

Cambridge  
Movie  
News

*Issue 5*  
*October*  
*2001*

*Free for all those who  
dare pick me up...*

Inside this Issue:

Ghoulish Reviews

Spectral Coming Attractions

Vampiric News

Haunted Theater Stories

Everything an Undead Movie Fan  
Needs!

# Letter from the Editor

Greetings fellow movie fans!

Once again we meet to discuss the newest, the greatest and the not-so-greatest in the world of media.

October is always a special month for movies, as it comes with Halloween. And all eyes turn to the Horror films of past and present. This month has quite a few horror films coming out, from the historical Jack the Ripper movie From Hell, to the urban slasher Bones.

In this issue I have plenty of reviews, coming attractions as well as an article on haunted theaters. All in the name of a few nightmares and a lot of fun. So sit back, ignore the glowing eyes behind the projector and enjoy the special Horror issue of the Cambridge Movie News.  
Chris DeKalb



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Horror Month

*“The first passage will allow the demon to manifest itself in the flesh.”*

*“Why the hell would we want to do that?”*

Evil Dead 2 (1987)

# Coming Attractions

Once again I give you a tiny glimpse of the month to come. Remember that release dates are subject to change at the last moment.

## Theater

10/05

Training Day

Joy Ride

The Wash

Max Keeble's Big Move

Serendipity

10/12

Mulholland Drive

Iron Monkey

Bandits

Corky Romano

10/19

From Hell

Riding in Cars with Boys

Bones

Heist

On the Line

The Last Castle

10/26

13 Ghosts

Donnie Darko

K-Pax

## Video Rental

10/02

Beautiful Creatures

The Mummy Returns

Heartbreakers

Tremors 3: Back to Perfection

10/09

Bridget Jones Diary

One Night at McCool's

10/16

Cats and Dogs

Chunyang

The Crimson Rivers

Town and Country

Replicant

10/23

Dr. Dolittle 2

Final Fantasy

Freddy got Fingered

Wishmaster 3

## DVD

10/02

Heartbreakers

The Mummy Returns

Terminator: Special Edition

A Tale of Two Cities

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## Horror Month

*"You got a letter?  
I got run over, Helen gets her hair chopped off,  
Julie gets a dead body in her trunk, and you get a letter?  
Oh, that's balanced!"*  
I Know What You Did Last Summer (1997)

# Reviews

As always I have taken it on my self to see the good, the bad and the truly strange. Below I list several movies in release in theaters, on DVD and on the Internet for you to see or avoid.

If you agree or disagree with any of these reviews feel free to drop me a note at cdkboston@earthlink.net.

## Movie Reviews

### Brotherhood of the Wolf

Action/Horror [R]

A French film, this was one of the more thematic entries in the Boston Film Festival. In the late 1700's France is faced with a problem, one of it's provinces is being ravaged by the Beast. It is attacking and killing women and children, and the few survivors report that it is some horrific wolf. Enter our heroes, an Iroquois from the Americas and a French naturalist/soldier. As they try to piece together what is happening the beast begins to show up more often, and it's broadening it's hunger beyond the men and women.

The movie has a lot of atmosphere, and uses a lot of very thematic elements. The Indian, Mani, likes to stare off while images of thunderstorms roll past. Also the director really likes to have the camera speed up or slow down to heighten the scene you're watching. This leads to a few very Matrixy fights. The film is definitely worth seeing. The fights are well done and the characters are interesting. The plot twists around a lot and could have used some judicious editing. It really felt like the conclusion battle was being deliberately delayed.

Hopefully this film will see wide release, but if it

isn't then be sure to look for it when it hits the Foreign section of the video stores.

### Jeepers Creepers

Horror [R]

Despite the "Worst Movie Title of 2001" this is a decent monster movie. It does have some problems, but all in all it is worth seeing.

The plot follows a brother and sister who are coming home from college. On the way home they are run off the road by a creepy old truck, driven by a maniac. They eventually get away but later spot said maniac apparently dropping bodies down a chute near an old church. In true Horror movie stupidity they go back to check out the church and try to save anyone still alive.

At this point we discover that not only is the maniac not human, but he has been killing for a long time. Soon afterwards the monster gets back and the rest of the movie is a chase as the kids try to get away from the monster.

During the chase they meet up with a cast of strange characters, most of whom die horrible deaths, get several cops killed (although it should be noted that the cops in this movie aren't *quite* as stupid as they usually are in horror films) and live-out the unfortunate predictions of a psychic.

