

ULTIMATE GUIDE TO POPULAR TV AND FILM VIOLENCE

# EMPIRE

September 2019

+ EXCLUSIVE WITH  
ACADEMIC ON VIOLENCE

**In the shadow of the moon**

From infamous serial killer to detective.

## EMPIRE

A thoroughly enjoyable holiday film  
That ,makes the most of its charming cast.

## Screen Rant

A consistently inventive and chucklesome  
Reinvention of the Jumanji concept.

## Times of India

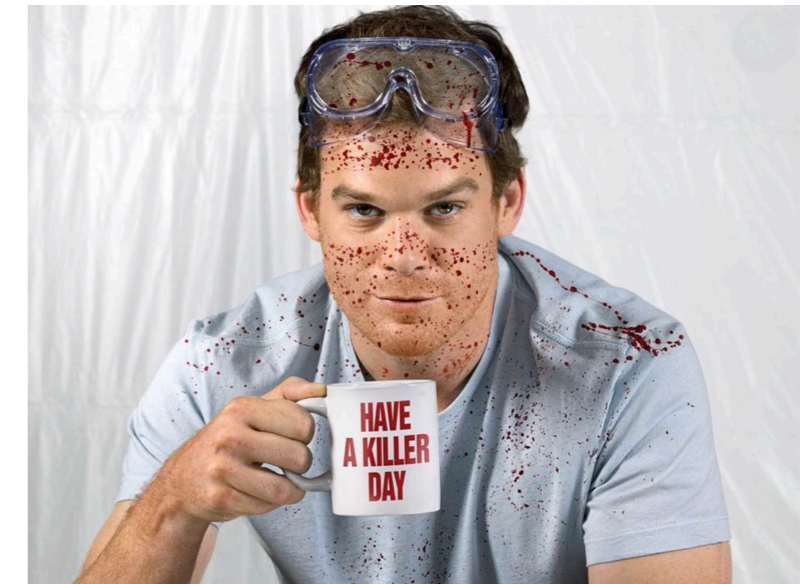
A roller coaster of adventure with good  
Humour. Definitely worth a watch.



# CONTENTS

## FEATURES

- 40 POPULAR TV AND FILM VIOLENCE**  
Exploration into the world of influence  
Influence, linked media to 'real crimes',  
The motives for these 'inspired killings'.  
Popular films such as American Psycho,  
To popular series such as Dexter.
- 52 Q&A with academic Dr. Johnson**  
Exploration into the world of influence  
Media violence enjoyment or threat.  
What measures can be taken to prevent,  
Media influencing real-life violence?
- 56 INTERVIEW WITH MICHAEL C. HALL**  
Delving into the actor, his past as a  
Serial killer character to his casting  
As a detective in the upcoming film,  
In the shadow of the moon.
- 59 EXPOSÉ ON JUMANJI CAST**  
The world of Jumanji from Williams, R  
To a whole new cast from comedian  
Kevin heart, to The 'Rock Johnson',  
Karen Gillian and Jack Black.
- 67 JOKER FUN OR DANGEROUS**  
Fun or Threat, is this new film a  
Threat to its viewers in-surgings them  
With a need for violence in real-life  
A threat to the hierarchy of civilisation.



## PRE.VIEW

- 9 JUMANJI - THE NEXT LEVEL**  
The next iteration in a fun,  
Adventurous and action packed film.  
Will this sequel to the recreation of  
The original film stand up to its  
Success.
- 13 A HIDDEN LIFE**  
A film for the fanatics of the world wars,  
A farmer faces execution for refusing  
To fight for the Nazis during world war  
Two.
- 16 CODE 8**  
From short film, to feature length,  
Both featuring and directed by the  
Amell brothers.

