CLEAN SHAVEN

Clean,Shaven   *Favorite*

Genre: Drama   **Year: 1994   Rating: R (NR)**

Actors: Peter Greene, Alice Levitt, Megan Owen

Topics: Schizophrenia, Forensic

This accurate and graphic film depicts life through the eyes of an untreated paranoid schizophrenic searching for his daughter. It does contain some short footage which many may find difficult to watch, but is in keeping with the presentation of psychosis. I found that looking away during these moments did not alter my appreciation of the film. This is one of those odd, independent films which one must "figure out" as it goes along. High on symbolism - be sure to notice the mother's clothing in relation to the setting around her. I find that this film demonstrates beautifully the communication deficits often present in these families - the mother character suggests the now disproved "schizophrenogenic mother" theory, or may be consistent with a strong genetic component to schizophrenia. The depiction of perceptual illusions/hallucinations is very well done. A short film, but one which truly gives a sense of the world view and experiences of a schizophrenic. [Submitted by Peter Lilliengren, Stockholm University, Sweden]

Abnormal Psychology in Film
(http://cwx.prenhall.com/bookbind/pubbooks/morris2/chapter13/medialib/class/2.html)

Abnormal behavior is a consistently popular subject for feature films; practically every disorder ever discovered has been portrayed at one time or another. For this assignment, ask students to write a paper analyzing a character's illness in terms of the theoretical perspectives (e.g., biological, psychoanalytic, cognitive-behavioral, biopsychosocial) presented in Chapter 13. Students should include in their paper a description of the character's diagnosis in terms of the DSM-IV and a discussion of which perspective of mental illness best explains the development of the character's symptoms. If applicable, students should describe any treatment received by the character and also comment on whether they would recommend a similar or different treatment. All of the films suggested below contain excellent depictions of psychological disorder and should make good choices for this assignment. Note that a few of the films are also noteworthy for their portrayal of the therapeutic process; thus, these are listed in the next chapter as well.

Clean, Shaven (1995). Peter Greene stars in this haunting, disturbing look at the world through the eyes of a schizophrenic. Writer/director Lodge Kerrigan masterfully captures the disorientation, confusion, and paranoia of the protagonist's world as he searches fitfully for his daughter. Along the way we share his frustrations at simple tasks such as making a sandwich or pouring sugar in his coffee. We also witness his self-mutilation as he tries to pry a misperceived transmitter/receiver set from his scalp and thumb. A good film for generating discussion. (Orion Home Video; 80 min).

Psychology 280 (Abnormal Psychology)
Instructor: Chris Larson (larson37@msu.edu)

Throughout the semester, we will talk about how psychopathology is portrayed in our society and how this affects the lives of those with mental illnesses. Because most people don't have expertise in abnormal psychology, public perceptions about psychopathology are strongly influenced by the media, including popular movies. Information presented in the media can be sympathetic and enlightening, or can perpetuate the stigma often associated with mental illness. This stigma limits opportunities for individuals with mental illnesses and often prevents them from seeking appropriate help. For this assignment, you will critically evaluate the accuracy of a portrayal of mental illness in a popular film. In your paper, you will provide a comprehensive diagnosis of the character with the disorder, and discuss his/her symptoms, potential for treatment, and prognosis. You will also consider the positive and negative messages the movie gives the public about people with this disorder, as well as the mental health profession in general. Finally, and most importantly, evaluate how accurately the movie's depiction of the given form of psychopathology was based on what you've learned about the disorder**.** This paper should be 2-3 pages long, double-spaced (1 inch margins, 12 point font) and will count for 25 points (5% of your grade). The paper is due on Wednesday, April, 21. If you are not in class I must receive your paper in my mailbox (in Snyder Hall) or via email by 10:00am on April 21 or your paper will be considered late and a 1.0 deduction will be made (meaning the highest grade you can receive on that paper is 20/25 points or a 3.0).

Film Analysis Questions used for Psy 280 *Psychology in Film* course

Brooke J. Cannon, Ph.D.

For every film analysis, students answered the following questions:

- What did you like about the film?
- What did you dislike about the film?

Questions for A Beautiful Mind, Canvas, Shine, Revolution #9, and Clean, Shaven

- Discuss the presence of positive and negative symptoms. What type of schizophrenia do you think the character had?
- Discuss how the symptoms of schizophrenia were presented. What film methods were used to show psychosis?
- What do you think of the movie's portrayal of schizophrenia? Did it seem accurate? Did it perpetuate stigma associated with schizophrenia?