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Perverse pleasures: Spectatorship- The blair witch project

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Perverse Pleasures: Spectatorship – The Blair Witch Project

Abstract:

By drawing on contemporary scholarship that addresses spectatorship in the cinema generally, and in the horror genre specifically, I analyze the perverse pleasure afforded by *The Blair Witch Project.* To do this I argue that pleasure in horror is afforded through the masochistic positioning of the viewer, especially in relation to psychoanalytic theories surrounding gender in spectator positioning. I also look at the way the film re-deploys conventions, both documentary conceptions of the 'real', as well as generic expectations of horror, to activate the perverse pleasure of horror.

The Blair Witch Project **Spectatorship** **Psychoanalytic Film Theory**
Horror **Film Conventions** **Gender**
Abjection **Monstrous Feminine** **Masochism**