

The Voice



Halloween Edition

Fall 2019

Remember, all works in *The Voice* are fiction and not meant to promote any actions or ideals.

To Find a Killer

By Anonymous



I should have known better, I should've listened...

And I'll regret it for the rest of my life, or whatever's left of it.

I'd heard the stories, but I had never believed them. After all, they were just stories.

I'd heard of a man back in the 1850s (which was about fifty years before my time) whom nobody knew while he was alive. Back then, the amount of crime in this town was shameful. You couldn't buy anything without losing it all, you couldn't leave the house alone. But most importantly, there was murder.

But it was much harder to find a killer in those times.

Folks nowadays say that the killings were the work of a single man, which was unheard of at the time. They say that no one would have suspected him, if he hadn't mysteriously disappeared. After his thirteenth kill, the story says that he was seen walking into the woods one night.

He never returned.

My great uncle always told me that he never left the forest.

"After all, a body was never found. At least, none that were his. They say that he still roams the woods of this town, looking for more victims..."

"BOO!"

And I would crawl under my covers, afraid of what I'd see if I came out. Of course, I had a reason to be afraid. But it was just a story, right?

Oh, how wrong I was.
Uncle didn't quite get the details right, but one thing he said was true.
That man was not dead.
I don't know by what power this is possible, but the legend is true.
I wish I'd listened.

He's coming for me
He's coming
run
he's coming
help me
he's cserbgxvfhckhырshg!

Hubert

By Mary Kalinski



It all began on a Sunday evening, in a grimy, yellow-lit subway station in the bellows of lower Manhattan. I was just stepping off the subway, a crate of glistening Empire apples in my arms and a stale expression on my face. *Take the apples*, my aunt and uncle had urged. *Think of us when you eat them*, they had blubbered. I'd only snorted. This was my first time leaving the farm without them, but to tell the truth, I'd been ready to leave. I'd yearned to start fresh, to make a name for myself. Yet tomorrow, I began my first job as a hotel elevator operator. You heard me. Of all the *lousy* jobs in the world. It would be torturous, that infernal button-pushing, order-taking, and smile-forcing. And for barely a fistful of cash. But I had no choice- money was money, and I was through with living off of my family. Should've stayed on the dopey apple-farm.

I was shuffling through the crowd, just a speck in a wave of gray, when I heard the faintest *peep* come from under me.

Where are you taking me? " it... asked?

I stopped. Looked left. Looked right. As irritated professionals in suits pushed past me, I circled myself. There was no sign of anyone *small* enough to make such a sound. A little shaken, I continued to walk.

Are you deaf?" it peeped again. Bewildered, I watched as a tiny, green worm slithered out of an apple right next to my very nose.

"I thought you'd never hear me! You people never pay any attention to anything, the worm remarked snidely. My hands trembled, barely holding onto the crate.

Wha-ha-ha-at are you?" I stuttered, at a loss for words.

"I see, deaf *and* blind. I'm a worm, of the *littlus greenus* species. You can call me Hubert."

H-h-h-hello, Hubert, I'm a man, and you can call me Mr. Poget, I replied uneasily as the worm slithered onto my hand.

"You don't look like much of a mister to me, boy."

"I'm 19- there's no way you're older than that! And why did *you* crawl into my apples?" I countered, a bit frazzled.

"I would never- you kidnapped me! I was just minding my own business, munching on this apple, when you uprooted me and brought me to this filthy place. Not a tree in sight!" The worm looked almost pitiful, a lonely squiggle on my hand.

Well, I can't go back to the orchard now, but you can take my couch for now, I returned hastily, not giving a second thought. Hubert peered at me scrutinizingly, clearly unsatisfied.

Fine, I'll take the couch. You can have the bed."

The next day, Hubert came with me to work. All day long, he stayed curled up in my breast pocket, quietly munching on an apple slice. And much to my relief, he didn't make a peep. At the end of my incredibly tedious shift, I reached into my pocket and gingerly pulled the little guy out.

"I can't believe you actually kept your mouth shut that long!" I remarked. Hubert rolled his eyes.

