

Walking Wounded:

Cinematic Representations of Masculine, Post-Modern Anxiety in the
Urban Space

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>Abstract</i>	v
<i>Declaration</i>	vi
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	vii
INTRODUCTION	1
CHAPTER ONE	
<i>Going Nowhere: Urban Strolling as Masculine Anxiety In and Out of the Nineteenth Century</i>	18
<i>Introduction</i>	18
<i>The Physiology of the Urban Sketcher</i>	19
<i>Flânerie as Crisis</i>	20
<i>Detecting Dissent in Edgar Allan Poe's, "The Man of The Crowd" (1845)</i>	22
<i>The Politics of Location: Gender and Public Space</i>	26
<i>Conclusion</i>	28
CHAPTER TWO	
<i>Camera Genera: A Short History of Studying Men in Film</i>	29
<i>Introduction</i>	29
<i>Mulvey (1975) and The Male Gaze</i>	29
<i>Playing The Part: Masculinities and Performance</i>	32
<i>HTFU!: Muscularity as Masculinity in Motion Picture Films</i>	35
<i>Of Race and Men</i>	40
<i>Conclusion</i>	44
CHAPTER THREE	
<i>Behind You!: Pomophobia and Poor, Rich, Straight Whitey</i>	45
<i>Introduction</i>	45
<i>Masculinity In Crisis</i>	47
<i>Thomas B. Byers "Pomophobia (1995)</i>	49
<i>Feminism</i>	52
<i>Civil Rights</i>	53
<i>Employment and Post-Industrial Collapse</i>	55
<i>Downsizing</i>	56
<i>Changing Gender Roles in Families</i>	57
<i>The Family and Men's (Threatened) Identity as Fathers</i>	60
<i>Vietnam War Defeat</i>	62
<i>Conclusion</i>	65

CHAPTER FOUR

Saving The World From Tomorrow: The Pomophobic Flâneur as Vigilante Crime Fighter

<i>Saving The World From Tomorrow: The Pomophobic Flâneur as Vigilante Crime Fighter</i>	67
<i>Introduction</i>	67
<i>Taxi Driver</i>	69
<i>God's Lonely Man – A Portrait of Travis Bickle</i>	70
<i>A Walking Contradiction – Travis Bickle as Pomophobic Flâneur</i>	72
<i>Paen to Pomophobic Pain</i>	75
<i>Noir Anxiety and the Hard-Boiled Hero</i>	79
<i>„Clean, real clean, like my conscience“ – Myopic Dystopia in Taxi Driver</i>	82
<i>Depictions of Gendered, Sexed and Raced „Others“ in Taxi Driver</i>	89
<i>Thank Heaven For Little Girls – Reinforcing Gender Norms in Taxi Driver</i>	98
<i>„Here's a man who would not take it anymore“: The (Re)making of „Paramilitary Manhood“ in Taxi Driver</i>	101
<i>The Crow</i>	108
<i>The Ghost Who Walks – Eric Draven as Flâneur</i>	109
<i>Rise From Your Grave! – Resurrecting the Urban Stroller</i>	110
<i>„Bad people out on the street tonight“ – The Dystopic City in The Crow</i>	113
<i>Man (Dis)possessed – Primal Masculinity in The Crow</i>	115
<i>Distressed Damsels and Fatale Femmes</i>	120
<i>Menacing Masculinities in The Crow</i>	125
<i>Conclusion</i>	130

CHAPTER FIVE

The Botanist on Asphalt in the Concrete Jungle: White Male Victimhood and Black Male Superiority in the 'Hood

