

# PLANNING

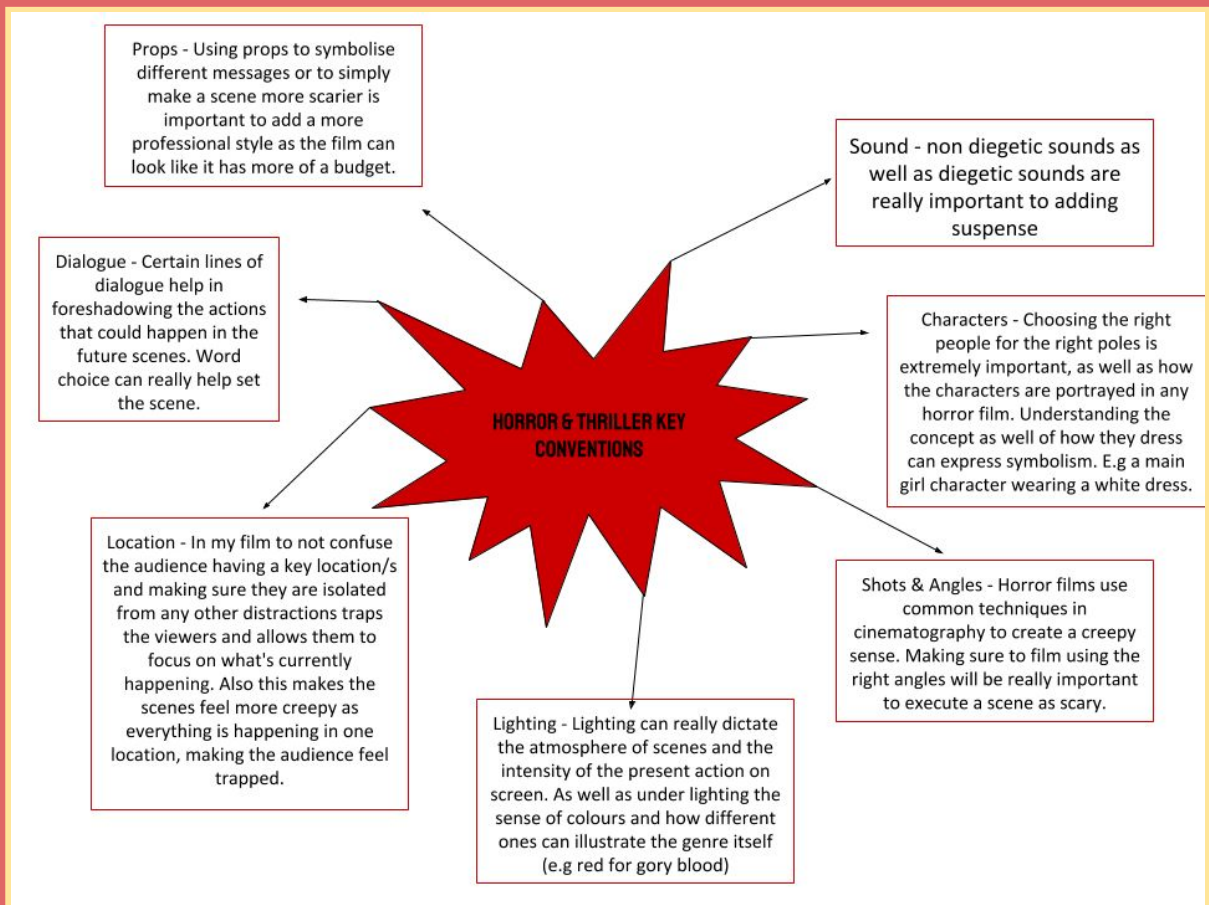
## GENRE:

*Horror & Thriller*

## *THEMES (FALL UNDER HORROR & THRILLER)*

- *Contrast (the difference between evil and innocence)*
  - *Mental Health*
  - *Religion*
- *Technology (artificial intelligence)*
  - *Supernatural*
  - *Mass killing*
  - *Scientific*

*I decided to create a mindmap/spidergram to understand that I need to capture every section of a horror film.*




# INITIAL BRAINSTORM

## MAIN THEMES

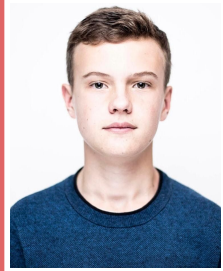
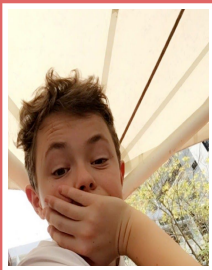
These are my 3 main themes and I think that it will make my film original, modern and authentic. Recently in the film industry there have been films that suggest that they follow under these categories as our society is evolving into a futuristic era. Because of this the audience becomes intrigued into what their futures could look like, therefore using these genres will allow the viewers to feel more enticed and attracted to watch it.

