



# THE PURITAN POST

| by Hank W. Mardukas |

## This Week on TV

### *The Mandalorian* (Disney+)

The talk of the town recently has been Disney+. And while I do not subscribe to the streaming service, I sought out its new debut series, *The Mandalorian*, a *Star Wars* show which follows a bounty hunter played by Oberon Martel. What I do think Disney has finally done well with *The Mandalorian* is capture the tone and aesthetic of the original *Star Wars* trilogy. There are very nice moments featuring some great practical effects and excellent makeup and prosthetics. Not to mention, bounty hunters are a sorely under explored element of the *Star Wars* universe and it was cool to see one as a protagonist. That said, *The Mandalorian* suffers from not having a very compelling story and plot. For how well done it is in its technical areas, I expected a more gripping narrative.

## Also This Week on TV

### *The Morning Show* (Apple TV+)

Disney isn't the only platform with a new streaming service as Apple has recently entered the arena as well with Apple TV+ and its array of original content. While there are actually a few shows on Apple TV+ I am interested in, the first I checked out is *The Morning Show* which stars Reese Witherspoon, Jennifer Aniston, and Steve Carell amongst others. The first two episodes are now free to watch on iTunes. *The Morning Show* is tough to review, as parts of it I thought were compelling, particularly the bits about Steve Carell's character being fired for sexual misconduct from a popular morning program, and the surrounding fallout for his cohost, Jennifer Aniston. The other half focused on Reese Witherspoon's character, however, was pretty preachy and not very interesting.

## Director Spotlight:



### Werner Herzog

**Birth:** 9/5/1942 Munich, Germany  
**Notable Works:** *Grizzly Man*; *Rescue Dawn*; *Encounters at the End of the World*; *Bad Lieutenant: Port of Call New Orleans*; *Little Dieter Needs to Fly*; *Aguirre, the Wrath of God*  
**Fun Facts:** Also an actor, recently having appeared in *The Mandalorian*.

## HORROR vs THRILLER: The Subtle Similarities and Differences Between Two Genres

After a rather long hiatus from THE PURITAN POST, we are back! I admittedly had a difficult time coming up with new article ideas following our IV Weeks of Halloween Issues. Truth be told, I could talk about Horror movies in every Issue. So to transition out of Halloween season, I figured why not talk about the Horror genre in how it relates to another wildly popular film genre: Thriller. The two genres are often confused and lumped together, and today we explore why that is, how they are similar and different, and when they even become one combined genre.

At a basic level, the differences between Horror and Thriller can be seen in their respective titles: a Horror film aims to "horrify" its audience while a Thriller aims to "thrill". More often than not, in Horror films, the evil entity is determined and we are focused on watching the characters face said entity and ultimately attempt to destroy it. In a Thriller, the evil entity in question is often unknown and the focus of the story is about solving a mystery. In a Thriller the evil acts primarily in the shadows, while typically we actually see the evil carry out its sinister deeds in Horror flicks. That said, this isn't always true as some Horror movies such as *Scream* employ the mystery/whodunnit elements of a Thriller while remaining a Horror film.

Despite their differences both genres share common bonds. Both genres aim to get the adrenaline of their audience pumping, albeit through slightly different methods. Additionally, the two genres typically share a very similar story structure. During the first act of any Horror or Thriller movie, the threat or evil presents itself to the audience and protagonists. In the second act, the characters come face to face with this threat or evil entity. And in the movie's final act, the characters are forced to face and ultimately attempt to defeat said enemy. This similar story structure combined with the concept of building suspense shared by both genres is why there is often confusion between the two.

And then there are of course the cases of movies that can be labeled as a Horror-Thriller. A couple of examples of this cross genre would include *The Silence of the Lambs* and *Se7en*. Both movies ride the fine line between Horror and Thriller. Both are part procedural crime film much akin to a Thriller whilst also being movies about serial killers featuring the grotesque imagery often associated with the Horror genre. A case could be made that each example could fit into both categories. At the end of the day, however, the two films are primarily labeled Thrillers, presumably for their focus on the crime story elements. Alfred Hitchcock was a director who worked in both genres, and while often seen as "The Master of Horror", was actually a master of both genres. Some of his films like *Rear Window* or *North by Northwest* lean Thriller while movies like *Psycho* or *The Birds* lean Horror. For aspiring writers, having a distinct grasp on the genre of a movie can be a useful tool in pitching your story and understanding its intended audience. Ultimately, there is not one way to tell any given story, and some of the best movies ever made have blurred the line between the two genres.