## ON.SCREEN

- 18 IN THE SHADOW OF THE MOON**  
In cinemas now a detective thriller,  
Staring Micheal c. Hall. How well is  
This detective thriller doing in  
Such a thriller genre heavy time.
- 21 RAMBO: LAST BLOOD**  
A last hurrah for a once, and great  
Action icon. For the hardcore fans.  
How is a film faring in the media  
World as it uses the actors  
Previous films fans to get viewings.
- 26 IT CHAPTER TWO**  
How will this sequel compare to its  
Previous films, will it gain the same  
Respect in this 3 hour nerve rattling  
Thriller.

## RE.VIEW

- 29 IN THE SHADOW OF THE MOON**  
From serial killer to detective.  
Cautionary on death, destruction  
And more from this police thriller.
- 34 LIVING WITH YOURSELF**  
An Exploration into the inner conflict  
Between the good and bad parts we  
All contain with in us.
- 38 DAYBREAK**  
The navigation of a post-apocalyptic  
World full of zombies and 'Mad Max'  
- Style gangs, by a teenage outcast  
Searching for his lost love.

# Popular TV And Films Linked to Extreme Violence



## The Matrix (1999)

Sci-fi hit "The Matrix" suggests that the world is merely an illusion controlled by a computer. Since the 1999 release of the first "Matrix" movie, there have been several cases involving violent crime in which attorneys have used "The Matrix defence" on behalf of their clients, saying that the accused believed they were in an alternate reality.

The most famous case was Lee Boyd Malvo, who was convicted of murder for his involvement in the 2002 Washington, D.C.-Area sniper attacks. Malvo was said to be obsessed with the world of blurred realities and mind control portrayed in "The Matrix." In jail, Malvo's fixation continued: he wrote, "Free yourself of The Matrix" in his cell.

"The Matrix defence" worked for Vadim Miesege, a San Francisco man who dismembered his landlady. He told police he acted after he had been "sucked into The Matrix." A judge accepted his plea of not guilty by reason of insanity.

## Top 11 Films linked to extreme violence

Violence is exciting

Violence is fun

Violence is escapism

And so much more, it can inspire 'extreme acts of violence' and has in these popular Films.

## Saw (2004)

The psychopathic serial killer, Jigsaw, from the *Saw* film franchise is one of the most feared villains in Motion Picture history. He has extremely elaborate and gruesome traps that ensnare his victims, as he tortures them with decisions to kill the ones around them to save themselves, or commit self-harm to obtain keys to the traps that are holding them.

A Salt Lake City mother ended up turning in her son and his friend after she overheard them speaking one night about kidnapping, torturing and murdering several people. The two boys went into detail on their plans to construct a Saw-style torture room, to teach people lessons that were harming others. They had mentioned a police officer that they knew, and two middle-school girls, The boys even to procuring cameras and camcorders to document the murders, like Jigsaw would have.



## Scream (1996)

Wes Craven's 1994, *Scream* was a revolutionary look at the genre, and it changed the way these films would be made for decades - and counting. The film was so detailed in its portrayal of murder that one American judge even went on record to say that it was, a "very good source to learn how to kill someone." The film did inspire its fair share of copycat murderers, the most notorious of which was 24-year-old Thierry Jaradin. Jaradin had actually befriended a young teen named Allison Cambier and invited her over to his house.

Once there, he proposed that they engage in intercourse, which she turned down. He then excused himself into another room and he put on the iconic costume. He took two large carving knives, and stabbed Cambier 30 times in a manner befitting the opening scene to the film. He then confessed over the phone to police, and blamed the film for his actions.



## Nightmare on Elm Street (1984)

This famous horror film was later proven to be the inspiration for Daniel Gonzalez's killing spree in 2004. One night, the paranoid schizophrenic consumed a series of drugs and went on an absolute rampage, killing four people in the process, including a doctor and his wife. Gonzalez had armed himself with a series of kitchen knives, as he pretended to be the killer from

*A Nightmare On Elm Street*, Freddy Krueger. The official reports claimed that the young man did not receive the proper treatment for his medical condition, and that's why he acted out the way he did. He was given six life sentences for the murders, as well as two attempted murders that he carried out in England. He ended up committing suicide in his cell in 2007.



