



KILLING THE CLASSIC

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Remakes are tarnishing Hollywood's reputation

For decades Hollywood has embodied the American dream: a fantasy land nurturing creativity and artistic ingenuity where anyone with a fresh idea for facial can make it big.

The Walk of Fame is paved with the footprints of those who have tread the sets of monumental and groundbreaking films such as "Citizen Kane," "Ben-Hur" and "The Godfather."

But in recent years the spark has faded, and lately Hollywood has been spawning more modified duplicates than a gremlin in a bed.

While that imagery sounds entertaining, the actuality of it isn't. The level of entertainment recently exported from Hollywood is declining as studios rely on increasingly unproven and sometimes tried-and-true formulas.

More than ever, viewers are bombarded with a deluge of mediocre promotional blitzes. Rehashed flicks such as "The Parent Trap," "Flubber," "The Navy Seals," "Godzilla," and countless other remakes fill theaters every year across the country.

These movies are glossed over and rehashed versions of old classics, usually injected with some timely elements to make them more publicly accessible. While some have been hits ("Father of the Bride"), many have fallen flat. Still, the barrage continues.

Ron Howard's 1996 release of "Ransom," starring Mel Gibson, came from a film shot 40 years earlier of the same name, "Village of the Damned," remade by John Carpenter in 1995, garnered mostly criticism and even insult when compared to the original 1960 classic. And the Bruce Willis-led "Jackal" didn't smell a whit like "Day of the Jackal," which was nominated for a Golden Globe for Best Motion Picture in 1974.

Now, Hollywood is going even one step further, and next month Universal Studios will release a shot-for-shot copy of Alfred Hitchcock's classic horror suspense film, "Psycho."

Key word: copy.
 Directed by Gus Van Sant ("Drugstore Cowboy,"

Please see REMAKES on

"PSYCHO," DIRECTED BY GUS VAN SANT, is a shot-for-shot duplicate of Hitchcock's original 1960 classic, which was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Cinematography. "Psycho" is the most recent in an ongoing parade of remade films from Hollywood.