1. SCIENTIFIC
2. TECHNOLOGY
3. MENTAL HEALTH

## CHARACTERS

Name	About	Actor/Actress
<i>Lilliana / Lilly Wright</i>	<i>Main character, innocent, human, victim, protagonist</i>	<i>Christie Melville</i>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- I have chosen her to be the main character because I feel like her personality shows similarities to the main character's traits. An example would be she is her confidence, she is able to exert confidence interacting with people therefore this is perfect for this role. Also her acting ability is up to par will allow her to lead the audience to</li></ul>

		<p>believe her as she has had previous experience in being a part of film projects.</p>
<p>Amelia #235</p>	<p>Artificial Intelligence</p>	<p>Ariana Harjani</p>  <p>- I have selected Ariana Harjani to act in my film because she is able to complete a role sufficiently, She is quite flexible in terms of acting. She can adapt well to any time of role that is given to her and therefore casting her as one of the robots was quite simple and straightforward.</p>
<p>Joanne #312</p>	<p>Artificial Intelligence</p>	<p>Tara Barton</p>  <p>- Tara Barton has been casted in my film because of her commitment and hard working morale. She is able to focus completely on a role and stick by it through the whole filming process. Casting her allows me to have some sort of discipline on set as I know she</p>

		<p>would want the rest of the cast members to focus to ensure that each scene has been executed well with good acting.</p>
Alan #895	Artificial Intelligence	<p>Aiden McGillivray</p>  <p>- Mr. McGillivray excels in IGCSE Drama and as an impressive student he knows the process of filming. He has also had experience in previous media projects in which I have witnessed him excel with any role he has been assigned. With this knowledge I know that he will be able to lead the rest of the cast members who play similar roles to him, therefore he can set a good example.</p>
Colin #217	Artificial Intelligence	<p>Charlie King</p>  <p>- Charlie is a drama student and is able to adapt to most roles and complete them to a good standard. He doesn't</p>

		<p>have much experience with being a part of projects outside of his own drama performances but with the level of confidence and talent I know he has for acting I'm positive that he's able to perform well in my film.</p>
Alexus	Virtual assistant, antagonist	<p>Christie Melville</p> 

## STORYLINE

- ★ Set in the future that is filled with sci fi elements and technological advances, consists of the main character being the only human and the three extras being artificial intelligence.
- ★ The beginning consists of a happy and light hearted environment with bright lighting and nondiegetic sounds which express a safe and cheerful setting.
- ★ Alexa becomes faulty and starts to slowly 'glitch out' for example turning on lights, the television, switching taps on and off etc.
  - ★ Emily becomes agitated and therefore tries to stop Alexa by removing the plug.
- ★ Nothing happens for a few scenes but then there is a dramatic pause where the alexa begins to function. This then makes the main character scared and she runs from each room to another.
- ★ She reaches the kitchen where all of her robot friends become eery and intimidating as they all are seen standing together and start to chant in unison.
  - ★ She falls down and Alexa says one last thing, the artificial robots that surround her.

## BASIC OVERVIEW

Set in a futuristic society where artificial intelligence is set into everyday life for the average household, it is used as a source of housekeeping, military, business, entertainment as well as just simple friendly interaction. In Lilliana Wright's home she owns four artificial intelligence robots, given to her by the government for medical reasons. Suffering from mental health issues such as depression these robots give

