

Classic horror movies delight, frighten viewers

■ JOHN CAMPBELL

Staff Reporter

Looking for a good scare this Halloween? Look no further, here are the most terrifyingly horrific cinematic achievements. Horror films come in many different varieties, whether they be bloody, funny, suspenseful, or just plain scary.

"The Evil Dead" is the standard by which all other gory supernatural movies are judged, made in 1981 for almost no budget. B-movie prophet Bruce Campbell (Bubba Ho-Tep) stars as Ash, a normal college guy who travels to a mountain cabin with four friends. At the cabin, they accidentally unleash a demon presence that possesses his friends one by one, forcing him to kill them.



Known for its extreme violence, "The Evil Dead" is not for the weak of stomach and was originally rated X. But for those looking to be scared out of their seat, "The Evil Dead" is a near perfect horror film. Also be sure to check out the amazing sequels "Evil Dead 2: Dead By Dawn" and "Bruce Campbell vs. The Army of Darkness."



If blood soaked demons don't sound appealing, there is always the horrifyingly hilarious "Plan Nine From Outer Space." This no-budget classic was made by Z-movie auteur Edward D. Wood Jr., and is widely considered to be the worst movie ever made, but it could not be more hilarious. In a ridiculous attempt to mix alien and zombie movies, the plot revolves around an alien scheme to ban nuclear weapons from the Earth by raising the dead and killing innocent people. "Plan Nine" has no known actors other than horror legend Bela Lugosi (Dracula) who died prior to the start

of filming. Funded by the Baptist church, it took three years to find a studio willing to release it. "Plan Nine" is comedic horror at its most ridiculous.

For horror movie purists, there is always the

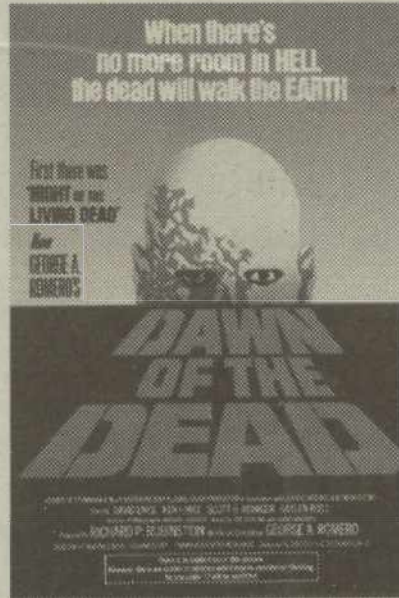


Universal Studios classic, "Frankenstein Meets The Wolfman." The title pretty much describes the plot which centers on the Wolfman awakening from the grave and discovering Frankenstein's monster. They then engage in an epic battle to the death. The film features some amazing make-up effects and is still considered an incredible achievement in the field.

For those looking for lighter fare, there is the comedy classic "Abbott and Costello Meet Frankenstein." The film stars comedy legends Bud Abbott and Lou Costello as two delivery men who get swept into Dracula's plot to use Frankenstein to take over the world.

The film also features the Wolfman and is very similar to "Frankenstein Meets The Wolfman."

For those who enjoy zombie films, the one to



see is "Dawn of the Dead." I am not talking about the recent remake, but rather the original 1978 horror classic considered by many fans to be the best zombie movie ever made.

Written and directed by horror master George A. Romero (Night of the Living Dead), the film centers around a group of four people trying to survive a zombie uprising by taking refuge in a shopping mall. The enclosed space of the mall and the horde of zombies surrounding it, does an incredible job of building suspense. The movie is scary, violent, tense, and at times thought provoking.

As with all of Romero's films, it has a slightly hidden message about racial tolerance. "Dawn of the Dead" is currently available

in a three-disc director's cut DVD. You can also check out the 2004 remake starring Ving Rhames (Pulp Fiction).

No horror films list would be complete without the 1954 classic "Creature From The Black Lagoon." The film tells the story of a scientific expedition on the Amazon River where the scientists discovered a prehistoric half-man, half-amphibian creature. They capture it but he escapes, kidnapping one of the scientists he has fallen in love with.

The film is certainly

not the most terrifying horror movie ever made,



but it is well-made and has an interesting storyline with characters we care about. For those looking for an enjoyable viewing experience more than actual

scars, "Creature From The Black Lagoon" is a perfect Halloween treat. If one creature film just isn't enough, try checking out its sequels "Revenge of the Creature" and "The Creature Walks Among Us."

There are numerous other horror movies to choose from of course, but these are the ones I'll be curling up with this Halloween. So make some popcorn, turn out the lights and scare yourself silly with these horror movie classics.

