



Famous movie monsters of the past



If you got chills watching Darth Vader in Star Wars, you should see (or maybe you shouldn't see) some of the bad guys created in Hollywood during the movies' early days.

DRACULA

Bela Lugosi was the star of *Dracula*, the 1930 film about the vampire who made Transylvania famous.

Dracula is one of the most famous monster movies of all time. But many people do not know that there was an earlier, even scarier, movie about a vampire. *Nosferatu* was also based on Bram Stoker's book *Dracula*. Some film critics have called it the first real horror movie made.

The vampire in *Nosferatu* is totally evil. The one in *Dracula* is evil, too, but he at least has a few manners. However, you wouldn't want to meet either of these guys during the night — or the day.

PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

Lon Chaney Jr. played the eerie role of the phantom in this 1925 film.

The phantom was so hideous and horrifying his own parents couldn't bear to look at him.

He hid in the depths beneath the Paris Opera House. People heard his voice but couldn't see him. They thought he was the spirit of music.

The phantom fell in love with a young singer who eventually discovered him and looked at his face. She, too, couldn't bear to look at him. The poor phantom ended up being killed by a mob.

Universal refused to release any photos of the phantom's face before the movie came out. They thought people would be too terrified by the pictures to come to the movie.

FRANKENSTEIN

Many people think Frankenstein was a monster. Actually he was the doctor who created the monster.

Frankenstein was filmed in 1931 and starred creepy Boris Karloff as the monster. Dr. Frankenstein, played by Colin Clive, created a living being during his experiments. At first, he thought his creation was a wonderful one. He soon found out he was wrong.

Karloff went on to star in two other Frankenstein movies, *The Bride of Frankenstein* and *The Son of Frankenstein*. He stopped after the third, but Universal continued to make several others. They even made one called *Frankenstein Meets the Wolf Man* where the two monsters teamed up.

THE MUMMY

The Mummy, a 1932 film, starred Boris Karloff, master of the monster movie. Karloff was considered top monster at Universal after his success in *Frankenstein*.

In *The Mummy* two Egyptologists (scientists who study ancient Egypt) discovered a 3,700-year-old tomb containing a mummy. The senior scientist, Dr. Muller, told his assistant, Norton, not to open the tomb. When Dr. Muller left, Norton opened the tomb anyway. When he returned, Dr. Muller found the mummy missing and Norton babbling and terrified.

The Mummy was produced 20 years after King Tut's tomb was first discovered in Egypt. Mystery surrounded Tut's tomb as 20 members of the expedition died shortly after they discovered it. Producers of *The Mummy* thought people would want to see a film based on a similar subject. They were right. The movie-going public flocked to see it.

KING KONG

The first *King Kong* movie came out in 1933. No actor played the part of the giant gorilla. Instead, propmen built five King Kong models, as well as a giant paw, foot and face.

When King Kong was filmed alone, one of the small models was used. When he appeared with a human, his mechanical face, his paw or his foot was used.

In the film, King Kong was discovered on Skull Island by a group of Americans making a movie. One of the Americans — a woman — was kidnapped by natives and brought to meet King Kong. Kong fell in love with her. The other Americans eventually rescued the woman and brought Kong to America. He ended up running wild in New York, climbing the Empire State Building and finally being killed.

THE WOLF MAN

Made in 1941, *The Wolf Man* also starred Lon Chaney Jr. This time he was a man who turned into a werewolf during every full moon. The wolf man was a likeable fellow during the day; a terror at night.

The idea of the werewolf dates back to ancient folklore. People told stories about living creatures who changed into wolves or wolf-like creatures. However, werewolves never really existed.

In one scene of the movie, viewers saw Chaney actually become the wolf man. It took 22 hours to film that scene, as the cinematographer had to stop the camera every few minutes while more makeup was applied to Chaney.



The making of a monster

New York makeup artist Mark Traynor usually works on celebrity faces such as comedian Joan Rivers and model Cheryl Tiegs. Here he transforms Damien Grasso, 10, into a Halloween monster using peanut butter and breakfast cereal.

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