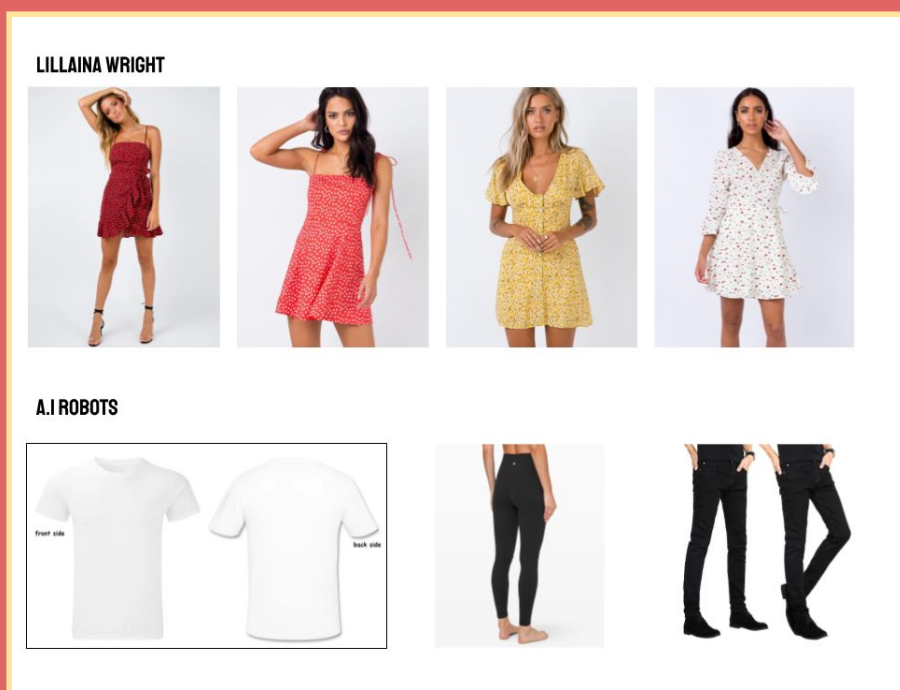
her a sense of interaction and help rebuild her social skills. They analyse her every move and remind her to do daily necessities for example taking her medication. Other than that her home is still filled with technology that helps around the house, especially the *Alexus*. *Alexus* has control of everything inside the household. It has never been a problem until now, there has been news of a hacker who has mental issues taking over every *Alexus* across the world with intentions to frighten the innocent. Unfortunately for *Lilliana* she becomes a victim. It's a normal day, she follows her daily routine and begins to use the *Alexus*. Gradually it starts to become faulty and does things not under her command. The voice suddenly begins to change and uses *Lilliana's* own voice and then her *Alexus* hacks AI robots, they turn on her and become evil. She is alone and has no help, leaving her isolated from any human interaction and being taken hostage by artificial intelligence.

## MOODBOARD



- This moodboard shows where I want to take inspiration from and how I want my film to be similar, execution wise. All these films completely fall under the sci fi theme, a few don't show factors that make it horror but with those films I want to understand how they were able to interpret the idea of a futuristic society without making it too unrealistic as my film will have a feel more personal in terms of using mental health and if that is in association with heavy sci fi areas, for example aliens and space than it will lose its attraction.

## COSTUME IDEAS



- I would like the main character to wear something that allows the audience to view her as innocent and feminine. Wearing a flowy sundress signifies a sense of femininity and also expresses her age. The dress could suggest that she is either a teenager or a young adult, once the narrative continues with the dialogue the viewers will be able to get more of an idea. The colour of the dresses connotes the idea that she is innocent and pure, this could also relate to age but more or less it represents that she can be viewed as a stereotypical good character who has no intention on doing harm to anyone.
- The other characters would be wearing the same thing, a white shirt and black trousers or leggings. I want them wearing identical costumes because the characters are supposed to be not human and therefore there is no sense of authenticity, difference and creativity. The contrast between white and black also signifies that these robots are perceived as good but as one thing changes the artificial intelligence completely changes to evil.