Unlike *some* people, I have *tact*. Just you wait till I- All of a sudden, Hubert's face turned an even deeper shade of green.

What? What happened? Did some- OH! Ahem. Uhh, good evening, Mister!" I squeaked.

For smack-dab in front of us stood Mr. Plaza, the owner of the hotel.

What is that filthy creature doing in my hotel?! Care to explain, Poget? Mr. Plaza demanded, his meticulously polished shoe tapping like a heartbeat. I scrambled for an explanation, but Hubert beat me to it.

Oh Mr. Plaza, a pleasure to meet you- I'm Hubert, Poget's pocket worm! Have you heard we're *dreadfully* fashionable these days? Pocket worms happen to be shockingly charming, *devilishly* witty, and divinely intelligent. And that's not all. I assure you, the boy was merely seeking to profit from the trends! exclaimed Hubert, an earnest smile masking his sly tone.

"I see.... Is that so, Poget?"

Yes, of course, Mr. Plaza!" I plastered a grin onto my sweating face.

Well then, I suppose it couldn't hurt. I'll see you bright and early tomorrow morning, Poget. And don't forget the worm!"

I tipped my head, thanked him, and ran out before he could change his mind. Who knew Hubert was a genius?

Oh, and Hubert, Mr. Plaza called. Could you bring along a few more friends tomorrow? I'd like to equip all of the staff with worms of their own."

Why of course, Hubert obliged. "I'm *certain* I have at least a few connections."

In no time, the hotel was jam-packed with worms, each one nearly as charming and clever as Hubert himself. The guests were absolutely enchanted, and were soon begging me to find them pocket worms of their own. As for me, I was feeling downright chuffed; what other hotel could boast talking invertebrae? I had become an innovator, a trend-setter, a *revolutionist*, and I couldn't *wait* to share my accomplishments with my family.

Then one crisp autumn morning, I decided to let Hubert stay at home. He'd been coming to work with me every day, and he deserved a bit of shut-eye. But as soon as I entered the hotel; I could smell trouble brewing.

"Poget! We've been looking everywhere for you!" Mr. Plaza huffed, clearly irate, as he pulled me into a corner. I had never seen him like this before.

"Mr. Plaza! What's wrong?" A jerky panic was building in my stomach- I'd never seen him like this before.

"What's wrong? WHAT'S WRONG?! Let me TELL you what's wrong! It's those flipping worms- they're *gone!* The guests are throwing a tantrum; we've already lost *three* reservations. If you don't find that Hubert right now, you're sacked!"

"He-he's at home," I stammered. "I'll go find him. I'm sure he'll know what's going on!"

I scampered out the door, my feet knocking against each other. What had Hubert done? And why? After what felt like centuries, I rounded the corner to my apartment building. And stopped right in my tracks. My dingy, dirty old apartment building was completely, entirely, freakishly colored a bright lime green. *I must be seeing things*, I tried to coax myself,

but the color was undeniable. I put my nose up to it to check, and then instantly recoiled, my skin crawling. The brick walls were covered in a million little green worms. Every one just like Hubert. I pried the door open and raced up the stairs. What had *I* done?

I finally reached the floor of my apartment, my head pounding, my hands trembling. Every room I had passed had been eerily quiet. My own door had been cracked open, and mustering up my courage, I peeked inside. The room was empty but for a single stripe of green on the window.

“H-H-Hubert?” I croaked. The stripe slithered down the window and onto the windowsill.

“Come in,” it ordered sinisterly. “I’ve been expecting you, boy.”

My shaking breath was audible in the silent hallway. Too silent, as if something would pounce at any given moment.

“Come IN!” it growled. I tried to shake off my fear, to feign bravery, but I could only edge into the room, my eyes darting in every direction.

“Why would you do this to me, Hubert?” I cried, my voice shrill. Plaza’s gonna fire me now- I hope you’re happy! I took you in, fed you apples, and you give me *this*?”

Hubert only glared at me bitterly.

“You and your *stupid* apples!” he sneered. “Couldn’t you at least *try* to care? But OH no, why would you waste your precious time thinking about us *pesky* little worms? You humans *disgust* me,” he spat, eyes ablaze.

