



NIGHT OF THE CREEPS (1986)

After a horde of alien slugs attacks a small college town and starts turning people into zombies, it's up to a couple of teenagers to save the world from the alien invasion (including a sorority girl showing up at a fraternity in a formal dress, wielding a flamethrower and torching all of the guests). Director Fred Dekker (who shows up again on this list) does an amazing job of blending horror, humor and sci-fi in this overlooked gem — the first on this list of fun, tongue-in-cheek Halloween fare.



BRAIN DAMAGE (1988)

A man wakes up one morning to find a smooth-talking, brain-eating monster named Aylmer (who is just fucking incredible looking) attached to him. Aylmer injects his host with a healthy dose of a euphoric drug, but demands victims in return to feed his hunger for human brains. Direc-

tor and cult legend Frank Henenlotter is no stranger to the dark comedy and horror genres, having created the *Basket-case* trilogy and the hilarious *Frankenhooker*.

JASON LIVES: FRIDAY THE 13TH PART VI (1986)

Most people will argue that *Friday the 13th Part IV: The Final Chapter* is the superior film ... but they're wrong (and can't get over their Corey Feldman fetish). This movie starts with a former victim of the notorious serial killer Jason Voorhees digging up Jason's corpse to make sure he's still "dead." He unearths his rotting body, but in a fit of anger rips a metal spear off of a nearby fence



and stabs it into Jason's withered heart. At that very moment a thunderstorm forms and a lightning bolt strikes the spear, re-animating Jason and starting yet another killing spree. What makes this movie great is that it really seems like the filmmakers were aware of what they were making (which was the sixth *Friday The 13th* movie in as many years), and boy did they go all out to embrace the ridiculousness of it all.

MONSTER SQUAD (1987)

Fred Dekker strikes again with this coming of age tale about a group of pre-teens obsessed with classic monster movies that happens to come into possession of Van Helsing's original diary. After getting the diary translated by a Holocaust survivor (long story), they inadvertently draw the attention of Count Dracula and his pals, including The Mummy, The Wolfman, Frankenstein and The (unfortu-



nately named) Gill-man. We learn a lot of things from watching this movie, like the fact that Frankenstein loves kids, Stephen King rules and The Wolfman's got nards.

TALES FROM THE CRYPT: DEMON KNIGHT (1995)

A drifter comes into town and gets caught trying to steal a car. It turns out that he holds some crazy key full of Jesus' blood that opens the gates to Hell. There are car crashes, decapitations and an army of demons — and that's just in the first act. This is probably my favorite hor-



ror movie of the '90s. Unfortunately, it came out toward the end of the *Tales From The Crypt* TV series and the brand was a bit tarnished by that point, but it really had nothing to do with the TV series or the original comic and it stands well on its own. ■

Henry Weintraub lives and works in Eugene as a video editor and producer. He loves movies, records and baking tasty treats for his family.

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