

LOOKING BACK: The 2000s

The Dark Side of the American Psyche

October 2–31

American filmmakers in the last decade turned an eye toward the ugly side of their protagonists and investigated the tenuous morality that makes us human. The setting – be it a motel room, garage, or shopping mall – is for the most part modern and familiar, but primal impulses lie beneath, scratching at the surface. Sanity hangs by a thread, or rather a sinewy tendon, and redemption is out of reach.

Friday, October 2: Bug - William Friedkin, 2006

A man in a motel room tries to convince his lover there are bugs under his skin.

Saturday, October 3: The Pledge - Sean Penn, 2001

A retired cop in rural Nevada promises to catch a child killer.

Friday, October 9: Primer - Shane Carruth, 2004

Two men invent a time travel machine which soon comes between them.

Saturday, October 10: Gerry - Gus Van Sant, 2002

A pair of best friends go on a hike and end up lost in the desert.

Friday, October 16: Alpha Dog - Nick Cassavetes, 2007

Teenage drug dealers kidnap a customer's younger brother.

Saturday, October 17: Grizzly Man - Werner Herzog, 2005

Documentary about Timothy Treadwell, who attempted to befriend bears in Alaska.

Friday, October 23: The Descent - Neil Marshall, 2005

Women exploring a cave in the Appalachians realize they're not alone.

Saturday, October 24: Dawn of the Dead - Zack Snyder, 2004

When the dead attack the living, a group of people take refuge in a shopping mall.

Friday, October 30: Trash Humpers - Harmony Korine, 2009

Elderly sociopaths roam the streets of Nashville at night.

Saturday, October 31: Inland Empire - David Lynch, 2006

An actress begins to adopt the persona of the character she plays in a movie.