All our lives, we worms have been stuck in these *pathetic* little apples. And you know what, Poget? We’re *sick* of it. It’s time to take back what we deserve: The BIG Apple.”

And that’s how the worms took over New York City. It’s too late for me now, but you may still have time. I *implore* you, reader, be weary. Gather your defenses. Make haste. FEAR THE WORMS!!!



Remember, Rated R movies are for those 18 or older; get permission from the folks. Heck, maybe they'll join you in the movie-watching adventure!

Movie Review: IT: Chapter Two

Colin Jones

SPOILER-FREE

After two years, horror-movie giant IT has now become known as IT: Chapter One. Why? Because the long anticipated sequel, IT: Chapter Two has just released. As someone who has read the book and seen the first movie, I have my thoughts (again, don't worry about spoilers).

IT: Chapter 2 (I'm just going to call it IT 2 to save space :)) delivered elements that the first movie did not. I



personally thought that the second movie was a lot better than the first. You may be screaming in outrage right now; let me explain.

While the scares in IT 2 were less frequent than in the first, the ones that were delivered were pretty terrifying and gruesome; the movie was one of the bloodiest in horror movie history. Bill Skarsgard was creepy as ever as his role of the shapeshifting monster, Pennywise. Even when I anticipated the jumpscars, I admit I was still startled when they happened.

One thing that surprised me is how funny the movie was. While some of the humor undercut the scares, often it made me laugh or lightened the tone of the movie in a pleasant way. Actor and comedian Bill Hader was hysterical as Richie Tozier, and some of the other leads had a funny line every now and then as well.

The movie was also accurate to the book in a lot of ways. There were some small differences story-wise, but it was about as true to the original story as it could have been.

My final point on IT 2 was that it was able to provoke a wide variety of emotions. The aforementioned fright and humor were all well and good, but there were certain moments that truly tugged the heartstrings.

While there were certain parts of the movie that were undercut, drawn out, or vague, all in all it was definitely one of the best horror movies I have seen in a long time.

Game Review: Five Nights At Freddy's

Jack Walsh

Halloween is coming up, so I've decided to review a horror game, and yes, I know I'm beating a dead horse, but this horror game is Five Nights at Freddy's, because what other horror games are there to review? Resident Evil, or Amnesia, or Silent Hill, or Bioshock? Nonsense! These games are nothing compared to the superiority of FNAF! I mean, they're still good, but none of them were quite as influential as FNAF. But before I get to that, a brief history!



A Brief History

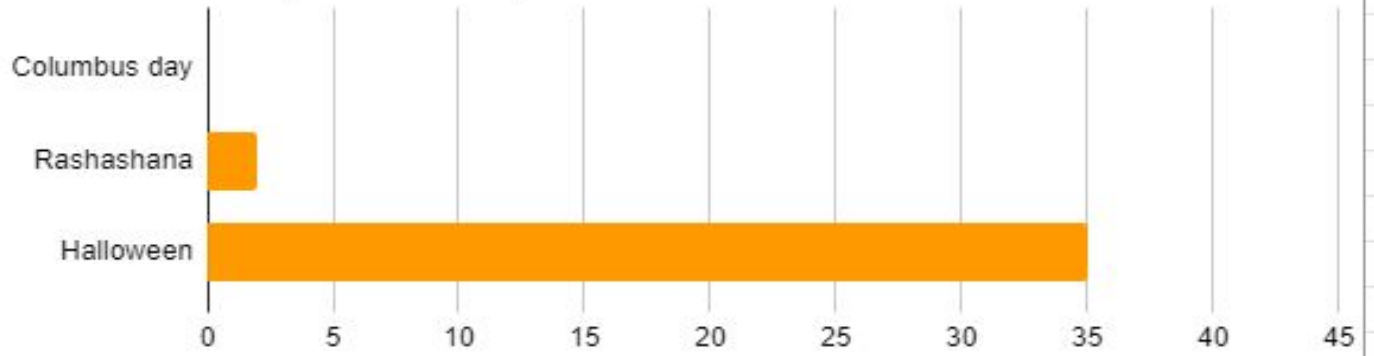
FNAF was created by Scott Cawthon, who was born on July 26, 1971. His first few games were educational and some were even Christian, none of these really took off. There was one, in particular, Chipper and Sons Lumber Co., where the main character was terrifying.