The movie excels at both the dialogue between the siblings as well as some good action scenes. It's weak points are originality, scariness and plot. It also has one of my biggest pet peeves; the monster kills a dozen people without any hesitation or mercy. But when it catches a main character then it hesitates and draws out the killing. There is absolutely no reason for this hesitation, other than trying to build

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Horror Month

*"This house is ours."*  
The Others (2001)

# Coming Attractions, Reviews

(Continued from page 3)

10/09

**Note:** The SuperBit Collection is a series of DVDs that uses all of the space available in the DVD format for Audio and Visual Quality. This makes a great presentation but there are no special features. SuperBit Collection DVDs coming out: Air Force One, The Fifth Element, Desperado, Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon, Johnny Mneumonic

Godfather Collection

One Night at McCool's

Snow White and the Seven Dwarves

10/16

Angel Eyes

Cats and Dogs

Replicant

Star Wars Episode 1: The Phantom Menace

10/23

Dr. Dolittle 2: Special Edition

Final Fantasy: the Spirits Within: Special Edition

Freddy Got Fingered

Town & Country

10/30

The Animal

The Avengers 1968 complete set, Vol. 1 and 2

Midway Collector's Edition

Monty Python Live

Swordfish

(Continued from page 4)

audience suspense. It could have been done much better.

So, if you're in the mood for a brainless but fun monster chase then go check this movie out. And remember to stay all through the credits, for the traditional horror movie ending.

## DVD

### Blair Witch 2: Book of Shadows

Horror [R]

For the sequel to The Blair Witch Project the filmmakers decided not to go with the psuedo-documentary style of the original, and instead does a more traditional horror movie (with a decidedly psychological bent).

The movie deals a lot with the reactions to the first movie, including describing how the Burkittsville has been over-run with fans of the first film. The main characters are various segments of these fans. We have the guy who's just there to make money off of it, a psychic Goth who's there for the thrill of it, two documentariens trying to find out if it was all mass hysteria and a Wiccan who believes that the Blair Witch is just horribly misunderstood and is the target of anti-witch propaganda/hysteria.

So this rag-tag bunch heads off into the woods on a tour of the Blair Woods. Needless to say bad things happen out there, and the second half of the movie deals with them trying to remember what happened, and whether or not they can believe they're own tapes/memories/films. Not only are their memories

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Horror Month

*"Coming, Mother..."*  
Psycho (1960)

# Haunted Theaters

By themselves movie theaters can be very creepy places. They're usually large, full of rooms, back tunnels and dark storage rooms. The older ones have plenty of history and creak and groan as old buildings do. And walking through them late at night when you're all alone can be genuinely creepy. Now that you're thinking about how *normal* theaters can give you the willies, here's a few stories about the *haunted* ones!

Please note both theater and personal names have been left out to leave some denial room for those involved.

## Behind the Seats

Location: Very close to you dear reader.

Story source: a friend.

A small Boston area theater is allegedly haunted. Small things have been reported from time to time, including seats that suddenly go down as if someone was sitting in them, even when no-one was there. Other times they will go up and down repeatedly, again with nobody nearby.

But one theater in particular seems to hold at least one ghost, and possibly two. The first was a simple customer report. She saw a man walk out from behind the movie screen. This wasn't unusual, there was a visible crawl space there. But then the man turned to the right and walked through a closed fire exit door as if it wasn't there.

Another time a member of the staff was doing the closing check in the theater when she suddenly felt a chill and thought someone was staring at her. She looked behind her to see two red glowing eyes at the very back of the theater, behind all the seats. Being

somewhat sensible she immediately left the theater as fast as she could. Later on other staff went into there to check it out. But no evidence was found and she never saw them again.

The odd part is that when she asked about that particular theater an older projectionist said something did happen once in that theater in that location.

But what happened?

The projectionist would never tell her because, he said, if he did she would never go back in that theater again.

## The Disappearing Woman

Location: California

Source: <http://www.hotlyps.com/movie.txt>

A theater on the West Coast that happens to sit right next to a graveyard. Besides having staff mention, repeatedly, a mysterious cold spot in the cleaning room and hearing people that aren't there in the projection booth at least one ghost was actually seen. An assistant manager walked into one of the theaters to check it before closing when she saw a woman standing near the front of it. The woman was seemingly talking, but no sound came out. Her clothes and hair were also drifting like she was in a breeze despite being in a closed theater with no wind at all.

When the woman noticed the manager, she looked surprised and then vanished. The manager fled the theater, followed by one of her staff. The staff member had seen the woman disappear as well.

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Horror Month

*"Whatever you do, don't fall asleep!"*  
Nightmare on Elm Street (1984)

# Haunted Theaters

## Footsteps

Location: Vermont

Source: Usenet (alt.folklore.ghost-stories)

Up north there is a theater with some very active ghosts. Everyone that works there has heard the footsteps that go up and down the stairs. Heavy and loud, each step can be heard and yet when you look nobody is there.

The ghost has been blamed for locking doors, moving equipment and suddenly turning on music and light systems.

All that can be said is that none of the staff will stay there alone. And neither will anyone brought in from outside, not even renovators.

## Goodbye

Location: Rochester Hills, Michigan

Source: <http://www.realhaunts.com/states/michigan>

After a construction worker died while building this theater, strange things happened during the build and also after the theater opened. Strange things included toilets flushing themselves, seats rocking on their own and lights turning on and off by themselves. Eventually the theater closed down, but afterwards four employees went back to the theater to say goodbye to the ghost (whom they'd nicknamed "Johnny"). After they said their goodbyes the lights in their auditorium mysteriously turned on by themselves.

Perhaps in this case the ghost would miss them too.