### Interview with vampire (1994)

This film was the inspiration for one of the bloodiest crimes on this list (and that's saying quite a bit).

In 1994, a young man named Daniel Sterling ended up seeing Interview With The Vampire with his girlfriend at the time.

The following day, Sterling told her, "I'm going to kill you and drink your blood." At this point, she was probably thinking that this was a bit of a deal-breaker, but she also might have assumed he was joking. He wasn't. That evening, Sterling ended up stabbing her seven times and drinking her blood "for several minutes."

He eventually confessed that the movie certainly influenced his actions, but that he did not blame those actions solely on the film.



### The Dark Knight (2008)

One of Christopher Nolan's most acclaimed films, a pop-culture behemoth today.

In 2010, a Wisconsin man was sentenced to almost a year of jail time after he had broke into his cousin's house and assaulted him while dressed as Gotham's Prince of Crime.

An even crazier incident occurred in 2009, when a young girl assaulted an Indiana High School teacher. The girl ran at the teacher with a razor blade, but only after she had gone to the bathroom and carved the Joker's trademark smile into her face, and applied the Joker's red, white and black makeup.

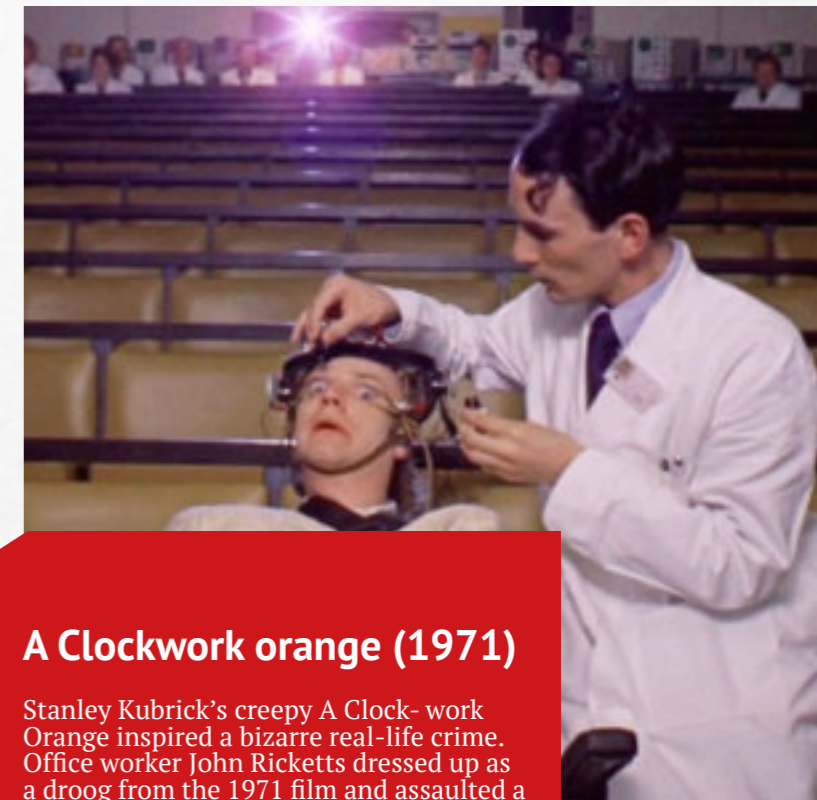


### Fight Club (1999)

Chuck Palahniuk basically wrote his gritty debut novel for David Finicher, It's brilliantly, psychotically dark, and reaches into the mind of a single man until he goes completely insane. The film world built around *Fight Club* was brutally endearing, as it showed a group of men who feel disempowered and disfranchised basically trying to change the world.

(In the worst possible way).

In New York City, on Memorial Day in 2009, a group of men attempted to commit a series of terrorist actions similar to those in the film. They set off homemade bombs in various locations around the city, including a Starbucks. The series of bombings were eventually traced back to Kyle Shaw (Not Robert Paulson), a member of a local "Fight Club" who bragged about the crimes. He clearly didn't pay attention to the first rule.



