**FILM AND SERIES GENRES**

**Genre: Action**

Key defining elements

A resourceful protagonist struggling against incredible odds, is put in life-threatening situations to defeat a villain or nemesis. The protagonist is thrust into a series of challenges involving chases, fights or physical feats, usually ending in victory for the protagonist.

Sub genres

Superhero film, spy film

**Genre: Adventure**

Key defining elements

A narrative defined by a journey. The protagonist has a mission and travels to epic or distant places, while facing obstacles, to get to their destination and accomplish something.

Sub genres

Quest film, pirate film

**Genre: Comedy**

Key defining elements

Primarily to make the viewer laugh. Does this by placing the characters in unexpected or unusual situations. Other devices include repetition. Usually has a happy ending.

Sub genres

Slapstick, screwball comedy, satire/parody, buddy comedy, dark or black comedy, chick flick

**Genre: Crime/mystery**

Key defining elements

A narrative in which the main character is either the criminal or the ‘good guy’. Their journey is defined by an inner conflict and involves either getting away with or solving a crime.

**Genre: Drama**

Key defining elements

A narrative where external pressures in the protagonist’s life trigger an internal struggle, that results in self-discovery. They tend to depict everyday people in realistic situations.

Sub genres

Coming-of-age, road movie, buddy film, courtroom drama, sports film, teen drama

**Genre: Fantasy**

Key defining elements

Defined by situations that transcend natural laws, and/or take place within a fictional setting or universe. Narratives can be inspired by myths and incorporate magic, mythical creatures or supernatural elements.

Sub genres

Often hybrid e.g. sci-fi fantasy

**Genre: Historical**

Key defining elements

Close-to-accurate depictions of a person’s life or historical account, or fictional narratives taking place in an accurately depicted time and place in history.

Sub genres

Biopic, period film, historical epic

**Genre: Horror**

Key defining elements

Primarily to elicit fright in the viewer, using primal or hidden fears, nightmares, the macabre, revulsions and terror of the unknown. Plots often involve the intrusion of an evil or supernatural force, person or event into the everyday world.

Sub genres

Splatter film, slasher film, zombie horror, found footage horror

**Genre: Musical**

Key defining elements

Intertwine performed songs into the narrative to progress the story or further develop the characters. Can involve big stage-like productions which depict important premise or character elements.

Sub genres

Often hybrid e.g.musical comedy

**Genre: Romance**

Key defining elements

Love stories usually centering around two characters that explore an element of love like relationships, marriage, sacrifice and obsession. They sometimes explore hardships like infidelity, illness and tragedy.

Sub genres

Often hybrid e.g. romantic drama, romantic comedy, historical romance

**Genre: Spy**

Key defining elements

The main character works under an assumed identity, to find or destroy something while battling an inner conflict.

**Genre: Thriller**

Key defining elements

The protagonist is completing a mission with ‘ticking-clock’ stakes such as escaping a situation where escape seems impossible or solving a mystery in a setting that is menacing. Characters tend to be in conflict witheach other or with an outside force. Tension is increased using devices like cover-ups of important information and plot twists.

Sub genres

Crime thriller, political thriller, psychological thriller.Also often hybrid e.g. action thriller, sci-fi thriller.

**Genre: War**

Key defining elements

Set in a specific historical war. Entails a main character or group dealing with an inner conflict related to the war.

**Genre: Western**

Key defining elements

Typically set in the American West during the 1 9th Century, with an individualist main character who is trying to accomplish a goal while battling an inner conflict.

Sub genres

Classic western, contemporary western, revisionist western, spaghetti western

**Genre: Science fiction**

Key defining elements

A narrative defined by a scientific or technological premise combined with imaginative or visionary speculation. Tend to include futuristic elements like spacecraft, robots, cyborgs or interstellar travel and therefore rely on special effects. Often focus on political or social issues or explore philosophical issues like the human condition.

Sub genres

Dystopian film, post-apocalyptic film, space travel, time travel, cli-fi

**HYBRID GENRE EXAMPLES**

Comedy + Drama= Comedy Drama or Dramedy

Romance + Comedy= Romantic Comedy

Historical + Drama= Historical Drama

Sources:

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