



THE PunchList



Pop Culture: Now in Living Color

#oscarssowhite. Whitewashing. Lena Dunham. Is the racial gap in Hollywood narrowing, or are we just playing a slow game of catch-up? GQ looks at the state of race in pop culture, including [JORDAN PEELE'S](#) new racially tense horror movie, the not-so-woke trend of actors playing other ethnicities, and just how funny (or scary) it is to make fun of white people



Jordan Peele Is Terrifying

The *Key & Peele* star goes solo with a real horror story: being black in America

JORDAN PEELE'S directorial debut, *Get Out*, is the story of a black man who visits the family of his white girlfriend and begins to suspect they're either a little racist or plotting to annihilate him. Peele examined race for laughs on the Emmy-winning series *Key & Peele*. But *Get Out* expresses racial tension in a way we've never seen before: as the monster in a horror flick. **CAITY WEAVER** talked to Peele in his editing studio about using race as fodder for a popcorn thriller and just how evil you can make the white people.

GQ: A race-based horror movie feels extremely well timed in 2017. How long have you been working on 'Get Out'?

JORDAN PEELE: I started messing around when Hillary and Barack were going at it for the Democratic nomination. It was the first time I looked at the gender and racial civil rights movements in relation to each other, and I realized that horror films about gender are some of my favorite movies. *Rosemary's Baby* and *The Stepford Wives* explored the fear of men making decisions for women in such an artful, fun, scary way.

Does the African-American experience have an equivalent? No, except [zombie classic] *Night of the Living Dead*. In the post-civil-rights movement era, there are no movies that really tackle the horror of race.

Why do you think that is? Black creators have not been given a platform, and the African-American experience can only be dealt with by an African-American. That might be problematic to say. And now that I think about it, [The Stepford Wives author] Ira Levin is a man, and he and Roman Polanski wrote *Rosemary's Baby*. Let's say it would be scary for a white writer and director to do something that includes the victimization of black people in this way. Of course, we have this trope where the black guy is the first to die in every horror movie—that's a way for [white filmmakers] to have their cake and eat it, too.

A lot of the horror in the movie comes from the fact that it can be scary to be black. In some situations, it's just social anxiety, but in others, there's a real threat that just doesn't exist for the white characters. One of the [great] things about *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner* that anybody can relate to is the uncomfortableness of meeting your in-laws for the first time and being at a party where you're the outsider. So

the layer of race that enriches and complicates that tension [in *Get Out*] becomes relatable.

My dad is a black guy from Philly. I once dated a white guy from the South. Before they met, my only request to my father was "Please don't bring up slavery." Within two minutes: "Your family own slaves?" Have you ever had a meeting with parents go awry? No, I'm pretty good with parents. But there are situations where I'll feel racially isolated, and I don't necessarily know how much of it is warranted—I am I being the racist one? That is what this movie is about.

The fraught relationship between black people and cops is touched on early in the movie. The main character in 'Get Out' is played by British actor Daniel Kaluuya, who sued the London police in 2013 for allegedly assaulting and falsely imprisoning him after mistaking him for a drug dealer. Still, were you hesitant about not using an African-American actor for this role? Most important was having an actor who related to the isolation of being the only



EGG ON YOUR (BLACK)FACE

An index of racially questionable role-playing



Multiracial women played by Angelina Jolie: 1 (*A Mighty Heart*)



Asian-Americans played by Emma Stone: 1 (*Aloha*)



Native Americans played by Johnny Depp: 2 (*The Brave*, *The Lone Ranger*)



People of color played by celebs on Halloween: countless (e.g., Julianne Hough, left, as Crazy Eyes; Jason Aldean as Lil Wayne)



Michael Jacksons played by Joseph Fiennes: 1 (*Urban Myths*, mercifully canceled before its 1/19 premiere)

The Unlikely Recommendation MANDY MOORE



My love for Mandy Moore is still, to this day, like candy. How could this be? *Why* would this be? By any fair estimation, her career has been as ordinary as her talent. (Forgive me, M.M., heart of my heart!) She currently stars in the worst-titled show in TV history, NBC's *This Is Us*. It's a nice show. The Golden Globes, and my mom, love it enough for it to have been renewed for two more seasons. Her most memorable previous role was as...herself, briefly, on *Entourage*, as one of Vinny's ex-flames, a signifier of B-list

Hollywood fame, a call her agent probably got after Jessicas Alba and Biel passed. Moore broke out almost 20 years ago as a singer, a sort of thinking man's Britney Spears/afraid-of-leather man's Xtina—but I don't even know if she sings anymore. (Google-search update: She does!) So what the hell is it? This is the core: *This Is Us* is the perfect middlebrow platform for her lovely blandness. She is right where she belongs, here with us, specifically on NBC. I hope she never goes away.
—DEVIN GORDON

This Month in
Superheroism

MARVEL'S 'IRON FIST'

(March 17 on Netflix)

WHO'S THAT?
Orphan/kung fu expert/
Buddhist/billionaire
entrepreneur Danny Rand
(played by Finn Jones)

**BEFORE WE GET ANY
FURTHER...**
Yes, he's white. (See previous
page.)

OFF-DUTY WARDROBE
Freshman-year-dorm-weed-
dealer bathrobe

ON-DUTY WARDROBE
Freshman-year-dorm-weed-
dealer tracksuit (featuring a
life-size rendering of Rand's
enormous dragon chest tattoo)

AT STAKE
Defeating "the criminal
element corrupting his world
around him." (No word on
whether season two is set in D.C.)

HOW'D HE GET HIS POWERS?
He "slew Shou-Lao, a feat no other
warrior had ever accomplished,
and plunged his hands into the
brazier, imbuing himself with the
mystic energy of the Iron Fist."

BRAZIER?
It's like an oven.



The Cultural Saturation Chart

Start at the top to learn about the things you won't be able to escape this March. Read lower to check out the weird stuff you can't afford to miss

THANKS, GOD!

In addition to his labors on earth, our Lord and Savior watches over his on-screen flock. *GQ* reviews the work of the most helpful fictional deities



GOD: George Burns, *Oh, God!*
AID TO MANKIND: Bringing the Word to non-believers



GOD: Alanis Morissette, *Dogma*
AID TO MANKIND: Smiting demons



GOD: Morgan Freeman, *Bruce Almighty* and *Evan Almighty*
AID TO MANKIND: Bestowing empathy unto the wicked



GOD: Will.i.am, *Joan of Arcadia*
AID TO MANKIND: Begetting Will.i.am's acting career



GOD: Octavia Spencer, *The Shack* (March 3)
AID TO MANKIND: In the book this is based on at least, testing a man of faith by letting a serial murderer nicknamed the Little Ladykiller (because he kills little ladies) kill a little lady (the man's daughter). Actually, this is just a dick move by God.

The *GQ* Survey

ADAM PALLY IS A MASTER...

...of writing in crayon and stickers (in real life) and time travel (on the Fox comedy *Making History*, premiering March 5).

Would you prefer a beer in the shower or wine in the bath?

BEER IN THE BATH

Please describe your recurring nightmare.

I've been torn from my family and thrown into a "workers" camp in Baton Rouge. Somehow I end up caring for the youngest Kushner baby who has been orphaned after its parents, Jared + Ivanka, have been killed for having Jew blood by Bannon.

What movie or television scene do you most regret watching with your parents?

Private Parts "have sex with the speaker" scene. Saw it with my Dad... wish my mom was there too :) JK