### A Clockwork orange (1971)

Stanley Kubrick's creepy A Clockwork Orange inspired a bizarre real-life crime. Office worker John Ricketts dressed up as a droog from the 1971 film and assaulted a woman dressed as Little Britain's Vicky Pollard at the party. The movie was banned from UK cinemas because of the increase in violent crimes following its release.

## Natural Born Killers (1994)

One of the most infamous films when it comes to crimes committed because of a single movie. The film portrays a couple on the run from authorities who commit a series of violent and terrible crimes, and have a blast doing so. Two young lovers from Oklahoma set out to enact their own killing spree across the country, and to model their killings after the couple from the film. In March 1995 they began their spree by robbing and shooting the owner of a liquor store, driving to Louisiana to shoot a cashier at a convenience store (who did survive, but was paralysed), and finally returning home to brag to their friends about their exploits. They were soon arrested and sent to jail in 1995. The young man is still serving a life sentence for murder, and the girl, convicted of attempted murder, was released on parole in 2010.



## American Psycho (2000)

In 2004, Micheal Hernandez stabbed his middle-school classmate to death later admitting to modelling his behaviour after the killers in *American psycho* and *silence of the lambs*. He said that he agreed so completely with these killers that he attempted to act out their actions in their respective films.

He believed that God had granted him special powers and had completely agreed with his choice to murder his classmates. The teen boy was convicted of first-degree murder in 2008, after he was discovered with evidence linking him to the crime.

Modelling is an important stage of development, and sometimes when children are at a crucial age and susceptible age, they can pick many different kinds of terrible role-models, and Micheal chose the worst of all.



## Taxi driver (1976)

The attempted assassination President Ronald Regan is probably the most famous crime to have been inspired by a film. At the centre of it all: John Hinckley, Jr., an aspiring songwriter with an unhealthy obsession for the female star of "Taxi Driver," Jodie Foster.

In the 1976 film, Foster plays a 12-year-old prostitute whom cabbie Travis Bickle tries to save. Later in the film, Bickle also attempts to assassinate a senator running for president.

In what he later said was an attempt to gain Foster's attention, Hinckley fired six shots at Reagan as he left a Washington, D.C. Hilton on March 30, 1981. Reagan was injured by one bullet, and his press secretary, James Brady, was hit in the head by another shot. Hinckley, who was later found not guilty by reason of insanity, said that the shooting was "the greatest love offering in the history of the world," and that "Everybody, but everybody knows about John and Jodie."



## Top 3 TV series linked to extreme violence

Violence is realistic

Violence is fitting

Violence is desirable

The act of watching violence in these series has inspired 'extreme acts of violence'.



## American Horror (2011 -)

In August 2016, **Brittney Jade Dwyer** murdered her grandfather, 81-year-old Robert Whitwell. Alongside Dwyer was her 22-year-old friend Bernadette Burns. Together, the two of them planned to do "whatever was necessary" in order to steal Whitwell's life savings of \$110,000.

While Burns stayed in the car waiting, Dwyer walked into the house armed with a knife and rubber gloves. At the beginning of her visit, Dwyer and Whitwell looked through old family photos and videos. The nostalgia got to Dwyer, who reportedly said to Burns over text that she "could not go through with it." Burns responded with encouragement, saying that she must because they had "come all this way." Tragically, Dwyer gave in. Before leaving, she stabbed Whitwell in the chest and neck. As he bled to death on the floor, Dwyer texted Burns "It's done." She started washing dishes until Burns entered the home. While the two searched thoroughly, they could not find the \$110,000, which Whitwell had hidden in his shed.

However, they did steal \$1,000, two digital cameras, and coins. Three days later, Whitwell's body was found. Both women were arrested on August 26 and pleaded guilty. Dwyer was allegedly motivated by the FX anthology series *American Horror Story*.