Upcoming concerts abound in Portland area

■ MARGARET ADAMS

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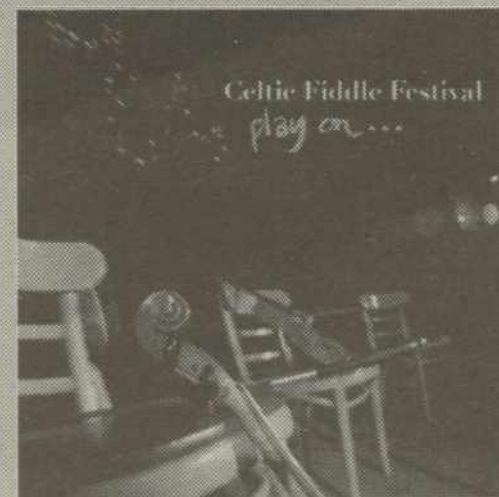
November offers up quite a few solid shows in the Portland metropolitan area that you don't want to miss.

Band of Horses, Thursday, Nov. 2, 9 p.m., \$9.47, Crystal Ballroom

If this hasn't already sold out, snag tickets as soon as you can. Thursday nights are usually rough, and with two openers for Band of Horses it could go pretty late. This is probably the cheapest you can pay to get into McMenamins' Crystal Ballroom. It's one of the best venues in Portland. There are even ball bearings under the wood boards so the floor has bounce.

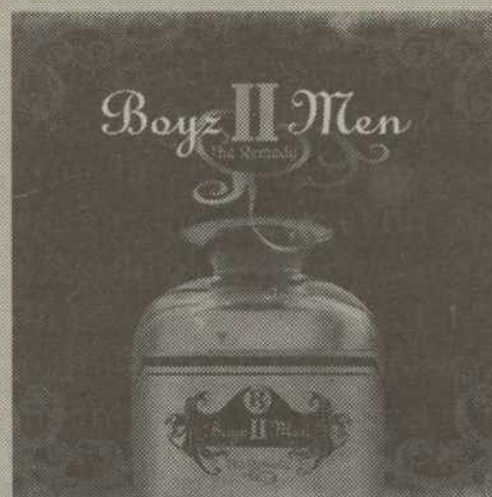


Celtic Fiddle Festival, Saturday, Nov. 4, 3 p.m., \$17, McMenamins' Bagdad Theater I can't imagine Celtic Fiddle Festival ever being a waste of time, but I could be wrong. Take the family and party it up, celtic style. The Bagdad Theater is on Hawthorne Street in southeast Portland and is reminiscent of Hollywood's Golden Age. The palace is worth a visit no matter what the event.



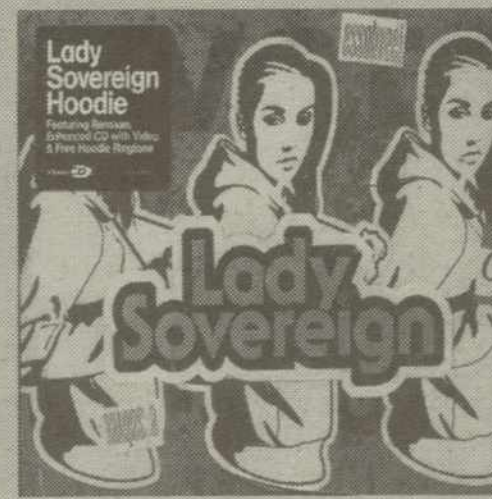
Boyz II Men, Saturday, Nov. 11, 8 p.m., \$30, Roseland Theater

If you're into R&B slow jamz, you obviously can't miss this one. Boyz II Men have been around since the late 1980s and apparently aren't ready to retire. They get props for having vocal talent and sticking it out for so long. If you're willing to shell out the cash for it, let me know how it goes. It's too steep for me, but I would totally be there if Mariah Carey came to help them out with "One Sweet Day".



Lady Sovereign, Sunday, Nov. 12, 8 p.m., \$13, Wonder Ballroom

I heard someone call her the female Eminem and was pretty bummed out. If anything she's like M.I.A. only more angry and her musical style is close to rap. This should be a good show. Lady Sovereign was signed onto Def Jam by Jay-Z, and she is the only non-American female with Def Jam. Lady Sovereign kicks it in Adidas all day long. Lauren Gitlin from "Rolling Stone" says Lady Sovereign "has all the makings of the next hip-hop superstar." You wouldn't want to miss out on that...



The Rapture, Wednesday, Nov. 15, 8 p.m., \$14, Wonder Ballroom

This is likely to be a crazy dance party, so don't go unless you're up for it. The Rapture sounds like LCD Soundsystem, !!!, Hot Chip and is even comparable to The Talking Heads. Check out "Get Myself Into It" from their recently released album "Pieces of the People We Love." Non-stop speedy electronic beats on a Wednesday night? It's OK with me, but don't count on aching any tests the next day.



The Album Leaf, Sunday, Nov. 19, 8 p.m., \$10, Eugene's WOW Hall

The show is in Eugene on a Sunday night, but don't panic because we've got the following week off for Thanksgiving, Monday included. The Album Leaf is ambient music: it's repetitive, electronic and relaxed. Definitely a win, it's easy on the wallet, especially if you can bum a ride down there. Check out the song "Eastern Glow" from the album "In a Safe Place" for a preview.

