

The Settlers High School presents

The Living Dead

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For

The Ubuntu Film Festival

With:

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About the story:

This film tells the story of a teenage boy's, Jason, struggle through life after his younger brother passes away in an unfortunate car accident. Jason is haunted by this accident through horrific nightmares and has slowly lost his will to even be present in the life of opportunities that lies before him. He just goes about his day in a dejected and mournful manner until the depressing routine of his day is jarred upon the sight of his brother's ghost before him...

This film was drawn from my own experiences of hopelessness and feelings of universal displacement. It's purpose is to make us look at the types of lives we, as human-beings, are living today and to make one think about whether or not we are truly living life to its fullest capacity.

Short character sketch:

Jason: +/- 16 years old
Older brother to Hayden
Doesn't speak much as a result of his brother's accident
Walks slouched as though life has been sucked out of him
Broody in nature
Physically well-built, medium height

Hayden: +/- 10 years old
Jason's younger brother
Warm personality and engaging smile
Scruffy but not dirty (this shows how active a kid he is)
Moves with confidence

The Script

- There is blank/black screen. We hear the heavy breathing of a person.
- A low angled wide shot of a boy playing with a spinning top/remote-controlled airplane in the street. (We can still hear the panting softly in the background.)
- Enter a pair of shoes (from side). They pause in front of the camera pointing towards the boy in the street. We then go to a wide shot of Jason, the owner of the pair of feet. There is then a close-up of Jason's face as he looks at his brother, Hayden. He smiles, calls out to him and tells him that he is off to the tuck-shop. His brother acknowledges this with "Ok." and carries on playing. Jason, now satisfied, walks on to the down the road.
- When the boy returns, he sees a man standing over something lying in the street outside his house. Jason hesitates for a moment and then starts to walk up the road because he can sense that something's wrong. When Jason calls out to the man, the man runs into his car (at the side of the road) and speeds off. As Jason makes his way up the road, there is a close up of Jason's facial expression (which should change from suspicious to confused and ultimately shocked). As his face changes from one look to the next, the background panting must increase. We then see various still-shots of the brother's lifeless body. This sequence ends with a close-up of Jason's face as he drops down to his knees. We see his mouth slowly form into a scream, but before the sound comes out, Jason wakes up from the 'nightmare' panting.
- Aerial shot of Jason in bed trying to catch his breath, he is drenched with sweat. When he sits up we see the credits on the pillow-case and sheets.
- Eye-level shot of Jason as he swings his feet over the side of the bed and then looks at the picture of him and Hayden on his bedside table. He gets up, puts a t-shirt on, walks to his bedroom door, pauses with hand on door-knob, exits and then closes the door. (Depending on the amount of credits, we could have some put on his shirt and behind the door)

- We now cross to a scene outside where we see high school students in uniform (shot from Jason's point of view in fast sweeping movements). We then have an eye-level shot of Jason standing at the entrance of the school. He breathes in deeply, drops his head and walks in to start his day.
- We have a long angled shot of Jason walking down the corridors amongst the other students and then the bell rings.
- Eye-level shot of Jason as he enters a classroom already filled with students. The teacher looks at him and says, "You're late." (This is a pun to emphasize the theme of film). She then hands him a test paper and gestures to him that he may sit down.
- When Jason turns around to go to his seat, he catches a glimpse of his brother standing outside the classroom window. He pauses with a shocked expression on his face and is about to say something when the teacher interrupts him and tells him to sit down. When Jason turns back, his brother is no longer there and so, cautiously, he gets to his seat and sits down.
- Shot of clock to show how time goes by and then an angled shot, from behind/over Jason's shoulder, of his empty answer sheet. We hear the teacher's footsteps as she approaches his desk.
- When she sees the blank page she gives Jason a questioning look which turns to a glower when Jason says, "I thought I'd save you the trouble." with a deadpan/defeated tone and expression. She then takes in his script.
- Next scene, outside: Jason bursts out of the school doors in anger and then takes a breath while lifting his head to the sky.
- Close-up: when he brings his head down, a look of shock spreads onto his face.
- We then see a long shot of Hayden sitting on an embankment across from where Jason is standing. Hayden smiles warmly.
- Jason, obviously spooked, tries to walk away from his brother but when he turns to leave, he bumps into Hayden who has somehow transported himself into Jason's path.

- As Jason backs away, with a terrified expression on his face, the following dialogue ensues:

Jason: "You're not supposed to be here."

Hayden: *(baffled)* "Why not?"

Jason: *(Incredulous)* "You're dead!"

Hayden: *(laughs)* "Look who's talking!"

Jason stops retreating

Jason: *(Confused)* "What?"

Hayden: "You aren't living yourself"

Jason is dumfounded.

- We end off with Jason's shell-shocked expression.
- Black-out.