Dwyer's lawyer, Craig Caldicott, used her fascination with the show as a defence, saying, "The popular series explores humankind's capacity for evil and general obsession with crime and murder." It's unclear what about the show specifically inspired Dwyer. (Each season has a different theme.) In November 2017, Dwyer was sentenced to life in prison with parole possible after 21 years. Burns also received life, with possibility of parole after 13 and a half years.



## Breaking Bad (2008-2013)

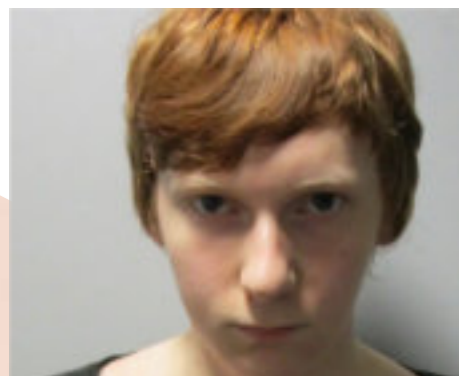
In early 2016, 50-year-old **Stefano Brizzi** through the Grindr dating app, was able to lure in 59-year-old police officer Gordon Semple. The two met at Brizzi's flat in London, where they had invited others for an adult-themed party. While in bed together, Brizzi suddenly began strangling Semple to death. In the middle of this, another invited man showed up. Over the intercom, Brizzi told the man to go home because someone "fell ill." Seconds later, Brizzi finished brutally murdering the unsuspecting Semple. Neighbours reported a "revolting smell" coming from Brizzi's flat. By April 7, it had been reported to the police.

When they visited his flat, they found a bathtub filled with acid and floating "globules of flesh." Brizzi allegedly confessed to using the acid bath in an attempt to dissolve the corpse of Semple, a technique used by main character Walter White in the AMC show *Breaking Bad*. Jurors were told that Brizzi was "obsessed with the show." In his trial, Brizzi would not admit to murder, but he did admit to the attempted disposal of the body.

According to prosecutors, he believed he was ordered by Satan to "kill, kill, kill." Investigators believe that Brizzi's ultimate goal was to eat Semple, saying that he had one of Semple's legs on a roasting tin. Judge Nicholas Hilliard sentenced Brizzi to 24 years to life in prison for the murder, as well as a concurrent seven years for the attempted dissolving of the corpse. In February 2017, HMP Belmarsh confirmed that Brizzi was found dead in their prison, due to suicide by hanging.

## Top 5 real-life killers Inspired by Dexter (2006-2013)

Showtime's hit drama about a serial killer has been mentioned in various real-life murders, as being watched by Individuals to being inspired to kill. By the series, some more extreme than others.



**Steven Miles** 16, was obsessed with Dexter Morgan, he stabbed his 17-year-old girlfriend to death in his bedroom in 2014. He then used tools from his father's tree-cutting business to dismember the body before wrapping the limbs in trash bags. He later confessed to his sister that, "Ed made me do something bad."

Ed was apparently the nagging voice in Steven Miles's head that told him to kill. This time, unfortunately, he listened.

Two years prior, Miles had been under the care of mental health professionals for inflicting self-harm. He was released about a year later, when he seemed to be making good progress. Obviously, that was not the case.

A former girlfriend of Miles told police that he once confided in her that he was going to kill someone. She also stated that he had tried to strangle her at one point.



**Andrew Conley** fantasised about killing people since eighth grade and told his girlfriend he wanted to be just like Dexter.

In 2010, he admitted to holding his ten-year-old brother in a choke hold while they were wrestling and then dragging him in to the kitchen once he passed out. Andrew then proceeded to strangle his brother for 20 minutes and wrap his head in two plastic bags. If that wasn't enough, he repeatedly banged his brother's head on the ground before loading him in the trunk of his car.

After doing so, he drove to his girlfriend's house and gave her a promise ring, his brother's corpse still in the trunk. He later disposed of the body in a park.



