

Film: Psycho, by Alfred Hitchcock

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People have been looking behind their shower curtain when they enter the bathroom ever since *Psycho* swirled its way into movie theaters in 1960. This irrational fear of lurkers in the bath and scary psyches began with the first ever slasher film: *Psycho* by Alfred Hitchcock. Throughout the years, *Psycho* never lost its potency as the movie that created the horror genre as we know it. The low-budget “just for fun” film project that Hitchcock had originally intended as his last “kick” in his career as a director changed the entire business and ended up being Hitchcock’s defining piece. Pre-[Psycho](#) scary movies had been slow in pace and conservative in content. *Psycho*’s director, Alfred Hitchcock, knew what the ‘norm’ was for filming because he had in the business for more than twenty years, but he wanted to break them. *Psycho* has been completely unforgettable since the 1960’s because of Hitchcock’s disregard of Hollywood’s rules of cinematography, revolutionary scoring, and never-before-seen yet realistic and creative filming techniques; Hitchcock did not create only a ‘scary’ movie, he created a new genre of fear that has had an effect on the film industry ever since.

Psycho is a successful classic because of the twists, turns, and originality it brought to the table due to Hitchcock’s creativity and disdain for the ideal scary movie at that time, thus creating something totally new. Before *Psycho*, films had consisted of flat lining stories with static characters and a happy ending. In the words of Whitty, “‘*Psycho*’ marked

a...turning point...Here was a Hollywood movie which...refused to follow any of the Hollywood rules" (5). The pacing and use of characterization was completely new to audiences worldwide. Psycho tears apart any possible ...

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...w creativity of Hitchcock's Psycho, people would not check behind their shower curtains after entering the bathroom, and cinema would be a lot more boring.

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