

torture porn horror



“Heed my warning: do not proceed. For this room can either be your sanctuary, or it can be your grave.”

~ Jigsaw, *Saw V* (2008)

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- **Torture Porn** horror revives the tradition of *the opened body* made popular by the slasher subgenre, however, these films seek to push the boundaries by staging “seemingly realistic acts of maiming and murder, often with a focus on torture and sadism” (Collura, 1).



Excessive violence in *The Devil's Rejects* (2005)



Realistic violence in *Wolf Creek* (2005)

- They are characterized as “pornographic” because of their excessive depictions of nudity and violence. The spectator is forced to “dwell on the actual details of incisions (and) body parts being cut off,” calling attention to the vulnerability of the human body (ibid, 3).

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- Contrary to the prototypical slasher, torture porn films offer no point of identification for the spectator.
- Narrative is secondary to the staging of horrific events.



Lack of spectator identification in *Saw* (2004)

- Without any significant character to identify with, the spectator is positioned to endure an experience of pure torture and violence.

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- The intensity of the torture porn film brings the spectator back to an awareness of the body and the senses.



Organ theft in *Turistas* (2006)



Mutilating the body in *Hostel II* (2007)

- It creates a safe and cathartic experience by evoking events that are “visible and part of historical reality, but then also in a certain sense invisible” (Collura, 5).

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Hostel



Written & Directed by
Eli Roth

Lions Gate Films
(2005) 94 mins.

Scott Collura. "Torture Porn: When Good Times Go Bad," July 12, 2007.

<http://movies.ign.com/articles/804/804194p1.html>