**Maartens Van Der Merwe And Chane Van Heerden**, an engaged couple never missed an episode of Dexter and were reportedly drawn to crime novels and the macabre.

When they decided to move onto larger prey after practicing on cats, they found a victim through Facebook. Chane lured him to a cemetery with the promise of a date. He was brutally attacked and murdered by the couple when he showed up. Maartens and Chane beheaded him and removed his right arm and both legs. They buried his torso in a shallow grave.

When police searched the couple's home, they found the victim's head in the refrigerator, along with his eyes and ears. Most macabre of all, they found the facial skin, which had been removed so carefully that it could have been confused as a mask. A poem written by Chane was very telling: "I will tear off their faces to see the truth."



**Mark Twitchell** A well liked filmmaker chose a path of darkness.

The Most well-known of these killers, and his story reads like a well-written Hollywood horror movie. He was a well liked, aspiring filmmaker who seemed to have a very promising future. Instead of choosing the path that would lead him to that future, he chose one that led to death, darkness, and destruction. One intended victim was fortunate to escape his fate. The second was not so lucky.

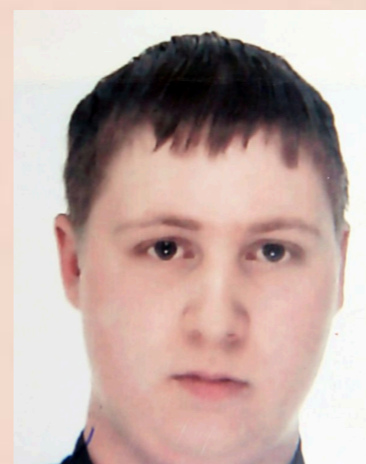
Twitchell was a devoted fan of Dexter and would talk about it often. He posted as him on Facebook and made an eight-minute film called House of Cards, which was a Dexter spoof.

He also wrote a story entitled "SK Confessions," which began with the following statement: "This story is based on true events. The names and events were altered slightly to protect the guilty. This is the story of my progression into becoming a serial killer."

A Chilling quote from Twitchell's diary: My kill room was perfectly prepped. Plastic sheeting taped together and around my table; a large green cloth screwed into the drywall ceiling to shield view of it from my guest's line of sight, and to shield me too of course.

'I now stood but a few feet away from the front door which I had locked of course. The plan was to wait in the shadow of my curtain until he approached the door and shock him with the stun baton followed by a sleeper hold that would sap away his consciousness so that I could tape him up and set him on my table.'

Police believed, the motive was to experience killing another person so that he could make a more authentic serial killer movie.



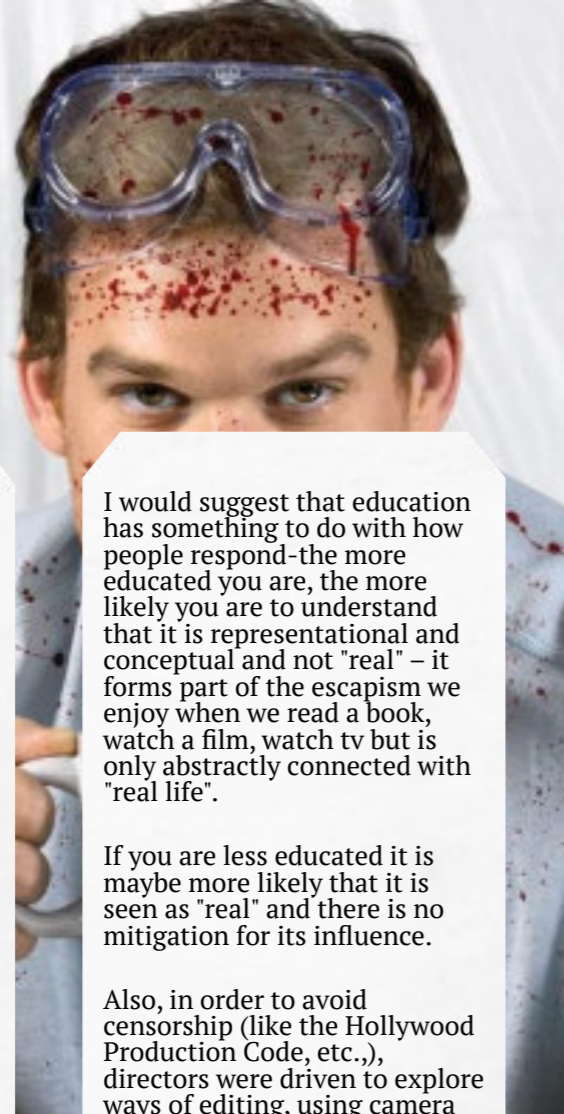
**Mark Howe** wanted to smoke pot, but his mom said no. So he stabbed her 53 times in the face, mouth, throat, and chest.

