

Behind Burton

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Tim Burton is a director, producer, writer and artist. His work, as an artist, includes drawings, sculptures, collages, and animated shorts.



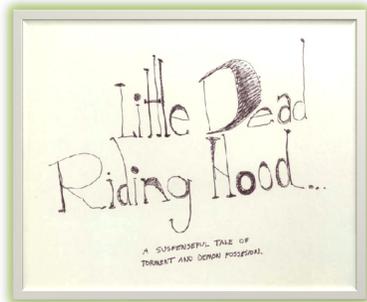
Burton's clown series showcases his talent for turning humorous objects into fear-inspiring creatures.



Burton's most widely known films include the *Nightmare before Christmas*, *Edward Scissorhands*, *Beetlejuice*, *Sleepy Hollow*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Batman*, *Batman Returns*, and *Planet of the Apes*. Burton says that in his films and artwork, there are elements of both humor and horror that show that "the nervous scream or laugh are quite close together".



In researching Burton's works, it becomes apparent that his art provides a direct connection between humor and horror. Burton uses his childlike imagination to show that two separate and somewhat opposing elements are much more closely related than most people would believe.



Tim Burton also approaches the issue that comedy plays in tragedy in three dimensions, using sculpture and film as other primary mediums.

The sculpture, "Boy with Nails in Eyes" leans much more towards the tragic side. However, Tim Burton pulls a "perversely funny" element into the picture by having this boy hold the hammer which clearly provided the gruesome damage to his face.



In *Beetlejuice*, a newlywed couple come back from the grave to haunt the new tenants of their old home. Accompanied by a more experienced "scaremeister", Beetlejuice, humor and horror are combined to create an entertaining film.



Burton's *Little Dead Riding Hood* provides a new account of an old tale, in which a not-so-bad wolf is no match against being haunted by a frightening presence.



"It's always such a head-on collision of comedy and tragedy and light and dark. In most good dramas there's a perversely funny element to it as well... so they've always been more connected than not to me."
-Tim Burton

In looking at Burton's art, it is safe to conclude that there is a solid foundation and idea behind all of the crazy things going on. His idea of entertainment (combining humor with horror) attracts people to his work because the two are closely related. His manipulation of these elements confuses many while attracting the eye to his dark and twisted work.