene. The Revenant was also the first movie that DiCaprio was able to get an Oscar for, despite his performance in other movies such as the Titanic, and The Great Gatsby. He wasn’t the only person that had such devotion to the film. Tom Hardy who played the main antagonist John
Fitzgerald, cancelled he one of his rolls in another movie, because of the lack of snow in Alberta, Canada where the movie was shot. Even the actors weren't the only one extremely devoted to this movie. The director Alejandro G. Iñárritu was very impartial to how the movie was shot. He had it so that the movie would have no background CGI, so nothing like green screens or of the short. Although the actual movie did have CGI being that you can’t really let a man be mauled by a bear, to have such stunning scenes of the wilderness with no CGI is amazing. The second thing he had we no unnatural lighting while filming, to someone who doesn't understand filming it seems trivial but it actually extremely important to have the correct light. Even with that tougher filming condition I still think the actors went above and beyond. Both Leonardo DiCaprio and Tom Hardy did an amazing job at playing their characters. DiCaprio as a lonesome mountain man who lost everything, thanks to his acting you can feel sympathy for his characters suffering. Tom Hardy playing a cold-hearted trapper who wants nothing more to get rich and live his own way. Thanks to how Hardy playing this character you could feel hate for Fitzgerald and you could understand his fear once he learned that Glass was coming for him.

What really makes The Revenant stand out from other movies, is the quite yet intense story. Very little is said in the Revenant, but nothing really needs to be said. “A picture is a thousand words”, this a great analogy for this movie. With the scenes and visual managing to grip the audiences attention, it creates a story within the mind of the audience without having to tell them exactly what that story is. Three of the best scenes in the movie consist of nothing but incomprehensible yelling, long groaning, and wailing. Yet they still pull in the attention of audience with just of intensity of the scene. It's truly a thrilling experience and even those who a faint-heart when it comes to movies could enjoy this thriller.
Work Cited