Mark consistently isolated himself in his room to play violent video games and became obsessed with TV serial killer Dexter Morgan. He began researching the kind of knives that Dexter used, checked out a "kill bag" online, and studied what type of knives should go in it. He became so obsessed with knives that he would stab things in his room to take out his rage toward his mother.

After the 2013 murder, Mark didn't quite know what to do with himself. He told an online friend that he killed someone and then sent a photo of his bloody shoes when the friend didn't believe him. He visited two CARE homes where he was employed and ultimately admitted to a colleague, and his sister, that he had killed his mother.



# Q&A



A view on the world of media violence, its influences, potential causes and effects with Academic

**Dr. Jan Johnson Smith'**

## What is your opinion on media violence?

I don't really have an "opinion" as such: however, the Media can distort violence and TV media in particular because it is located domestically, i.e. inside the house, and thus risks becomes accepted as normal, since TV itself is ubiquitous (check out John Ellis: TV in the Age of Uncertainty and Seeing Things).

There is the danger of desensitisation to violence if it is "normalised" therefore in order to surprise or shock an audience the narrative of violence can run to greater and greater extremes. TV is also associated with fetish-returning to something for gratification repeatedly (like watching a soap opera or reality show.)

In film, it is slightly different, as you leave the house and although it is still associated with sexual gratification and fetish can still apply, but the thing is you are immersed in it in a different way-the audience experience differs. Gunter, B., Harrison, J. and Wykes, M. (2003)

## What influence is media violence having?

Well there is masses of material out there talking about connections between violent scenes and violent acts. On one level, very simply, someone has written the script and thought up the violence in the first place, so with or without TV or film it can be created in literature, or art. However, because film has a nostalgic quality about it, and tv is domestic and ubiquitous, the dissemination of that thought or image is more profound and far-reaching.

I would suggest that education has something to do with how people respond-the more educated you are, the more likely you are to understand that it is representational and conceptual and not "real" - it forms part of the escapism we enjoy when we read a book, watch a film, watch tv but is only abstractly connected with "real life".

If you are less educated it is maybe more likely that it is seen as "real" and there is no mitigation for its influence.

Also, in order to avoid censorship (like the Hollywood Production Code, etc.), directors were driven to explore ways of editing, using camera angles, stylisation and mise-en-scène as a functional means to cheat the regulatory requirements. Therefore, he argues, and i would agree, that the films of the classical age were responsible for the ultra-violence films of the 70s and onwards.

Would Tarantino exist without Peckinpah and classic Hollywood? No! Modernist films owe their style to their classical roots and vice versa, postmodernist filmstoo-so it is a thread which can be traced back to the origins of cinema.

In fact, further, you can locate it in "carnival and the carnivalesque. In Rabelais and his World, Bakhtin explores "folk-humour" in carnival - a when everything (except arguably violence) is permitted. If you expand this, you have violence too. The masks, the make-up, the stylisation-look at a clown and look at Joker in its various incarnations.

## Media Effects/Influence?

As above, there would be other forms of art which represent violence, albeit differently and these can have an effect on people.

