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Choice Reviews:

Picart, Caroline Joan (Kay) S. **Frames of evil: the Holocaust as horror in American film**, by Caroline Joan (Kay) S. Picart and David A. Frank. Southern Illinois, 2006. 186p bibl index afp ISBN 0809327236, \$65.00; ISBN 0809327236, \$30.00. Reviewed in 2007jun CHOICE. 44-5545 PN1995 2006-5129CIP

This volume offers more than its title implies. Picart (English and law, Florida State Univ.) and Frank (rhetoric, Univ. of Oregon) have written a valuable guide to analyzing and appreciating film in general. The authors introduce the reader to how filmmakers take inspiration from literature, each other, and Holocaust documents and images to accomplish the difficult task of capturing genuine human aberration and terror in the camera's lens (as opposed to projecting gratuitous or abstract horror). They also explain audience reaction to (and association with) various horror-invoking images and the artistic imagination and techniques employed to depict/mimic the extent of human cruelty in various films. Among the well-known films examined in detail are Alfred Hitchcock's *Psycho* and Steven Spielberg's *Schindler's List*. The authors do not avoid ethical considerations, and their carefully selected examples illustrate how ideas and images from the Holocaust influence films. Although the book deals with the horror-movie genre--the representation of Holocaust terror and horror in mainstream film specifically--it teaches readers (including novices) how to address any film critically. Offering careful research, clear description, and valuable historical insights--but avoiding jargon and reference to less-familiar films--the authors reveal how the myriad faces of evil come to the screen. Summing Up: Highly recommended. All readers; all levels. --- L. D. Talit, Central Connecticut State University