Reel Talk

Nora Grace Smith

**Comedy or horror?**

“The Visit” comes off as annoying, not scary

**T**

he Visit,” written and directed by M. Night Shyamalan, may have viewers thinking twice before going to visit their grandparents or just visiting the movie theatre to see Shyamalan’s next film.

The movie tells the story of Becca (Olivia DeJonge) and Tyler (Ed Oxenbould), who visit their Nana (Deanna Dunagan) and Pop Pop (Peter McRobbie), whom they have never met.

In typical Shyamalan fashion, strange things start happening almost immediately. The children are soon instructed by their grandparents not to leave their room after 9:30 p.m. because Nana is very sick.

Despite the schizophrenic tendencies of Nana and the downright creepiness of Pop Pop, the most unrealistic character is Becca. A 15-year-old self-proclaimed film prodigy, Becca uses phrases just for the sake of sounding brilliant, like “I’m smarter than him by at least two standard deviations.” Becca’s idiocy could make statistics students want to scream in terror.

Only in the last 20 minutes of the film does it make a meager effort at redeeming itself, but the tactics used by Shyamalan are more cringe-worthy than horrific.

The movie succeeds in one aspect, however. Becca’s search for visual tension at her grandparent’s house is successful. The purity of the house and its surroundings contrasts strongly with the violence and gore within the home.

Shyamalan’s self-indulgent attempt at an effective horror movie earns two stars out of five for its unsuccessful horror tactics and fruitless stabs at comedy.