After these games received lots of bad reviews, he tried his hand at one more game. He took his bad reviews and made a horror game out of them, called Five Nights At Freddy's. This time, these characters were meant to be terrifying, as the game takes place in a haunted pizzeria. The game exploded, and three months later, a sequel followed. And then another. And then another. And then another. And then another. And then another. And then another. And no, I'm not exaggerating. The franchise is still going strong.

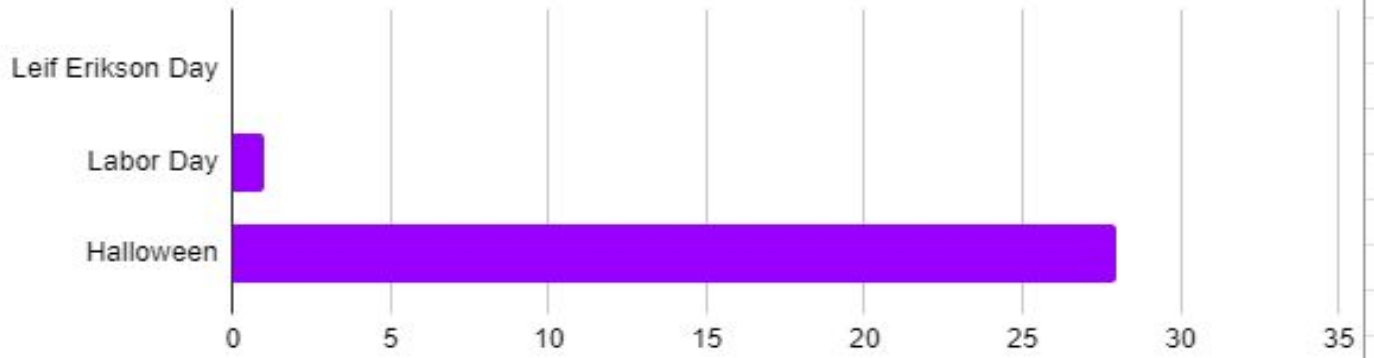
FNAF's Impact on the Horror Genre

Before Five Nights At Freddy's (FNAF), the biggest horror game was Slenderman. While this game was pretty good, so many rip-offs followed it. The formula became so old and overused that it just wasn't fun anymore. The formula was quite simple. You had to collect 8 (insert thing here) while avoiding (insert thing here) to win. FNAF provided a welcome switch. Instead of running away from the (insert thing here), you had to let the (insert thing here) and survive until 6:00 AM to win, and be careful not to run out of power. You had to use your resources wisely to win. This formula and form of strategy is what caused FNAF to blow up. However, Scott Cawthon was smart. He saw that if he didn't mix this formula up, it would become the next Slenderman. For the sequels, he mixed the formula up in a way that it still had its base, but everything else was mixed up. Because of this, I believe FNAF will always be one of the most iconic titles in the horror genre. If you're not a gamer, you might have thought this was just one big cringefest. It's still a good game, and lots of your favorite horror games wouldn't be here today without FNAF. So maybe this Halloween, spend seven dollars and play this game. You won't be disappointed.

