

Frightening films of old are sure to chill new viewers

When it comes to really scary movies, oldies but goodies fill the bill for Halloween chills

By Jason George
for the Emerald

Horror is hot. Back with a vengeance, risen from the dead, horror has jumped on the revival bus.

Movies such as the sleeper hit "Scream" (1996), its sequel, "Scream 2" (1997) and the equally formulaic (decibel intensive soundtrack + photogenic teens + stalking psychopath) "I Know What You Did Last Summer" (1997) each respectively grossed over \$125 million on relatively small budgets. The film industry is seeing a niche that not only attracts the finicky 13- to 18-year-old market but does so without a major financial commitment from the studios.

With the resurgence of horror films, it would be foolish to overlook the shoulders on which these new movies stand. But horror is not one dimensional; a true connoisseur of horror recognizes that there are divisions even within the specific genre of horror: slasher, classic thriller, psychological thriller and the disturbing are just a few of the factions that make up the horror market.

Here is one example from each of the above categories:

"Halloween" (1978)

If horror movie cliches enter your head, they were probably first used in "Halloween." This includes the clutch of screaming girls, blood and sexual innuendo on which "Scream" and Co. rest.

The difference between "Halloween" and the new crop of slashers is that "Halloween" was the pioneer. The story of local madman Michael Myers terrorizing babysitters is one that can make you scream even after repeated viewings.

Michael begins his downward spiral when he murders his sis-



ter on Halloween 1963 at the tender age of 6. Later he escapes from the mental hospital, where he was committed and returns to his peaceful hometown to wreak havoc on Laurie Strode (Jamie Lee Curtis) and her babysitting counterparts.

This slumber party staple became increasingly trite after five sequels, but "Halloween" is the original and a definite horror classic.

"Psycho" (1960)

This is a classic must-see movie no matter what genre you are examining. With a chilling score by Bernard Herrmann and masterful direction from Alfred Hitchcock, "Psycho" does not develop with the typical roller-coaster ride of thrills and chills.

Halloween Hall of Fame

1. 'Halloween' (1978)
2. 'Psycho' (1960)
3. 'The Silence of the Lambs' (1991)
4. 'The Exorcist' (1973)

Rather, Hitchcock weaves an engrossing web of suspense and suspicion, until finally the audience is left with a resolution that is anything but.

"Psycho" tells how office worker Marion Crane (Janet Leigh) decides to steal \$40,000 from her boss so she and her lover Sam (John Gavin) can elope. On the way to meet Sam, Marion stops at a roadside motel to lodge for the evening. She soon meets Norman Bates (Anthony Perkins), the owner of the

Bates Motel.

Bates appears gentle and lonely at first, but as the movie unfolds, it becomes obvious that he has a relationship with his mother that would make Oedipus blush. Yes, the shower scene with Janet Leigh is a cultural legend in its own right. But make no mistake — this movie is far more than this one scene.

"The Silence of the Lambs" (1991)

Based upon the Thomas Harris novel, "The Silence of the Lambs" relates the story of rookie FBI agent Clarice Starling (Jodie Foster) who enlists the help of convicted murderer Dr. Hannibal Lecter (Sir Anthony Hopkins) in apprehending a similar serial killer, James "Buffalo

Bill" Gumb (Ted Levine). Starling hopes that Lecter's brilliant psychopathic mind will reveal the motivation behind Gumb's killing spree.

The direction under Jonathan Demme is documentary-like, with spartan lighting, quick handheld shots, sharp angles. Watching the interaction between Foster and Hopkins it becomes obvious why this movie received five Academy Awards.

Note: This movie is one that should not be watched alone. The possibility of the plot occurring in real life is enough to disturb the most jaded viewer.

"The Exorcist" (1973)

Yes, this movie is disturbing and, yes, this is one of the best horror films of all time.

Based on a true story that happened Maryland, this film tells of little Regan MacNeil (Linda Blair) and how she must bear all of the angst of adolescence while being possessed by the devil.

Her mother (Ellen Burstyn) holds the opinion that being possessed is not an admirable trait. So, after many failed attempts at correcting the problem, she seeks the help of Father Karras (Jason Miller) and Father Merrin (Max Von Sydow) to rid Regan of the evil spirits. Do they succeed? Well, to tell is to ruin.

The movie that changed the way America looks at pea soup is not for the faint of heart or for anyone with a weak stomach. Nevertheless, it is worth a peek and is probably the best in this category.

While some titillate with garish displays of blood and mutilation and others captivate with suspense and plot twists, they all achieve the ultimate goal of horror — emotional stimulation.

Of course, which movie should be added to the list (or taken away) is up for debate. But whatever you do, leave on a light and don't say you weren't warned.

Lane County Fairgrounds is host to annual haunted house

The annual Scream in the Dark haunted house is home to 17 rooms of fright

By Kristina Rudinskas
Oregon Daily Emerald

The freaks come will come out at night this week for the 26th annual Scream in the Dark Haunted House at the Lane County Fairgrounds.

The haunts and screams begin at 7 p.m. and continue until 10 p.m. on Thursday Oct. 29, 11 p.m. on Friday Oct. 30 and until midnight on Halloween. Tickets are \$5, and coupons for a \$1 discount can be picked up at Taco Bell.

Imagine rooms full of insane dentists, caged criminals, metallic aliens, Dr. Blood, morticians and brains and bugs of various sizes.

About 17 rooms full of frights and delights await the innocent victims who wander through a dark maze for about 15 to 20 minutes. A low-lying fog filters throughout the rooms as visitors weave through the darkness. This year the house offers visitors the traditional spooky cemetery

scenes and recreations of modern day horror flicks.

"We try to get at least one new room every year," said marketing co-chairman Chris Butler standing in front of a blood speckled wall with "Scream" scrawled across it.

The sounds of chain saws and drills may frighten the weak at heart, but 50 local high-school students may scare visitors senseless as they jump out from behind closed doors screeching and moaning.

Eunice Wilkins, from Churchill high school loves to hear you scream. This is her second year performing at Scream in the Dark.

"In the jungle room, I was a big black gorilla and I scared so many adults," Wilkins said.

The Eugene Active 20-30 Club has sponsored the event for two years, taking it over from Campus Life in 1997.

All proceeds go to supporting children's charities in Lane County.

"Throughout the year charities come and ask us for money," Butler said. The grants are allocated

on a quarterly basis.

The Eugene Active 20-30 Club has 95 members from the ages of 20 to 39. They work on numerous projects to serve the community throughout the year. The club began in Sacramento, Calif., in 1925 and a chapter has been present in Lane County since 1927.

Butler said the cross section of club members is amazing. It wasn't difficult for Butler to find coffins for the event with a handful of morticians as members.

No children under the age of 11 will be admitted without an adult. Children under the age of 6 will not be permitted.

Butler warns those looking for scary thrills to arrive early. On Halloween night the line can stretch around the building.

Last year more than 11,000 people visited Scream in the Dark.

"Some people wait an hour and a half in line and just turn around and bolt when they are finally about to come in," Butler said. "Some people live for the stuff and others just freak out."



A knife-wielding ghoul is just one of the terrors that is guaranteed to make patrons scream at this year's Scream in the Dark haunted house at the Lane County Fairgrounds