



**THE DESCENT (2005)**

Writer/director Neil Marshall conjures an atmosphere of claustrophobia thick enough to cut with a pickaxe in this creepy tale of six British women on a doomed caving expedition in the Appalachian Mountains. Shot, remarkably enough, almost entirely in a London studio, the film is a macabre meditation on the limits of human endurance: The first half of the movie is a fairly straightforward thriller about a descent into the oozing bowels of the earth, gone horribly wrong when a minor earthquake hits; then, as the women repel ever deeper into the depths, searching for an exit, they are overtaken by a mute, pale, blind tribe of vaguely humanoid cannibals (frighteningly feasible, in an evolutionary sense) that commences to stalk them as prey, trying to pick them off one by one. A smart, visually stunning and truly terrifying film that has no desire to let you off the hook as it traces a descent — literal and metaphorical — into total mind-numbing madness.



**FUNNY GAMES (2007)**

Not technically a horror film, Michael Haneke's gleefully nihilistic psychological thriller about a rich white

family being held hostage in their Hamptons-like summer home and systematically tormented and tortured (the "games") by a pair of young, white psychopaths in tennis shorts is an excruciating test of our own voyeuristic impulses. By turns mesmerizing, repulsive, maddening and deviously "funny," the film — which stars Michael Pitt as one of the smiling sociopaths, and Naomi Watts and Tim Roth as the besieged couple — slowly and steadily turns the screws with an apparent disregard that seems amoral and unforgiving, until you realize the funny games Haneke is playing are with you. This is not torture porn; it's the antithesis — a harrowing kind of satire that deserves repeated viewings, if you can stomach the pointed cruelty of it all.



**ROSEMARY'S BABY (1968)**

Evil cannot flourish in a vacuum; it takes a village — of enablers, errand boys and apologists, all of them bonded by an avid belief in the righteousness of their cause. Hail Satan! Roman Polanski's classic thriller about a woman (Mia Farrow) duped into conceiving a child with the Prince of Darkness is not just a great horror film; it's a great film, period, a classic that grafts a gothic, Lovecraftian evil onto Manhattan on the eve of the 1970s. Polanski makes it all look so pedestrian and urbane, and the juxtaposition of Satanic rituals with Lower East Side life creates a kind of cognitive dissonance, a cultish paranoia that shivers the soul, best exemplified by Ruth Gordon's brilliant performance as the nosy, meddling neighbor lady who quietly engineers the whole thing. Chocolate "mouse" anyone?

**TWIN PEAKS: FIRE WALK WITH ME (1992)**

Totally underrated and unfairly dismissed as lesser Lynch, this combination prequel-and-sequel to the television series is



remarkable, first and foremost, for its central performance by Sheryl Lee as Laura Palmer — the strangled vulnerability and corrosive, demonic possession of Lee's performance should have garnered her an Oscar nomination. Beyond that, the film, albeit uneven in places, contains passages that seem to delve into the very heart of evil. It's as though Lynch, deliciously constrained by what he could do on TV, unleashed here, and the results are nightmarish.

**THE VANISHING (1988)**

As unforgivably bad as the Hollywood remake was, the original film, by George Sluizer, is a masterpiece — an obsessive, slow-burning portrait of evil incarnate that channels Alfred Hitchcock at his sinister best. A couple on vacation stops at a gas station; the girlfriend vanishes into thin air; the boyfriend searches for her relentlessly, for years, until he finally discovers that she was abducted by a cold-blooded killer, to whom he draws ever-nearer until they finally meet. Does he want to know what happened to



his girlfriend? If so, he must submit to this psycho, and experience exactly what she did. Yeah, enough said — the ending will knock the wind right out of you. ■

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Fri. - Sat. (2:00 PM) 7:00 PM  
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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE [CC,DV] (R)  
Fri. - Sat. (12:40 3:30) 6:20 9:10  
DISNEY JUNIOR AT THE MOVIES - HALLOWEEN PARTY! NR ★  
Sat. 12:55 PM  
GEOSTORM [CC,DV] (PG-13) Fri. - Sat. (12:55 PM) 6:30 PM  
GEOSTORM 3D [CC,DV] (PG-13) ★  
Fri. - Sat. (3:40 PM) 9:30 PM  
ONLY THE BRAVE [CC,DV] (PG-13) Fri. - Sat. (12:30 3:40) 7:00 10:10  
SAME KIND OF DIFFERENT AS ME [CC,DV] (PG-13) Fri. - Sat. (11:55 AM 3:00 PM)  
SNOWMAN [CC,DV] (R) Fri. 10:25 PM  
Sat. 7:20 PM 10:25 PM  
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Sat. 5:50 PM 10:00 PM  
HAPPY DEATH DAY [CC,DV] (PG-13) Fri. - Sat. (12:20 3:00) 5:35 8:10 10:45  
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BLADE RUNNER 2049 [CC,DV] (R) Fri. (2:05 PM) 10:15 PM  
Sat. (2:40 PM) 6:40 PM 10:15 PM  
MY LITTLE PONY [CC,DV] (PG) Fri. - Sat. (12:00 PM)  
MARK FELT: THE MAN WHO BROUGHT DOWN THE WHITE HOUSE (PG-13) Fri. - Sat. (11:10 PM)  
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