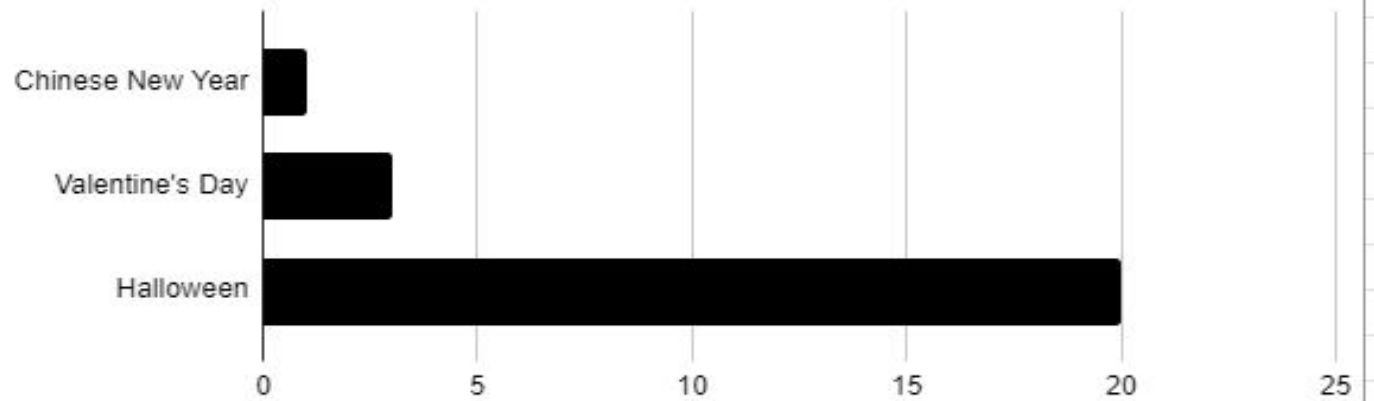
Which holiday most fits your Fall aesthetic?



Which holiday brings back your happiest child hood memories?



Which holiday do you think we should get off for, but don't?



The Specter of the Harvest

By Colin Jones

Ochre
Crisp fire
He walks the fields alone

Broken
Desire
His deeds the dark condone

His hands are pale
His visage white
He roams the cold corn stalks at night
He's trapped inside a tomb of fright
Because of what he did.
His crimes will never let him die
His crimes have caught him in a lie
His crimes have made him go awry
Because of what he did.

Darkness
Cold air
He sinks into the gloom

Chill breeze
Not fair
Who was the one who met
their doom?

His eyes are pits

His hands have claws
He has succumbed to evil flaws
He cannot forget what he saw
Because of what he did.
His crimes will never heal his wounds
His crimes have locked him in a tomb
His crimes within the shadows loom
Because of what he did.

So if you ever meet a man
Whose arms cut off at frigid hands
Whose mind has crumbled into sand
It's best to just steer clear

And if you ever hear a wail
The darkest chapter of a tale
Of sorrow and sadness without fail
You'll know that he is near

So if you value your own lives
And if you don't want to deprive
Yourself of the right to survive

Then hide inside.

Enjoy your fall.

*And don't open the door if you hear
him call.*





Get into the autumn spirit with this fun questionnaire!

- Have to go on a haunted hayride every night before bed or bob for apples every morning before breakfast?
- Grow as many warts as a hag or as much hair as a werewolf?
- Listen to the Monster Mash or the Ghostbusters theme song for 24 hours?
- Trick-or-treat every day for a week or have a Thanksgiving dinner for 3 meals?
- Have a bat or a spider as a pet?
- Swim in an apple cider river or a pumpkin spice latte lake?
- Live a day as the White Witch or the Wicked Witch of the West?
- Have candy corn teeth or a Tootsie-Roll tongue?
- Befriend a chatty ghost or a friendly jack-o-lantern?
- Live in a pumpkin patch or an apple orchard?
- Get stuck in a horror movie or an episode of Teletubbies?

The Positivity Place: Lets Get So Smiley, It's Spooky

Ok before you judge this, hear me out. Its Monday morning, you spilled your apple juice on your shirt, almost missed the bus and once you got to school realized that your chromebook was dead. It is only the first day of the week. Argghhhh. You are walking through the hallway and a person you have never noticed before smiled at you. “ Oh my gosh, was

You think to yourself. You go on person's smile lingers in your of a day you were having but the terriblest day can make a large others circumstances and issues. amazing photos of themselves can be very damaging. It creates know that nobody has a perfect wonder how this relates to the with pressures to be a person who person down. A simple smile has



maybe bring someone the joy that they needed. So this spooky season please share some smiles with your friends but more importantly people who you don't know. It can make all the difference to someone's day!!

