*Directors Commentary*

***Your approach to film making ( how you set out to film it, what inspired you).***

*The inspiration for my film came from the creepiness of wooden dolls and how they do freak people out. This made me realise it would be a good idea for a horror to include these wooden dolls as it would make the audience feel tense and creep them out. I set out to film the film by making sure I had all the equipment I needed such as a camera, tripod, microphone and the lighting I needed. I then also made sure I had the editing tools I needed in order to put the voice recordings over the filmed footage.*

***The genre you intended your film to be.***

*My film is intended to be a horror film. This happened as I used a creepy dollhouse with the dolls and also in the ‘story’ each doll dies in an unpleasant way such as being electrocuted in the bath or hanging.*

***Explanation of each scene. (Why did you film it this way? / Why did you include certain scenes / camera angles?)***

*In the opening scene, I showed the front of the dollhouse to show what the film is about and then slowly opened both sides of the dollhouse slowly and added in a creaking noise, I did this because it added the creepiness which helped the slow opening. I positioned the camera on a slight angle and also close up to the front of the dollhouse so you can only see part of the door and some windows. I did this because it leaves tension as to what is in the dollhouse as you can’t fully see the whole dollhouse or the inside when the doors open.*

*The next scene is of the boy stood in his room. I filmed this with the camera on a neutral angle where you can see the full doll and the majority of the room. I did this so the audience can see what the room and doll was in the beginning before the deaths start. I also used a torch light moving horizontally behind the camera to give the lighting which moves slowly along the room.*

*The third scene involves the girl in another room which looks like a kid’s playroom. I used this because old wooden children’s toys give a sense of creepiness which is what I wanted. The camera angle I used is slightly looking up at the girl as you can see the floor dividing the room below and not the top of the room she is in. You can also only see part of the room which I used because it gives suspense as to what is in the rest of the room that the audience can’t see. I again used the torch light to create the lighting in the room.*

*The next scene is a little scene to break up the dolls and the different rooms. This one shows a clock which I used as it shows time is passing quickly. I also used a clock noise in the background sounds to add more context and effect to the shot of the clock. The camera angle I used is a neutral shot again. This is because not much is happening and it is just a shot of the clock for effect to break up the rooms.*

*I then shot the room with the ‘mother’ doll in her bedroom. The camera angle I used in this scene is a slight ‘high view’ angle but also a neutral, you can also see the majority of the room in this scene. I used this angle to break up the neutral angles so not every scene has the same angles. I again used the torch to create the lighting in this scene.*

*This scene involves the ‘father’ doll sat at the dining room table eating. This camera angle is angled from the left of the room to show part of the big door on the front of the dollhouse as well as the next room and the whole of the dining room. This again breaks up the neutral shots used. I also used this angle to show the whole dining room and how it was before the deaths and mess. I used the torch again to create the lighting in this scene.*

*This next scene is again a shorter scene to break up the room scenes with the dolls. This one involves the camera slowly horizontally moving along the front of the dollhouse to show part of the inside of the dollhouse through the windows. I used the torch light behind the camera to gives a creepy effect of the shadows of the window frames into the inside of the dollhouse. I did this to create the creepy atmosphere as well as the slow movement of the camera.*

*It then moves onto another smaller scene of the camera focusing on the cat in the kitchen. This camera angle is again positioned to the left of the room to show the hinges of the main big doors of the house. It shows the majority of the kitchen with the appliances all neat and tidy but hides some as they are against a wall which isn’t in the camera view. I used this to create sympathy as most people like animals so the thought of an animal being hurt may cause emotions for the audience.*

*It then goes back to the ‘mother’ doll in her bedroom. This time she has changed position as is now by the bottom of the stairs where you can see the rest of the room you couldn’t see before. The camera angle I used is a neutral shot; this is because it shows her before her death and the place she was before her death. It then cuts to another small scene of a mid-shot of the ‘mother’ doll with a faster torch light to show something is about to happen as it shows her face and it’s like the ‘last moments’ of her life, the torch light then moves across to the camera which then cuts to a black screen. I used this to show things are about to change.*

*The next scene is of another doll in another room. I used a neutral shot to show the majority of the room and full length of the doll. It then cuts to a black screen again; I used this to show something has changed.*

*The next scene is fast paced as it immediately shows the girl doll ‘falling’ down the stairs. This is the first death. I used her to be the first death as she is a child so it will shock the audience as well as make them feel sad. The camera angle I used is a neutral shot with a slight zoom into the stairs to focus on the stairs and the death.*

