

Brian Bass

Outline for Paper

1. "Do you believe that life does end, or may end, at death? Everyone who believes that death may be the end should read the following essay from cover to cover. It represents a serious attempt to identify what may be a critical flaw in the foundation of many modern philosophies. It will help those who study Nihilism, Rationalism, Humanism, Agnosticism, and Existentialism, recognize questions that are probably already on their minds. It will address essential questions that you need to seek answers for. We will suggest that, whether they realize and admit it or not, anyone who does not believe in an "afterlife" is necessarily a 'nihilist'" (Davis, 17).

"I'm not sure if there is life after this mess" (Garland, 56)

What one of the operatives in the film is saying is basically a nihilist statement. That statement can be summarized by the frame quote I am using here. I feel that 28 Days Later is very nihilistic in theory because of the whole pessimistic, philosophical attitude toward the end of the world.

2. "Please note that for 'time' we adopt the common temporal measure that is derived in special relativity from physical state evolution, the 'time' that we see measured by the hands of our analog watches. We will see that this "time" is not present in general relativity, and that a temporal variable is probably not a fundamental part of the universe. When we refer to 'time' we are using a popular convention for describing the causal order of sequential events, however we believe that the underlying reality is much more complex. We refer to clocks and the time they measure because they are familiar and comfortable, that does not mean that we accept the general belief that what they measure has an independent reality" (Stevens, 66).

"If you think about it, humans have only been around for a blink of an eye. So when we all die out, that is a turn back to normality" (Garland, 89).

The theory of time being irrelative is established in 28 Days Later. When the whole world is in catastrophe, time seems to be of little importance. I want to make a point about how meaningless time really is and how we do not need our system of calculating time to define anything, which is essentially another nihilist philosophy.

3. "We don't need a government, we are animals, we should be able to survive on our own by whatever means necessary" (Luc-Besson, 169).

"JIM

Where is the government?

STEVE

There is no government, everybody's dead!

JIM

What do you mean there is no government? There is always a government!”(Garland,32)

These quotes will be perfect for analyzing the human beings reliability on one another. Is it really necessary for humans to live with each other in order to survive? Do we need a government? These anarchist/nihilist ideas will be great to apply to the context of 28 Days Later because this film deals with all these ideas and questions about our society.

4. “It’s survival at it’s best; human nature; a disease” (Niccol,167).

You know what I see? I see people killing people; and I saw that the day before yesterday and the day before that and all of my life. It’s just people killing people (Garland 95).

This great quote from Gattaca will work well with the quote from 28 Days Later because they both deal with the idea of humans being almost in a sense a virus or an illness that spreads. This will be helpful when I talk about human nature and then possibly connect this to Darwinism.

5. “A hybrid of a **George A. Romero** genre thriller via **Kubrickian** morality tale with a turgid taste of black humor mix into a highly intoxicating cocktail of lurid emotionally fused melodrama. A rare treat: **horror movie and social fable** intertwined” (Yulin, 653).

A highlighted these three parts because they all are essential to proving my theses. **George A. Romero**- I highlighted this cult horror filmmaker because he was the one who inspired Alex Garland and Danny Boyle to make 28 Days Later. Romero revolutionized the zombie film genre when he made such classics as Night of the Living Dead and Dawn of the Dead.

Kubrickian- In allusion to Stanley Kubrick, one the great directors of all time, who has made such classics as Full Metal Jacket and 2001: A Space odyssey. For any film to be coined “Kubrickian” is quite an honor.

Horror movie + Social fable intertwined- This is the perfect way to describe this film. The fear of the end of the world has always been a social fable and Danny Boyle’s 28 Days Later is simply a thought provoking rendition.