

SWINGERS



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PLEASE DRIVE SAFELY
THIS HALLOWEEN!



HAUNTED HAPPENINGS

Halloween video thrills abound

So here's the assignment. Write about some good videos for Halloween. Well, I could just do a top-ten list with movies themed around the holiday. That's easy enough: I'd just start with the five (or is it six?) *Halloween* movies and move on to such non-classics as *Trick or Treat* and *Rocktober Blood*. But since most of those movies really reek, I'll just leave it at this, noting that all of these films are highly recommended.

10: *Dead Calm* — Here's the best argument against being a good samaritan. A young couple seeking solace at sea finds a man stranded on a lifeboat. Like good people, they pick him up. Like an evil person, he proceeds to terrorize them. An intense and unsettling nail-biter from beginning to end.

9: *Village of the Damned* — A moody and eerie horror story about a group of children, all born at the same time in the same hamlet, who quickly advance physically and, especially, mentally to eradicate the world of bothersome adults. Not as playful as you may think.

8: *I Married a Witch* — Veronica Lake is at her sensual peak in this wonderful story of a witch burned at the trials in Salem, who comes back to wreak comedic havoc on the descendants of the Puritans who had her burned. She falls in love with one of her intended victims on his wedding night. Really cool special effects and hilarious moments throughout make this great light supernatural entertainment.

7: *Nosferatu* — F.W. Murnau's early silent version of the Dracula story is bizarre, scary, atmospheric and hypnotic. This is a silent film that takes full advantage of the lack of dialogue, concentrating on mood and almost perfectly creating its own world.

6: *Psycho* — The granddaddy of all slasher flicks. No, really. Take a look at it. The only differ-

ence is that modern horror movies that rip it off leave out everything that made it good. There's very little gore here but oodles of suspense and terror.

5: *Fright Night* — A nifty old-fashioned horror movie about a young man who suspects his next door neighbor of being a vampire. Of course no one believes him and he turns to Roddy McDowell, a Vincent Price type TV horror movie host/actor, to help him keep the block safe. Treated with a good dose of self-erasing humor, this is a model for quality modern horror pictures.

4: *Wicker Man* — Since Halloween is a pagan holiday, it seems appropriate to include a movie celebrating the joys of paganism. The imaginative story line involves a group of people perfectly happy in their sexually permissive society. Their lives are disrupted by the investigation of a missing girl by a devout Catholic investigator. There's plenty of opportunity to question the truth religion has to offer in this incredibly engrossing film.

3: *Silence of the Lambs* — The new choice as cinema's most terrifying movie may well be this Jonathan Demme masterpiece. Not only is the suspense created as deftly as has ever been done, but the acting and dialogue between Jodie Foster and the frightening Anthony Hopkins nears perfection. Anyone who says they can't be scared should see this.

2: *Theatre of Blood* — Believe it or not, critics are not universally beloved. Vincent Price plays a Shakespearean actor who doesn't handle criticism well. His way of dealing with it is by killing critics off one at a time, recreating death scenes from some of his favorite plays. The brilliant Diana Rigg plays his daughter, who helps Dad on his mission.

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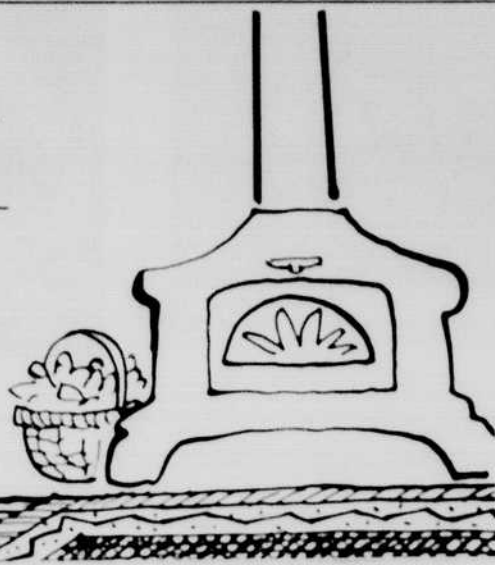
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