

ABSTRACT

Portrayal of Religious Figures in Indonesian Horror Films from 2017 to 2024

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This study examines how religious figures are portrayed in Indonesian horror films released between 2017 and 2024. Using qualitative content analysis within a post-positivist paradigm, we observed the roles of these figures, who often serve as a balance between spiritual and evil forces in the narratives. The research identifies how religious characters are depicted in terms of their roles, traits, and the conflicts they face when confronting supernatural phenomena. The primary aim is to uncover the spiritual, moral, and social representations presented, and how these portrayals reflect the social and cultural dynamics of Indonesian society. Findings indicate a shift towards more complex and humanized depictions of religious figures, not just as sacred entities, but as individuals with vulnerabilities and internal struggles, aligning with the view that social reality is complex and not singular.

Keywords: Character portrayal, religious figures, horror film, qualitative content analysis, Indonesia, 2017-2024

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