



# Paranormal Activity

& The Rebirth of Found Footage Horror  
By William Gilmore

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# Introduction

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It was getting to a point where fans of the genre wanted something new instead of the same old blood and guts.

# Introduction

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Enter Oren Peli....

# The man behind the madness

Oren Peli is the director and creator of Paranormal Activity

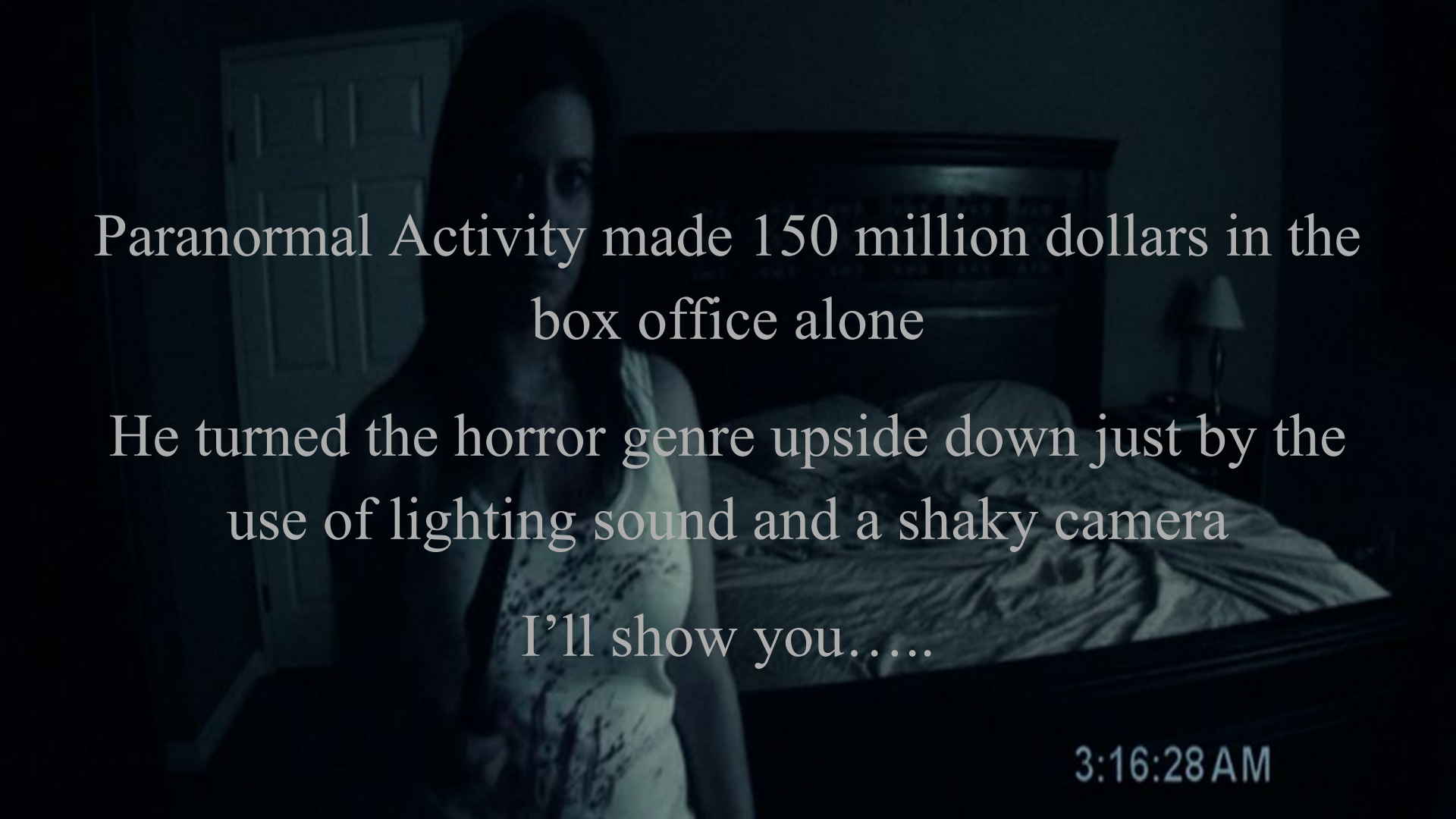
He came up with the idea when he moved to America and would hear noises in his house and thought it would be a good idea if someone tried to film the “activity” in a film

He made this movie in 7 days and with a \$11,000 of his own money



Paranormal Activity made 150 million dollars in the  
box office alone

He turned the horror genre upside down just by the  
use of lighting sound and a shaky camera

A dark, grainy still from the movie Paranormal Activity. A woman with long dark hair, wearing a light-colored tank top, stands in a bedroom at night. She is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. In the background, there is a bed with a dark headboard, a white door, and a nightstand with a lamp. The overall atmosphere is eerie and suspenseful.

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I'll show you.....

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# Cinematography

The camera is the main reason for everything bad in this film

The director tells them what to do but the footage is all up to the actors.

The cool thing about found footage horror is that it feels like it's real

It could be me or even you using this camera.

Another great thing about this film is that for most of the really messed up parts, the camera is on a tripod.

When the couple is sleeping there will be a time-lapse on the time stamp at the bottom of the screen



The time lapse slows to a halt when something happens



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This adds anxiousness in the viewer wondering when the clock is going to stop and when is something evil is going to happen

# Lighting



For most of the film's scarier parts it takes place completely in the dark, only the viewers can see what's going on while the characters are left in the pitch black

The only light left on during the night is the bathroom light which the demon flicks on and off to show his presence to the audience.

When they leave the bedroom during the night all they have is the light on top of the camera to see what is or isn't out there. This helps in freaking you out because when you are looking for something your brain will play trick on you and make you think something is there

Instead of using lights to scare the audience the director is using the shadows so audiences cannot get a full good look at the room

# Sound

One thing that paranormal activity is known for is it's simplicity and the fact that silence is scarier than demonic voices in this case.

I like to call it: Anticipation scarring

What that means is that the director will not ambush the audience with jump scare after jump scare.

What they will do is make the viewer sit and wait for something scary to happen.

It raises your level of fear so you are on edge for almost every part then when the real scare happens it gets the viewer ten times worse

So let's put it all together sound lighting and camera

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# Sources

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