that at me!! I don't even know them.” with your day. The thought of that mind. They did not even know what kind smiled at you nonetheless. One smile on difference. Most people are unaware of On social media everybody posts doing amazing things in their lives. This an ideal image of perfection but we all life, even if they seem to. You may topic of a smile. Our world is clouded has it all and it can really start to wear a the power to brighten someone's day and

Top Ten Horror Films Ever Created:

10. Saw

While the sequels to this film aren't as good as the first one. It still continues to excite the viewer who enjoys the especially gory films. Saw is a basic concept of gory and scary films with a few psychological aspects. The first one is by far the best, but the other sequels aren't terrible films.

The best part about the first Saw movie is it's easy story telling. Two men wake up in a bathroom with no memory of how they got there and one is given 24 hours to kill the other or else his wife and daughter will be brutally murdered. It dives into the psychological aspect of what would you do in this situation. Either let a stranger live and your family die or kill a good man to save your family. All of this and more including flashbacks, leads to the ultimate conclusion of one of the best twists in horror history.

9. The Evil Dead

Like Saw, this movie is once again a gory fun movie to watch. While once again the sequels are very strange, it does make for a good watch the first time through.

The Evil Dead centers around a group of teenagers who rent a cabin in the woods and stay there for the weekend. All goes according to plan until one of them finds a strange book that summons the powers of The Evil Dead (Ghost Zombies). It is a gory film, a scary film, and at some points a very weird film.

8. A Nightmare On Elm Street

This film isn't like most films. It comes from the mind of the writer/director, Wes Craven and brings on a new form of suspense and in fact is based loosely on true events.

Filmed in the 1980s, A Nightmare On Elm Street follows a group of young teens who begin to have strange dreams involving a knife glove wearing man in a fedora named Freddy Kruger. Kruger is a demonic entity that can enter the dream world. In that world he stalks the children of the parents that brutally murdered him when he was still alive and kills them in their sleep, killing them in real life.

The protagonist isn't just another scream queen. But a true final girl who attempts to rid her town of Freddy and thereby saves many teenagers from dying in their dreams.

7. Scream

This 1990s cult classic was also created by Wes Craven. It is a true slasher film and still holds up its reputation to this day with many pop culture references.

This film follows a teenager named Sydney whose mother was murdered a year prior. She begins to get stalked by a masked killer and must find out the identity of the murderer before all of her friends die.

The build up on this movie is incredible and makes for an entertaining watch, considering that there is no boring time for this movie. The killer is in almost every scene and the identity of the killer is the main cause that drives the viewer to continue watching this film. It isn't filled with much gore or cheesy jump scares. But the fact alone that the main point of watching this film to discover the killer's identity brings strong Scooby Doo vibes into the room.

6. The Shining

Where to start with this film? It's an amazing piece of cinematography directed by one of the greatest directors to ever live and based on a book by one of the greatest horror writers who ever lived. While it differentiates from the book in many ways to the point where Stephen King up and hated the movie's portrayal of the source material, but has since grown to like it.

The film centers around the Torrance family, made up of Jack, Wendy, and their son Danny. Danny has very strange gifts including a slight multiple personality disorder with the other named Tony and another special telepathic gift called the shining. This ability gives Danny a way to see strange events that have occurred anywhere he goes and to talk telepathically to others with the same gift. The family stays to watch over the Overlook Hotel in the winter and the story follows Jack Torrance as he begins to descend into madness and attempt to murder his entire family.

While the film differs from the book by not showing many of the ghosts, but instead showing them as loose figures of Jack's crazy hallucinations, the film does bring up the very problematic cause of what alcohol can do to you.

5. It (Chapter 1 & 2)

This film is an incredible work of art. The source material of the 1984 more than one thousand page novel by Stephen King is amazing on it's own. But just the fact that the director of this film can manage to take almost all of it and add new scenes in order to make it more amazing than it already was.

The novel and movies follow a group of 7 children and later into their adult years. They grow up in the small town of Derry, Maine. While there during their childhood the kids around Derry begin to go missing, including Bill's younger brother Gerogie. Bill convinces them to discover where Georgie might have gone and this culminates to them finding out that they are facing a shapeshifting evil entity from another dimension that snatches children and feeds on their flesh and also their fears. This follows them into their adult ages when they are forced to return to Derry in order to defeat It once and for all.

