

CARNIE

Logline: A college journalist must save her friends from a psychopathic clown which lives and kills through Augmented Reality.

Genre: Slasher Horror.

Summary: Two college kids making a social media video prank about local creepy clown sightings are killed by Clownie, a supernatural clown that can only be seen through Augmented Reality. Erika Wallace, a college broadcast journalist, along with her sorority friends (Briana and Ashley) who want her to help them boost up their social media video blog, her journalist colleague (Jay), obsessed with his Virtual Reality gaming system, and her boyfriend and roommate, agree to go to the park to find the missing friends. When looking at the posted online video footage, Erika sees something only someone with experience behind a camera would notice...Clownie's sudden appearance in and out of frame.

At the park, two teenagers playing Pokemon Go in the park are brutally killed by the 'invisible force', as they see Clownie only through their Pokemon Go AR screen. Once the gang arrives they split up to look for their friends. The Sorority Girls set up for their live video blog and while Jay is away, Clownie shows up on the live feed in the background, killing Ashley instantly in front of Briana, who can't see him and gets away. Later, when reviewing monitor footage they see Clownie for the first time, striking Ashley with a claw hammer then pulling her body out of frame. All are dumbstruck wanting to find their missing friends, but discover that one by one, they are hunted and taken by this virtual killing machine.

After several attempts at killing Clownie with 'conventional weapons', Erika discovers that he's only vulnerable in Augmented Reality, and decides that's how they need to kill it. With Jay's help, they reconfigure his Virtual Reality gaming system to interact with reality and go 'clown hunting' with an arsenal of AR weapons. It seems to work, but in a flurry of events, Clownie takes Jay to his 'funhouse fortress,' a tent of midway horrors in his virtual world. Here, we see what he's been doing to his victims; cutting them up and making them part of his own freakshow funhouse of carnival horrors. Erika finds three of her captured friends about to get butchered, and rushes in to save them only to confront Clownie in a horror-house showdown, eventually merging the augmented and real worlds in her final stand.

By the end, we realize that nothing on Social Media is ever really 'dead', especially when it 'goes viral.'

Setting and Scope: Any park and small college, and this horror script at 93 pages is very low-budget. There is franchise potential based on the ending, including a prequel, as well as other stories built on the Carnie Horror Universe, with franchise characters appearing in different stories.

Author: I have written seven additional feature screenplays in multiple genres (most of which are low-budget), as well as three TV pilots. Several screenplays have finished as a Top Ten Finalist in several different national contests (PAGE, Big Break, Screencraft). I currently reside in Los Gatos, CA.