

GET OUT

In 2017, comedy legend and actor, Jordan Peele made his directional debut with the academy award winning, horror film, *Get Out*. Peele wrote this film with the intention to cause controversy and stir, to raise awareness for the struggles black people experience in modern day America. Peele also mentions in an interview that some of the incidents in the film, mirror struggles he has experienced whilst being an African American in America.

In this film, we meet main character Chris, and his girlfriend Rose. It should be mentioned that Chris is black, and Rose is white. The first scene we see in this film, instantly shows the racial prejudice and profiling as a young black man is walking alone in an unknown neighbourhood, and he notices he is being followed by a car. As he realises the car is following him, he turns around. A white man in a mask then appears behind him and carries him to the car. This scene previews the intensity and thrill this film has to offer, whilst also introducing the racial issues the film spotlights.

Despite wanting to create a horror and thriller, the intensity is slightly relieved by the main character's best friend, Rod. His character acts as the comedic relief throughout the film. So, we can see that Peele has also included his comedic background in this film, using a character as an outlet to the thrill and tension throughout the film. Peele mentions in an interview, he didn't want to create a comedy or have any obvious comedy through the film, as he wanted to keep the focus on the main plot and issues in the film. However, said that through Rod, could add some light-hearted lines to the film. I believe Rod was a good outlet in this film, despite not having a main part throughout the film, remained very important as the film is full of ongoing plots and twists that keep you engaged, so his character acts as a breather to the intense plot.

Main character Chris asks Rose in one of the opening scenes, before they go to visit Rose's parents in their house upstate, whether they know that he's black. Rose seems confused as to why he has asked this, yet we later see Chris feeling extremely uncomfortable in the family house. Rose's family live in a very liberal, white neighbourhood. Chris notices the black house-keeper



and the black gardener, and their strange behaviour. This ends up making him feel even more uneasy, as he realises something is not quite right in this house.

This 2017 film is still relevant, if not more so, three years on in 2020. After some of the tragic events we have seen in 2020 regarding black people and their rights. For example, the George Floyd case, where the man was arrested and then killed by police officers after struggling for his life as they knelt on his neck. This case flagged up huge riots and protests all around the world, as the world was horrified by the way in which this man had been treated. However, this is not uncommon, for black people to be prejudiced and profiled by police, and others in society. Sparking up the Black Lives Matter movement (BLM). The movement, BLM, is fighting for freedom, liberation and justice. This film is almost more relevant now, as the events that took place in the film reflect the white privilege and the issues black people are facing. For example, in the film we see Chris is asked for his ID by a police officer after Rose hits a deer and calls them for help. This is significant as it is the harsh reality for black people when dealing with issues like this – prejudice, profiling and biased behaviour from the other people.

This film includes many shocking and controversial scenes, to inform and educate people of the shocking reality for black people, whilst also providing a gripping and thought-provoking film for the audience.