The story is an amazing metaphor for conquering one's fears and the symbolism and foreshadowing throughout the two films are utterly amazing. Though both films together equal a total watch time of almost 6 hours, I guarantee you that It is worth it. The film is scary, gory, coming of age, and what this movie does for you that a lot of other films don't is that it makes you care about each and every one of the characters and creates great villains, not just the evil shape shifting clown, but also the crazy kid Henry Bowers and his aggressive friend group and abusive father. The film really puts you into their shoes and they act as how any other kids would act. Afraid of the world and of what it contains, yet also ready to embrace the unknown and conquer whatever may scare you.

4. Night of the Living Dead

Night of the Living Dead is by far a major step in horror history. As in fact it is the first ever zombie movie ever made. While not many people may remember this film, it is a very important and very big step for it's time.

Filmed in 1968 by George A. Romero, this film follows a woman named Barbara who attempts to survive in a house from these being called ghouls. When a person dies in their human life, they become a ghoul

and attempt to kill you, though one shot to the head and the ghoul will be killed. This is an important film for its time because it was filmed at that point where there was still a lot of racism in America, and this film's lead character is played by an African American man by the name of Duane Jones.

The film is more psychological than scary and nothing exciting happens until the third act, though it's still amazing to see what normal everyday people would do when they are trapped with their lives on the line. Though the ending of this film takes the cake, when Ben, the last survivor of the group emerges from the rumble of the broken house, just to get headshotted by the townspeople assuming him to also be a ghoul.

3. Psycho

Along with Night of the Living Dead, this film was as well a major step for its time and the twist ending was kept so quiet that the director, Alfred Hitchcock would have to personally make sure that no one spoiled the ending on interviews.

The film follows a woman named Marion Crane who attempts to escape with a but load of money, she takes shelter at a place called the Bates Motel and soon things begin to go downhill after she mysteriously goes missing and her sister Lila attempts to find her.

The film is an amazing step in the suspense genre and has some of the most iconic scenes in it. The shower scene in Psycho would attempt to be recreated by other movies hoping to get a kill as good as that. But it will always stand out to be the best kill ever in a horror movie, with the quick shots, suspenseful music, and amazing timing on the actors behalf. It is truly one of the greatest horror films ever made with the ending twist as one of the greatest twists in not just horror history but film history

2. The Texas Chainsaw Massacre

Let me just tell you first that this film is one of the best and one of my personal favorites. The film is one of the best independent films ever to be made. It was directed by a man named Tobe Hooper who had absolutely no studio behind him and made the movie on a budget of only \$140,000 in the middle of Texas.

The film follows a group of young teens including a girl named Sally who learns that her grandfather's grave might have been vandalised and the body was stolen by thieves. She and her friends take a road trip through Texas in order to make sure everything is okay. But when they arrive at the old farmhouse that they are staying in things begin to go wrong with everyone going missing. They eventually learn that just next door is the crazy Sawyer family who are all insane cannibals. The family is made up of Nubbins Sawyer, Drayton Sawyer, their old grandpa, and the big man, Leatherface. The film is an amazing piece of suspense and thrills, and during the infamous dinner scene it opens up to be very psychological. The actors give it their all including Leatherface, who is more of a sad sack of helplessness who doesn't want to kill, but is forced into it by his crazy family and just wants people to stay away from him.

While the sequels will eventually butcher this franchise, that doesn't mean that this first film is a fail in any way, but the best independent film to ever be made, whether it was the gore, the suspense, the characters, the set design, costumes, etc. This will always be an amazing film and nothing will ever come to be able to change that.