It can be positive and uplifting or, dangerous or a myriad of things in between. Who hasn't tried to use a great line from a film with their mates?! I suppose the Structuralist notion of good or bad is problematic, it is too rigid: there are a variety of responses from an audience on every experience of a film or Tv and they are mostly in the "neutral" area-only some end up being overpowering and thus negative. Look at the fracas over Blue Story recently-it stirs up all sorts of cultural issues: race, class, audience perceptions, etc.

## Dose media violence cause violence in cases such as dexter, or are there more factors such as pre-existing conditions?

Yes I do. I love Dexter but i have yet to murder someone as part of my serial killer instincts!!



We're back to how audience read things again, and also I suspect the educational level, plus, as you have suggested, emotional/psychological conditions. Anything can be aggravated by anything in the right circumstances- the "perfect storm" if you will. Lacan, Metz, Freud and Jung have all written extensively about this. Laura Mulvey's classic writing on the male gaze and fetish/power (Visual And Other Pleasures). Peeping Tom (1960) is a great film about this.

Hitchcock's Strangers on a Train is useful too, shows the woman being segmented and disempowered by how the male (and the audience) looks at her because of how she is framed.

## What is your opinion on the "watershed" with the increase of subscription services such as Netflix and Amazon prime?

It's a sort of gentleman's agreement, to use an old fashioned phrase, so it only works if everyone Signs up to it. But all of the questions you ask point to the fact that people respond in different ways according to their experience, nature/nurture etc.

## What do you think about "Subscription Services" amount of uncensored content with no form of a "watershed"?

I think regulation needs to be looked at across the board. It irritates me when films are censored because I will decide whether to watch or not, but equally, you can't have Tarantino flicks on at 2pm for 7 year old to see.

## What do you think about society's desire for violence?

The more civilised we pretend we are, the more we need an outlet for our primal urges.

Colonisation is violence, globalisation is violence.... Sexualisation is violence.

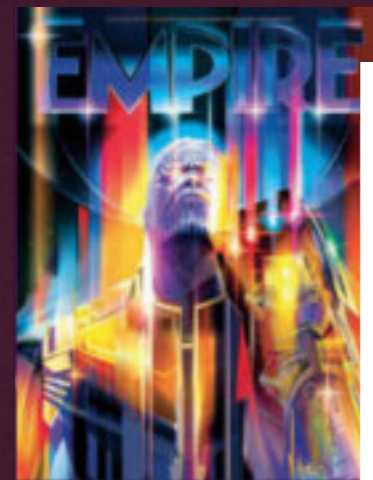
So we are back to education. Fairy stories are violent, myths and legends are violent. <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Killing-Monsters-ChildrensMake-believe-Violence/dp/0465036961> Interesting arguments in here.

Also it depends on what you are terming as "violence" - psychological violence can be far worse than visual violence. There is a fabulous scene in Anthony Mann's The Man From Laramie (1955) where James Stewart gets shot in the hand. You don't see it; you just hear the shot and see his face. It's worse than some of the most visceral images you can think of.

Yet again, being a film theory person, I slowed down the hell scenes from Paul Anderson's 1997 Event Horizon and wished I hadn't, because just like the people in the film, I had gone "too far." They gave me nightmares for ages.

The watershed is nominally a good idea, but it is harder and harder to regulate as different platforms emerge for viewing content, and the global community is evermore intertwined so what is ok for 11 year olds in the UK is not the same as in Spain or Chile, or China.

# ONLY £7.95 per issue £3 cheaper than in shops



Become a subscriber  
And get a hold of  
These limited edition  
Covers as well.

Savings based on original price of £10.95. For Terms and Conditions, visit [www.magshop.com.au/](http://www.magshop.com.au/). Please see contents page for location of our Privacy Notice. If you do not want personal information provided to any organisation not associated with this offer, please indicate This clearly at the time of order or notify the promotor in writing, Order valid from 08/08/2019. After the first issue, the subscription will automatically renew and be billed as £7.95 every issue (monthly). Subscription renews unless cancelled.