*It then cuts to the next scene of again an immediate death scene as it shows the ‘mother’ doll hanging from the ceiling of the room where in the previous scene she was stood and was ‘alive’. The camera angle I used was a neutral shot again to show the full length of the hanging doll and the room which is now a mess which I used to make the audience think and ask questions as to why it was now a mess. Was it a murder? A break-in gone wrong?*

*The next scene is another horrible death, it shows another doll but this one has been electrocuted in a bathtub. The camera angle I used for this scene is from the right of the house to show the bathtub and death as well as part of the next room. I used this to break up the neutral shots of the previous deaths.*

*I then used this next scene to create sympathy from the audience again as it involves a dog hiding in a cupboard because it is scared. I used this because again it makes the audience think and ask questions like, ‘why is the dog scared?’*

*The next scene is a neutral shot of the whole dollhouse which shows every room along with every death and as well as the mess from whatever killed the dolls. It immediately shows another death, the boys ‘falls’ off of the roof of the house. I used this shot to show the whole dollhouse and all that has happened throughout the film. It shows it in a bigger picture as before it was individual scenes for each room and death.*

*It then cuts to a darker atmosphere which is created using darker lighting. It shows the girl led ‘dead’ at the bottom of the stairs surrounded by the furniture of the room knocked over and the room in a mess. I used this to again make the audience think and feel sympathy for the way she died and the state it is left in.*

*The next scene again uses darker lighting to create a darker atmosphere and a neutral camera angle to show the state of the bedroom along with the ‘mother’ doll hanging in the corner of the shot.*

*The camera then starts to pan over 2 rooms to show how the dollhouse ended up. It shows the rooms which all now have knocked over furniture and are each a mess. It then ends with a neutral shot of the whole dollhouse to show the ending and how each doll ends and how the dollhouse is then left. I used this to create an ending of the events such as the deaths. It then cuts to a black screen to let the audience know it is finished.*

***The codes and conventions of that genre you tried to implement.***

*The genre I chose to base my film on was horror. I tried to implement as many horror conventions as I could into my finished production.*

*One convention I used is horrible deaths. The deaths I used in my film include:*

* *Hanging*
* *Electrocuted in bathtub*
* *Falling down stairs*
* *Falling off roof*

*I also included low-lighting in each scene in my film to create a tense, creepy atmosphere throughout. In the last few scenes, I used even darker lighting to create a darker atmosphere where you can just about see the silhouettes of the dead ‘bodies’.*

*I also used wooden dolls. I chose wooden dolls and they are seen to be creepy due to being old fashioned. I thought this would make the audience feel more scared then using plastic dolls in a modern dollhouse. The wooden dollhouse is a traditional, old kid’s toy which is used in horror films.*

*The angles I used throughout my film create confusion and disorientation for the audience.*

***Does the finished film match you envisioned?***

*Before filming, I sat down and drew up a storyboard of how I envisioned my film to run and be. The end production that I filmed and edited did match the storyboard I originally made with the original ideas. It matched the story of each room with each doll being shown and then leading to each death along with the dialogue from each ‘doll’. It also matched the camera angles and camera techniques and directions such as when the camera zoomed in or not.*

***What were the limitations?***

*The limitations I faced include the lighting of the room I used. This is because lighting changes during the day and throughout the times I was filming meaning different scenes had darker lighting then others making it harder to see what was happening and harder to make the torch light work. This meant we needed to re-film some scenes.*

*Another limitation includes some scenes needed to be re-filmed as they didn’t flow smoothly into the next scene due to camera angles and lighting. This meant we had to use more time of our schedule in order to make them right.*

***How well do you think you carried out the project?***

*I think I carried out this project very well as I stuck to my schedule meaning I didn’t waste any more time and got it finished by the deadline. This involved each step getting finished by each deadline I had set on the schedule. It helped that I had easy access to all the equipment that I needed without having to buy or rent any out. It was also good because it followed the storyboard that I originally made which made it easier to film as I could follow each scene and know what camera angle and dialogue was going to be used in each scene instead of changing it then and there and making it more complicated. I also think the editing went well as it was done within a few days meaning the final production was finished quickly.*

***What would you change in the future?***

*To change and improve my film, I would give myself more time to film in order to have plenty of time if I needed to re-film anything especially the voice overs as they may have not been right for tone for the lines being said.*

*I would also change the storyboard and storyline so there was more of story as to why the deaths happened as it just shows the dolls shouting at each other then they are all dead, it shows no leads to what could of happened.*