## *LOCATION/ SET DESIGNS*

- *Set in a high tech house*
- *Built mainly on one floor so that there is flow during the filming.*
  - *High tech*
  - *Modern*
  - *Spacious*



- *I have decided to have only one filming location because the story can only really be set in one place. This house has lots of areas which are modern and contain lots of technology that helps with household activities, this is beneficial for my horror short film as it is sci fi based. It is also in an urban setting which again highlights the futuristic city girl life. The position of each room also allows for the different scenes to flow easily as well as the lighting during the day will be perfect.*

## *DESK RESEARCH*



*To ensure I execute an entertaining and professional short horror film I decided to research a couple short films and movies which somewhat inspired the storyline, film shots, lighting and music of my desired techno sci fi styled horror film.*

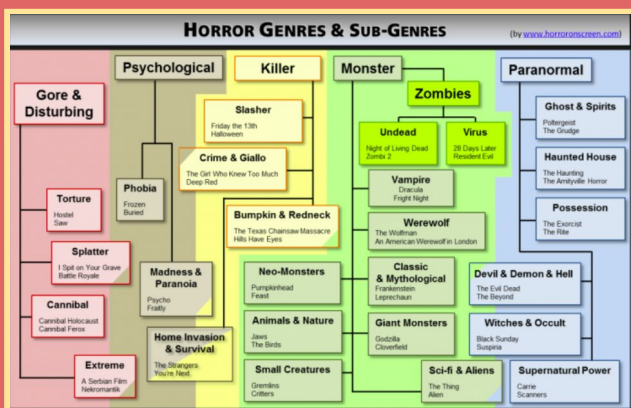
*It is evident that what I want my film to be based around is a sense of everyday technological objects that show some sort of artificial intelligence to become evil and thrilling whilst adding suspense therefore the scenes become scarier and scarier for the audience. These elements were found in these films :*

- *"Okay Google" created by Levi Morgan (2nd April 2019)*  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TEryn57SfPM&t=20s>
- *"tExt" created by Tye Gibson & Nick Johnson (28th November 2017)*  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N-mpubVRQkQ>
- *"Her" directed by Spike Jonze , starring Joaquin Phoenix, Amy Adams & Scarlett Johansson (released 18th December 2013)*

*OKAY GOOGLE*



The cheap short film made its debut on Youtube with a present day amount of over 900,000 views since being uploaded in midyear of 2019. The storyline consists of one main character in his house alone using his Google home to control his simple commands. It then starts doing things that it wasn't told to do and reveals that the main character might not be alone in his own home.



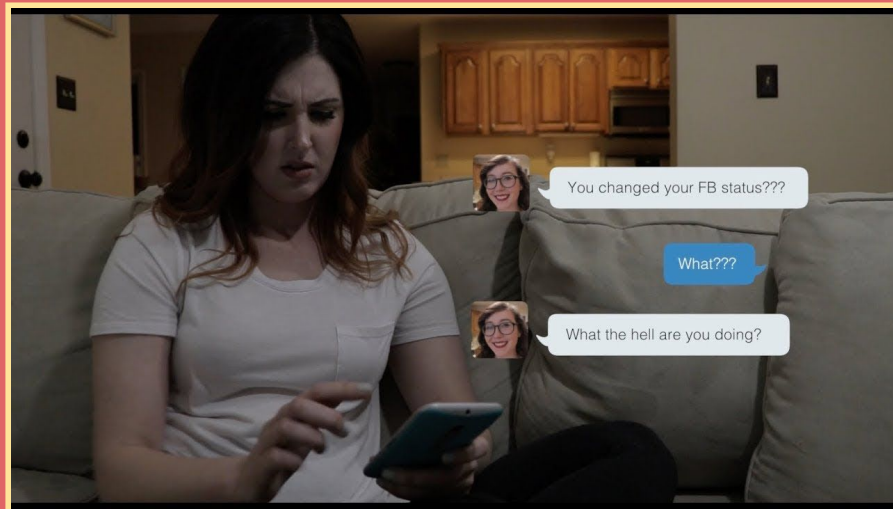
The short film consists of different sub genres of horror such as Psychological, Okay Google shows signs of a Phobia because of the modern day relatable fear and conspiracy that artificial intelligence can take over society and destroy the human community. As well as Madness & Paranoia due the constant sense of anxiety through the build up of this evil Google Home. It also demonstrates elements of Monster horror but through the subgenre of Sci-fi & Aliens because of it's obvious focus of using technological devices to make it scary.

Okay Google has a basic and common structure in terms of build ups and plot points for a Horror Film. It already starts up with a build up which creates a scene filled with suspense and tension, it has the right amount of the unknown which makes the viewers wanting to continue on whilst giving us an idea of what's to come. The character also shows actions which leads the audience to understand what is going on in the scene. The film uses a misdirect to catch the audience off guard. This would have been when the main character had unplugged the Google device leading us to believe it should not work afterwards and therefore sort of be excluded to the ending. A big scene occurs which takes the audience's notice and distracts it from the device which is then used for the ending. The final scene which ends the film is left on a sort of horrific cliffhanger, which is typical for horror movies of this day and age.

