

Classics: The Shining

Stanley Kubrick's classic of horror, *The Shining*, always seems to get a lot of play this time of year. Ranked often as one of the top horror films of all time, *The Shining* is the story of the Torrance Family: Jack, Wendy and Danny. The Family takes a job staying over the winter at the isolated Overlook Hotel in remote Colorado. As the winter progresses, Jack becomes a loner, working more and more on his novel (all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy) alone in the great hall. Eventually the haunted staff of the haunted hotel convince Jack to "take care of the problem" that his family represents.

The film has produced some of the most famous lines in horror movie history. (REDRUM reads MURDER when seen through a mirror.) The scene in which Jack bashes a hole in the door, sticks his face in and sings: "here's Johnny!" has become one of the most recognizable in film.

Physiologically the film is not as shocking anymore as it was when it was first shown. Murder and blood are more common now in film than ever before, so that the film loses a bit of the shock effect that it once had. Nevertheless the film still shines (sorry!) with the luster that it has always had as a horror classic.

Grade: A

By Dan Smith