<i>The Botanist on Asphalt in the Concrete Jungle: White Male Victimhood and Black Male Superiority in the 'Hood</i>	132
<i>Introduction</i>	132
<i>Falling Down</i>	136
<i>„An Ordinary Man at War With the Everyday World“ – D-FENS as Pomophobic Flâneur</i>	138
<i>„White Shirt and Tie in Gangland“ – The Fractured Urban Space in Falling Down</i>	143
<i>Measuring Manhood in Falling Down</i>	149
<i>„I'm the Bad Guy?“ – Para-Militarism in Falling Down</i>	154
<i>Fade To Black</i>	158
<i>Menace II Society</i>	161
<i>Locating The „Hood“ Film</i>	151
<i>This Ain't No Fairytale – The Noirification of the Hood Film</i>	163
<i>Rodney King and the LA Riots</i>	167
<i>Interpretations of the LA Riots</i>	169
<i>The Latasha Harlins Shooting and Menace II Society</i>	171
<i>Caine Unable: Coming of Age in the Hood</i>	174
<i>Tell Your Story Walking – The Flâneur in the Hood</i>	176
<i>„America's Nightmare“ – Black, Urban Masculinity in Menace II Society</i>	179
<i>Take It Like A Man – Gun Culture, Homophobia and the Making of Masculinity in Menace II Society</i>	183
<i>Bros Before Hoes – The Erasure and Containment of Women</i>	192
<i>Father Loss and Mentors in the Hood</i>	195
<i>Conclusion</i>	202

CHAPTER SIX

Getting Even With Dad:

<i>Paternal Abandonment and Symbolic Redemption</i>	205
<i>Introduction</i>	205
<i>Bad Boy Bubby</i>	208
<i>„Christ kid, you“re a weirdo“ – Portrait of Bad Boy Bubby</i>	208
<i>Allegorising Psychic Wounding</i>	213
<i>The Great Unknown – Urban (Sur)Realities in Bad Boy Bubby</i>	216
<i>Appropriating Otherness: Post-Modern Anxiety in Bad Boy Bubby</i>	220
<i>Redeeming The Father, The Son, and the Holy Spirit</i>	224
<i>Ignorance is Bliss</i>	229
<i>The King</i>	232
<i>Leaving The Building – Elvis in Suburbia</i>	234
<i>Rockin“The Suburbs – Suburban Gothicism in The King</i>	238
<i>Maintaining the Status Quo – Family and Religion in The King</i>	240
<i>The Head of the Woman is the Man: Female Subjugation in The King</i>	245
<i>Faith No More – Pomophobia and Masculine Redemption in The King</i>	251
<i>Conclusion</i>	253

CONCLUSION

<i>Alive and Kicking: The Pomophobic Flâneur Reborn</i>	256
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BIBLIOGRAPHY	268
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ABSTRACT

This thesis explores the representation of post-modern, masculine anxiety in seven motion picture films. Drawing on the concept of pomophobia by Thomas B. Byers (1995), it examines the ways in which racially dominant, heterosexual masculinity is depicted in film as an embattled and besieged subjectivity, struggling to recover cultural dominance and authority which has been lost as a result of, amongst other socio-political forces, the limited yet significant gains made by feminism, the pervasive presence of non-white „others“ and the processes of post-Fordist de-industrialisation. This thesis draws on both historical and contemporary readings of the *flâneur*, the solitary, urban stroller, to consider the ways in which modern cinema allegorises this supposed male cultural displacement. By identifying the *flâneur* as a significant vehicle through which feelings of male anxiety are represented cinematically, this thesis argues that the urban space is frequently made the geographic site through which post-modern, masculine anxieties are rehearsed while providing the domain for patriarchal authority to be recovered. This thesis aims to contribute to the existing body of academic literature which views racially dominant, heterosexual masculinity as being in a perpetual state of crisis, requiring persistent reaffirmation in order to maintain its cultural privilege. Through a detailed analysis of seven motion picture films, this thesis will explore the varying strategies utilised to represent the recovery of masculine power, in the process revealing the hegemonic ideologies which are promulgated and sustained through these cinematic texts.

Declaration of Originality

This thesis contains no material which has been accepted for the award of any other degree in any university or other tertiary institution and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, contains no material previously published or written by any other person, except where due references has been made in the text.

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