

FM4 - VARIETIES OF FILM EXPERIENCE

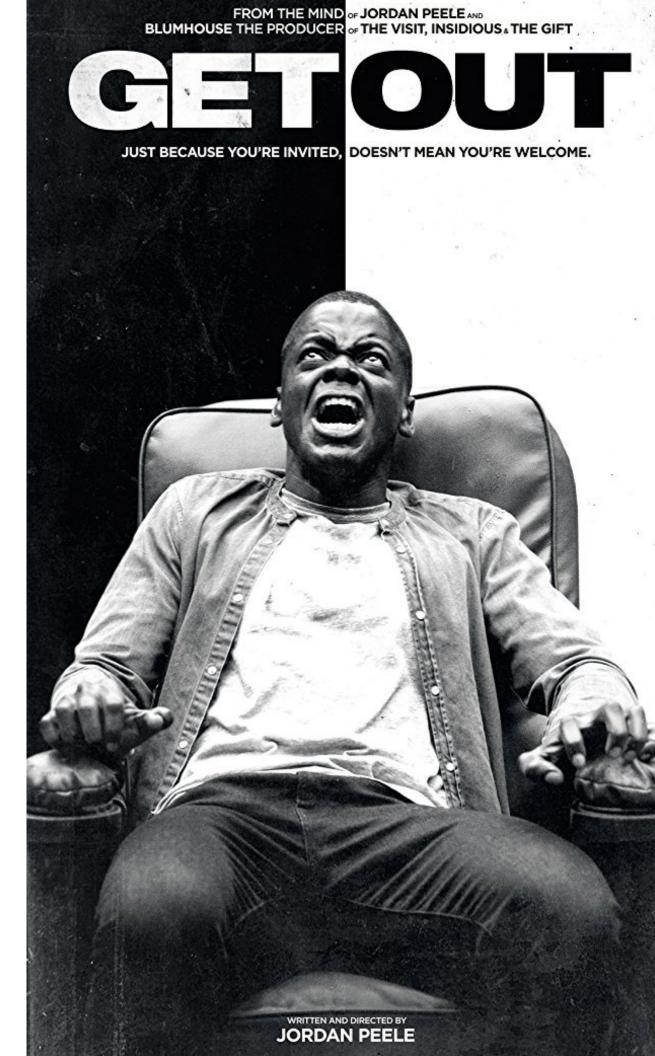
Issues and Debates

SECTION B
SPECTATORSHIP

Popular Film and Emotional Response

GET OUT

Dir. Jordan Peele, 2017, Universal Pictures





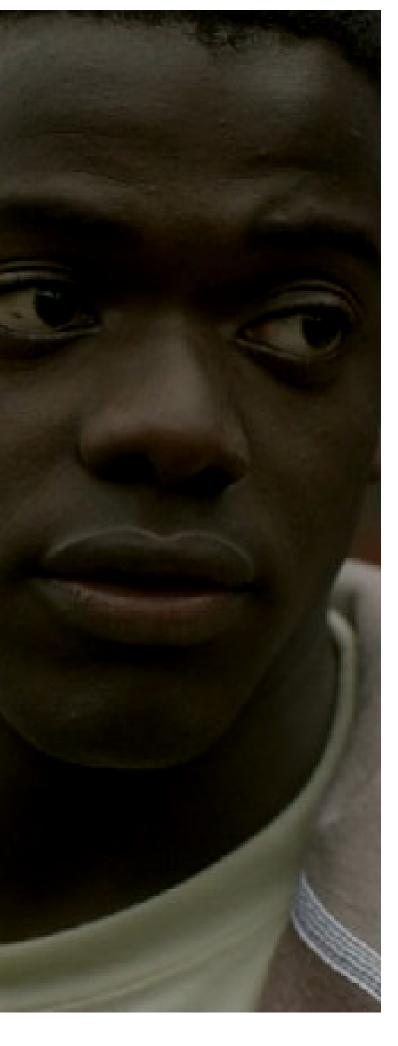
CONTEXT

The directorial debut of Jordan Peele, better known for the Key & Peele comedy show, *Get Out* was made for a budget of \$4.5 million. It grossed \$254,663,534. It has been nominated for 4 Academy Awards: Best Picture, Best Director, Best Original Screenplay and Best Actor. It is 99% fresh on Rotten Tomatoes. *Get Out* is the first film directed by a Black person that has earned more than \$100 million with his debut.

GENRE & NARRATIVE

- **1.** How does this film subvert typical roles for Black people in Horror films?
- **2.** Does this film conform to conventions of the Horror film?
- **3.** The Golden Globes nominated *Get Out* for Best Motion Picture Musical or Comedy. Why do you think they did this?
- **4.** The director describes the film as a Social Thriller. What do you think this means?
- **5.** The original ending for the film involved Chris being arrested by the Police what would have been the impact of this ending?





"To call it the most important movie of the year so far makes it sound possibly rather worthy. That's not true at all. *Get Out* is a comment on a highly complex situation that's also a total blast."

(Empire, March 2017)

STEREOTYPES

- **6.** Does a reading of this film depend on the race of the audience?
- **7.** What characterizes the racism on display in *Get Out*? Does this subvert typical ideas about racists?
- **8**. How does the film confront stereotypes about black people in the characters of the house servants?
- **9.** How does the Sunken Place work as a metaphor for Black people's lives in the USA?
- **10**. Does the film suggest that white liberals fetishise Black people?
- **11**. What place does cotton play in the film? Why is this significant?

TECHNIQUE

- **12.** What techniques are used to instill fear and foreboding in the audience?
- **13**. How are eyes & cameras used in the film? What do they symbolise?
- **14**. How is sound used, both diegetic and non-diegetic?
- **15.** What elements of editing are used?
- **16.** Are these techniques typical of the genre?

Jordan Peele on making a hit comedy-horror movie out of America's racial tensions

Drawing on a horror tradition that owes a great deal to the novelist Ira Levin – in particular the cinematic adaptations *Rosemary's Baby* and *The Stepford Wives – Get Out* looks at the experience of a young black man, played by the British actor Daniel Kaluuya, when he is introduced to his white girlfriend's parents. It's by turns tense, funny and terrifying. And in an era of Donald Trump and Black Lives Matter, it taps into America's racial tensions in the most unsettling and yet compelling fashion.

But Peele, an affable and highly articulate proponent of his work, had the idea for the film back when Trump was just a less confrontational Alan Sugar, and Black Lives Matter was yet to be founded. "The genesis for the film was when Obama was elected and there was this sentiment that we can stop talking about race now because we've just solved the problem," he tells me on the phone from Los Angeles. "We are now living in a system where racism is involved with policy. We've left the era where people were trying to pretend that race doesn't exist."

Peele himself is biracial. He was brought up by his white mother in New York City, and had hardly any contact with his black father, who died 18 years ago. He told Zadie Smith that he thought race was an "absurdity" and it was "crazy" to define children in terms of their racial identity.

- From https://www.theguardian.com/film/2017/mar/04/jordan-peele-interview-get-out-its-about-purging-our-fears-horror-film-daniel-kaluuya