

Proposal

Title: Trespasses

Genre: Drama

Concept: An English colony landed on Roanoke Island, taking its first step into the New World. An Indian vendetta sent their governor on a ship back to England to ask for help. During his absence, the colonists lost their sense of morals, and the debauchery and sinful ways of the pilgrims caused them to fall further from God's grace. It seemed that the only thing that would end the anarchy was the fear of the Lord, but when the reverend failed to convince them, God took matters into his own hands.

Full Synopsis:

A boat from England lands on the beaches of Roanoke Island, a bell tolling in the background. Pilgrims, the governor and a reverend arrive on the island, which seems like an Eden to them. It's fish and game are plentiful, so the people build the settlement. Indians try to greet them, tentatively, but the settlers are frightened of them (calling them savages) and threaten them.

They attempted to make friendly with the Aquascogoc, whose chief had been killed and village sacked by the earlier settlers, but they were unsuccessful. They did manage to befriend the Croatans, but that did not stop the aggressive Acuascogoc tribe from killing George Howe while he searched for crabs. The colonists convinced the governor to return to England to ask for aid in this matter.

The governor, White, did not return for three years. In that time, the colonists decided to take matters into their own hands.

Pilgrims took advantage of the natural resources of the island and encroached on tribal land. They became recklessly brutal towards the lone Indians they found, for retribution or moral lessening cannot be said. The only reason the Indians did not attack was due to their large numbers and guns.

In the absence of their leader, the colonists become greedy, lustful and self-righteous. They commit sins they normally would not have in England, like adultery, excessive drinking and whoring. The reverend tries to caution the pilgrims against their ungodly actions, but they choose not to listen. When he gets in the way of their debauchery, they lock him in the fort and allow him to die.

Once they begin killing, assaulting Indian women and taking child slaves (breaking the Croatan friendship), they feel the wrath of God's fist. The fish disappear from the water, the game runs out on the island and even the plants turn poisonous against the wrongdoers.

After the first dozen deaths, the Croatan tribe is prepared to attack the colony in search of the women and children that they have taken; because of their dwindling numbers, they think they have an advantage. Their shaman saw bad omens if they attacked, and holds them off for several days.

The colonists begin to ring a bell after each death, becoming more and more pronounced as intended. You don't hear the bell until later, however, just see it ringing while music is playing. The deaths come in the form of rare illnesses, starvation, murders and drowning. Finally they are down to their last seven (mockery of this number in the Holy Bible) colonists when the bell tolls for the eighth's death, this time you hear it (the bell symbolizing the beginning and end of the story).

An adulteress, whose husband had died trying to reach the mainland, is in bed with her lover: "How many is that?" she asks him. Indifferent, he replies, "Seventy-six." She shivers, whispering, "We're all going to die, aren't we?" He says nothing, but gulps down some liquor. "Do you think this is God's doing? That he's punishing us?" He gives her a hard look, saying, "God left this place long ago...if he was even here to begin with."

The Angel of Death comes that night, and the only thing that can be heard is the bloodcurdling screams coming from the island that the native Croatans hear. They prepare to rescue their women and children and make their way towards the island early the next morning to find the whole place filled with dead bodies. There were only seven colonists alive, one man, two women and four children (the innocents). The natives all survived. The Croatans piled the bodies and burned them along with the settlement, but kept the fence in tact upon the request of the surviving colonists. It was Eleanor Dare, daughter of the governor, who had the word "CROATAN" carved into the fence in the hopes that when he returned he would find them assimilated into the Indian tribe.

Narration can explain, while the last two shots are the fence in foreground, fire in background and then the smoking island background and the innocents moving away in foreground. Camera could pan away from the island, as if the camera is turning its back on it as well OR it could zoom in slightly to the island and cut.

Preview

Taglines: History often repeats itself. | God helps those who help themselves...to an extent.

Graphics: N/A

Rating: PG-13, for violence and sexuality.

Cast:

Jake Gyllenhaal	William Sole	Claire Murphy	Wenefrid Powell
Phillip Culhane	Reverend Arnold Archard	Aaron Eckhart	Ananias Dare
Antony Michael Hall	Governor John White	Jared Leto	George Howe
Larissa Laskin	Eleanor White Dare	Wes Studi	Croatan Cheif

Symbols:

- Tolling bell, symbolizing the beginning and end of the story, and of their lives.
- William's last name of "Sole" is ironic in its origin, because due to his sins his soul will go to hell.
- The title "Trespasses" symbolizes the pilgrim's trespasses against God and/or their trespassing within Indian land.
- Seven remaining people – seven is a holy number, and there are only seven innocents left.
- The soundtrack, which is mostly modern music, is symbolic of what is happened recently is a reflection of what happened in the past (the first tagline).
- The fence was the only thing left of the colony, symbolic of protection for the pilgrims. Ultimately, it failed in it's purpose. It was almost as if they were helpless from the very beginning.
- The last shot is that of the innocents moving away from the burning island behind the Indians, symbolizing them being uncaring for the souls that were lost and turning their back on the past.

Production

Mood: N/A

Setting: Nicolet National Forest, Michigan (UP) - Whisker Lake Wilderness Area, Morgan Lake, Lauterman National Trail
Roanoke Island

Croatan National Park on the coast of North Carolina, Hatteras Island

Special Features: Most will be editing the film throughout to make it seem as if they are on the island instead of in the park, so bluescreening will be necessary. There will need to be some special effects for the Angel of Death scene, make-up for the scalping scene, underwater equipment for the drowning scene.

Sound:

The Soundtrack

Crashed	Chris Daughtry
Hate	Plain White T's
Stay Close, Don't Go	Secondhand Serenade
Fault Line	10 Years
The Kill	30 Seconds to Mars
Hold On	Good Charlotte
Going Under	Evanescence
Savin' Me	Nickelback
Evil Angel	Breaking Benjamin
Pretend (Credits)	Secondhand Serenade
Disappear (Credits)	Bullet for my Valentine

There will be need for different sound interjections:

- Tolling bell
- Screaming
- Forest noises
- Scalping noises
- Water sounds
- Indian instruments
- Boat and dock noises (i.e. creaking wood)

Costume/Props: N/A