

Chapter 7 - Mastering Your Genre - Quiz

1. What is successful about Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind?

Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind is successful by cause of the great screenwriter, Charlie Kaufman. He was able to take two very different genres, sci-fi memory-thriller, and romantic comedy, and mash them together into an amazing film. Kaufman was able to blend the two genres so well together, resulting in something that has not been seen on screen before.

2. Name three famous remakes that are not thought of as remakes.

Three very famous remakes that are not thought of as remakes are The Thing, Scarface, and The Magnificent Seven. A very small amount of people are aware that these films are remakes from either foreign, or past films. The Thing is a remake from the 1951 film 'The Thing From Another World', Scarface is a remake from the original 1932 version, and The Magnificent Seven is a fantastic remake of the 1954 film 'Seven Samurai'.

3. What is the key to good genre mashing?

The key to good genre mashing is finding two or more genres, dissecting them and finding what works best in them, and putting those two or more together to create your own original multi-genre film. Another key to good genre mashing is to study good and bad films that do exactly that. Quentin Tarantino's Kill Bill Vol. 1 and 2 are great examples of how to properly genre-mash. An example of how not to genre mash can be seen in the 1979 film Moonraker. Looking closely at both of these films and seeing what works and what doesn't will help with genre-mashing for yourself in the future.

4. Come up with your own “genre-mashing” idea, and write a one page synopsis for it.

A horror/comedy/slasher mockumentary about paranormal investigators observing the spirit of a teenage girl who died in the early 2000s.

Matt and Lisa Jones, famous paranormal investigators, are on their strangest case yet. The ghost fighting couple are used to paranormal entities that passed in early years such as the 18-1900s. But in this documentary, the Jones’ take on an eerie case following the death of 16 year old Mackenzie Lockwood, who died in 2004.

In this chilling investigation, Matt and Lisa find themselves being haunted by unplugged cd players blaring Brittany Spears at 3am and talking Furbies mysteriously placed around the house when no one is home.

The worst part Matt and Lisa discovered is, if you make a reference to any pop-star or actor who made it big after Mackenzie passed, there will be a loud, disturbing shriek that shakes the house. Because Mackenzie is only limited to staying in the house where she died, she does not know common movie references or famous actors like we do. This terrifies her.

The film crew following the Jones’ on this terrifying case are film students Megan and Patrick. Before this, these two film students had only ever made very bad short films which were spoofs of popular, classic movies. But this is a game changer for them and they know it. The paranormal investigation and film crew must stay overnight in the Lockwood house to document and understand what they are working with.

This chilling documentary sadly turns dark when the few members of the crew start to die disturbing, messy deaths that leave clues on how to lay Mackenzie’s spirit at rest for good.