

Essentials To Watch This Halloween

By Adam Robb



The air becomes cooler and the leaves begin to change. Halloween descends upon us, like a shadow in the night. Because of COVID-19 this year it seems that Halloween might be canceled, meaning no Halloween night parties, but that doesn't mean that you can't have any good, scary fun! I've compiled a list of the five best movies and shows to watch during this Halloween season.

The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari (1920)

More of an obscured film, "The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari", is a classic, silent horror film that was directed by, German native, Robert Wiene. The plot consists of: "Hypnotist Dr. Caligari uses a somnambulist, Cesare, to commit murders".

This film is essential to the Halloween season as it focuses on death, murder, and deception. With its striking, geometric shapes, to further the idea of madness and confusion, caused many to believe this was one of the first horror movies to be released to the media. With its odd imagery and horrifying storyline, this movie will likely cause chills down your spine.

The Haunting of Hill House (2018)

A loose adaptation of the Shirley Jackson novel of the same name, the show follows the life of the Crain family between two different timelines. The official synopsis from IMDb reads: "Flashing between past and present, a fractured family confronts haunting memories of their old home and the terrifying events that drove them from it".

The Haunting of Hill House is directed by Mike Flanagan. Flanagan creates a deep anxious feeling that builds in your gut as the episodes go on, through the use of believable characters and held long shots of out of focus ghosts in the background. Many times throughout the show I would find myself clenching my blanket in fear. This show is for those who aren't the faint of heart and ready to get sucked into another fantastic tv show.

Scream (1996)

"Do you like scary movies?" This is one of the best lines to describe why this is the movie that reinvented the horror genre. Scream became one of the best horror-comedy of the 90s. The IMDb synopsis states: "A year after the murder of her mother, a teenage girl is terrorized by a new killer, who targets the girl and her friends by using horror films as part of a

deadly game.” The movie, which was released in 1996, became a cult classic among horror fans from all spectrums. According to the website boxofficemojo.com, the movie made over \$6.3 million on its opening and went on to do \$70 million in the international market.

Unlike the other two movies and shows on this list, *Scream* became a cult classic as its ingenious use of horror satire. Unlike most horror movies it started to poke fun at its genre, allowing for a funny, and horror-filled movie.

Nightmare on Elm Street(1984)

The 1980s was a movie renaissance, especially for the horror genre. Wes Craven’s 1984 horror flick captured the audience and made them afraid to fall asleep at night, not wanting to find Freddy waiting for them. The official synopsis from IMDb details: “The monstrous spirit of a slain child murderer seeks revenge by invading the dreams of teenagers whose parents were responsible for his untimely death.”

Legendary horror and movie director Wes Craven created one of the most recognizable movie villains ever, Freddy Krueger. Krueger instantly went on to become one of the most famous horror icon in the world, and terrified audiences with his blade covered gloves. Arguably, without Craven's classic hit, the horror culture may be totally different than it is today.

Stranger Things (2016-present)

The eighties was a huge time for films as many classics came from this decade. But the eighties was most known for being a renaissance for horror media, good and bad. And with Netflix’s original hit, *Stranger things*, many were transported back in time to experience the horror that feels reminiscent to the time of the show. Boasting a 93 percent on the Rotten Tomatoes Meter, the synopsis reads as: “A love letter to the '80s classics that captivated a generation, *Stranger Things* is set in 1983 Indiana, where a young boy vanishes into thin air. As friends, family and local police search for answers, they are drawn into an extraordinary mystery involving top-secret government experiments, terrifying supernatural forces and one very strange little girl”.

The horror-sci-fi smash hit was directed by a duo team of brothers named the Duffers. Matt and Ross Duffer signed on to the project with netflix, wanting to make a mini series, but to their surprise their love letter to eighties horror gained enough popularity to create additional seasons.

Even though Halloween may look different this year, it doesn’t mean that you can have any horror-filled fun. So please, stay safe this Halloween season, distance about six feet when watching, and have a good time. From me and the others on the Tartan have a happy Halloween.