1. Halloween

This film is the number one pick on my list for several amazing reasons, and here's why. Halloween was filmed in 1978 by director John Carpenter and writer, Debra Hill. It has stood its ground as an amazing film for all these years with several sequels still in the process of being made and truly is one of, if not the most iconic faces ever to pop up over social media. The film was also an independent film, but with a slightly bigger budget of \$400,000. The film is set in Haddonfield, Illinois but was filmed in Miami, Florida with palm trees being visible in some shots. While similar to other films, the sequels of the Halloween franchise suck it is true that the second one Halloween 2 isn't a terrible fail and in some cases is almost as good as the first.

This film follows a young boy named Michael Myers. On Halloween night in 1963 a 6 year old Michael Myers takes a kitchen knife and murders his older sister Judith with no motive whatsoever. He is then sentenced to a detention facility and is watched over by psychologist Samuel Loomis. As Sam watches the boy age, he begins to realize that Michael has the dullest darkest soul and is only pure evil. He uses his knowledge of this and attempts to keep Michael in the institution for years. Though on Halloween night of 1975 Michael escapes and makes his way back to Haddonfield. When he arrives he attempts to murder a group of teenagers on Halloween night and with Sam Loomis in pursuit to save them it all comes down to who can outlast the longest.

The real thing that gives this movie more respect than others is its ability to establish a well rounded killer. With horror movies nowadays there always has to be a motive, and even back then there always had to be a motive for the murderer to want to kill. For example in Friday the 13th, Mrs. Voorhees killing to avenge the death of her son Jason. In A Nightmare On Elm Street, Freddy kills in order to get revenge on the parents who killed him when he was alive. Along with even Scream, where Billy and Stu kill in order to avenge Billy's father who was forced into a divorce after cheating on Billy's mother with Sydney's mom. Though the thing that gives this movie respect is that Michael doesn't kill for a motive, not out of revenge or out of hate or even out of pain, but just kills because he can. While the sequels make this film out to be a spiritual movie where Michael is a demon of sorts, in this first film he is only a 21 year old man who can and will kill because he can.

Along with the way that he stalks his prey makes this a very feared character. Due to the steadicam technology that they used for this movie, Michael stalked people using a pov vision that made his face unseen and most amazingly was never seen, even with the iconic mask until an hour into the film. The filmmakers used this to build tension between the audience and Michael by instilling fear into the view by using not the fear of what is seen on screen, but the fear of the unknown.

Another last thing that I wanted to point out was the performance of the characters, specifically the characters of Dr. Samuel Loomis and Laurie Strode. Laurie Strode, played by Jamie Lee Curtis would be the best part of this film and it's sequels, other than Michael being present in them. Curtis played the good girl stereotype in this film and the responsible one nonetheless, so it wasn't hard not to like her character at the beginning, after all she was good with children, good at school, and very smart. During the end of the film however she does turn from her good final girl motif into the more controversial scream queen motif, though makes up for it at the end after almost giving her life to save the children she was babysitting and even managed to stab Michael in the neck with a needle and in the eye with a coat hanger as he was equipped with a large kitchen knife. During this another character that gave it all was Dr. Samuel Loomis, played by Donald Pleasence. Pleasence gave a new meaning to a side character by making him in some cases even stronger and better than the many characters. With his ability of courage and the fact that he would never stop until Michael was dead makes you want to root for this guy. Though in the sequels he will eventually descend into madness

after fighting Michael to many times, this first film was his greatest performance, especially when he managed to save the life of Strode after shooting Michael off of a balcony to his supposed death.

To just touch up a little on this film, I believe that it is a cinematic masterpiece, complete with everything there is for a good horror movie. It is scary, suspenseful, not as gory, not as cliché, and just an all around good time to watch. The characters make you care for them and want them to live while some of them make you root for Michael to kill them. Instead of using jump scares to frighten the view, Halloween uses smaller and simpler cues such as brief stalking. And one final thing that is iconic about this film is it's way of music. Composed by John Carpenter the music is one of the greatest parts about this film with it being able to hit the right notes just when the scene needs it too and also to know how to make a viewer's heart sink in their chest, if you don't believe me listen to it yourself. That my friends is why Halloween is at the top of this list.

Thanks for Reading! More Issues to Come!



Interested in contributing? Literary Magazine meets every other Tuesday in Mr. Cummins' room!

No prior writing experience necessary!