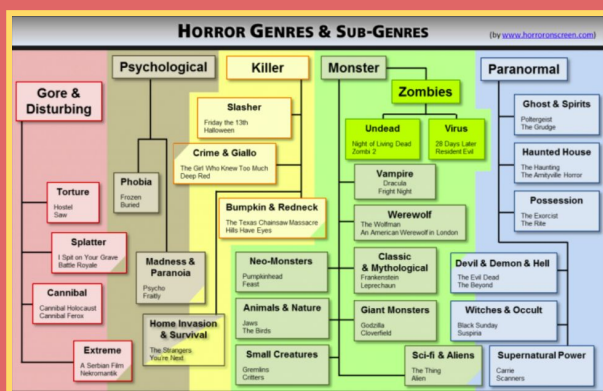
The camera angles and lighting within this film are seen to be quite basic but because they are not executed at a very high standard it can make the film seem very mediocre. They are quite repetitive

within each location, for example when using a wide shot within this film it is usually only in the scenes where the staircase is involved. The lighting is also quite poor throughout the majority of the scenes. The character's expressions aren't properly expressed through the constant amount of darkness within each scene.

### tExt



This film shows much more experience and budget in comparison to "Okay Google". The storyline is much different and shows the use of technology in a different light. There is no sign of artificial intelligence but mobile devices are used to communicate with other characters and create suspense within each character.



Again the subgenres of Horror within the film correlate to what I want my film to include which is also phobia, madness & paranoia, home invasion & survival under Psychological horror. The film demonstrates what every individual can be scared of through the use of social media and how it can result in something severe.

tExt has a simple structure like "Okay Google". It's also set in a house that contains only one main character, but the only difference within that is its involvement of other characters. It starts off with no suspense or shock factor until the end of the short film which makes it sort of build up this tension and confusion of the unknown and leads the viewers to not understanding how it will end.

Camera angles within this film are definitely something that shows signs of professional value and something I would like to reciprocate within my short horror film. A lot of the shots involve the upper portion of the woman's body to show the audience her expressions which can help illustrate where the story is going to lead. If it's not a medium close up shot it's a medium long shot which shows most of her body. A significant scene where the camera angle was used to create an element of mystery was the very end. Once we see the main character being murdered we also see the murderer, the face is not shown but the body gives the audience an understanding of who it is. It finishes on a cliffhanger but leaves a certain amount of obvious to allow the viewers to create an idea where it could lead. The lighting of this film is quite basic but effective, there was no use of different shades and colours but the director made sure to film in areas of the house where the lighting was good enough to focus on the character and her face.

## Her



This multi award winning sci-fi romance drama film even though not categorised as a movie under horror, its elements of science fiction are significantly important and somewhat related to what I want to do when creating my film. The constant concept of advanced artificial intelligence becoming twisted and disturbing is something I also want to focus on in my short film. The movie's synopsis explains how a heartbroken man called Theodore (played by Joaquin Phoenix) who writes letters for others for a living falls in love with artificial intelligence called Samantha (Scarlett Johansson).

Due to Spike Jonze's authenticity and artistic style it created a film which had an underlying message and connected the audience through a believable and somewhat disturbing possibility that could occur in the future. It shortly became very successful with an IMDb rating of 8.0/10 and a whopping number of 183 award nominations whilst winning 82 awards. Such as an Oscar, a Golden Globe, a Saturn Award

etc. Rotten Tomatoes rated 'her' quite high which again reestablishes how successful this film is. The Tomatometer takes into account reviews from professional movie critics that had 'Her' at a large percentage of 94%, calling it "fresh". Following, the Audience Score uses the random viewers opinions and measures a movie's success through a percentage. 'her' was at 82% signifying it as "fresh" expressing its reputation of a good film.

Throughout 'her' the style of implementing technology in a personal way is what I want to replicate in my short film. The ability to utilise the principle of something unethical, disturbing and wrong and portray it with certain angles, lighting, locations etc. is what I want to focus on in my film.