## Horrific Screening

Location: Colorado

Source: Drew Dahmer

(<http://community-2.webtv.net/waking-dreamer/LegacyOfTheBlair>)

The horror of Theater #4 brought to you in her own words:

"Let me set the stage. It is a small Colorado town, founded probably by miners in the late 17 or 1800's. The Theater is relatively new. Probably not more than a decade old or so. HOWEVER, the land about a half mile away from it, which is now an intersection, used to be Indian Burial Grounds, and the land on which it is sitting was not used for MANY years. Why? Well, I think I've found the answer to that.

Employees from Managers, District and Regional Managers, Supervisors, and even just Clerks like I was once will tell you stories as soon as you start working there. "Don't stay there alone at night!" "I wouldn't close up there!" "Have you met the ghosts yet?" All these phrases and many more are shrugged off. Hey, the new kid on the block always gets razzed right? Wrong. They are telling the truth. My first experience was about the second or third time I saw the film "Event Horizon" My friend Alex and I had decided to do a midnight showing of it to see if we could scare ourselves silly. I was sitting in the well-lit theater, waiting for Alex to cut the lights and come down to watch it with me. I was reading a book while I still had some light. Just then, the lights DID cut off, and I put my book away and looked up to the projection booth to see if Alex was starting the movie.

I saw what looked like his silhouette, looking down

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Horror Month

*"Good evening, gentlemen. I am Dracula. I bid you welcome."*  
Dracula (1931)

# Reviews

(Continued from page 5)

under attack, but severe hallucinations and deaths soon visit them as well.

This movie actually is worth watching. It's not terribly frightening, but there are some very interesting tidbits about the Blair Witch thrown in. (for instance, if you listen carefully they say why the Witch keeps killing children).

Also on the DVD are a ton of extras. First off one side of the DVD is actually a CD format soundtrack. So you get a ton of music with it.

Also note that there is a feature-length commentary by the director Joe Berlinger. Berlinger is a documentary maker and has quite a few things to say about Artisan and the producers. He goes to some length about the problems he had with the producers and what he wishes had never been put into the film. At times he also seems to be personally offended by the first movie, especially because some people went out believing that it was a real documentary.

Needless to say the commentary definitely bears watching.

The disc also offers DVD-ROM features, Production Notes and Cast and Crew bios.

So if you like the Blair Witch story, or enjoy hearing a filmmaker bash on the Production studios you'll want to pick this disc up. And remember, never go into the woods seeking Bad Things..because you might just find them.

## Shadow of the Vampire

Horror [R]

This film used an intriguing idea, that during the filming of the film *Nosferatu* the character of Count Orlock (Dracula, but with a different name and very

different name because Bram Stoker's estate wouldn't sell the rights to the film) was not played by an actor, but a real vampire.

The Director, John Malkovich, has set up a deal with him. He gets to be in the movie, while the director gets the most realistic movie monster ever. The problem is that Monsters are called that for a reason. Soon he's feeding off the crew and barely following directions.

The producers finally realize what is going on just as the director realizes he has no real control over what is happening. It becomes a battle of art, will and violence as the climax is both the final scene, but also the final battle between director and Vampire. The acting, plot and effects are all excellent in this movie. Definitely an effort worth seeing.

The DVD comes with plenty of goodies as well. It has director's commentary as well as several interviews, the trailer, production notes and cast/crew bios.

Pick up the disc, a must for all vampire/horror film fans.

## Internet

**Gone Bad** ([www.gonebad.com](http://www.gonebad.com))

Horror [NR]

Set in a village overrun by flesh-eating zombies, this very short feature shows an afternoon as the shotgun toting priest talking with god. And blowing away an unfortunate former-living villager.

The film is animated quite well, using several cinematic effects and great images. Also even with

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## Horror Month

*"Are they slow-moving chief?"*  
*"Yeah, they're dead. They're all messed up."*  
 Night of the Living Dead (1968)

# Reviews, Ghosts

the short length you still get a good picture of the Priest's character. The dialogue is also rather amusing.

The website has both this short film as well as a trailer for a movie-length version of *Gone Bad*. We can only hope that they will be able to deliver. This film was accepted into this year's online Sundance Film Festival, and was my personal favorite.

**Gabriel6** ([www.filmfilm.com](http://www.filmfilm.com))

Horror/Cop [NR]

Set in a post-apocalypse world a pair of cops are dispatched to find out who is killing people. So besides bleak landscapes, plenty of wasteland-crazies and a society that is desperately trying to stay sane you have two cops debating religion and existence. Sounds interesting doesn't it?

And it gets even stranger. The murderer is killing people with Biblical names, and the bodies aren't decomposing right. (clear fluid from the heads, blood won't clot).

Soon the two cops are facing the killer, who may or may not be an Angel working to bring about God's Will. And there's also a little question of who is actually human..even the main characters are suspect.

This film, 35 minutes long, manages to put in a good little mystery with interesting characters. The acting is pretty weak but it looks like it is just inexperienced actors rather than any problems with the script. Needless to say find this film and watch it. You won't regret it.

at me. Only it looked...different. It had red eyes, and it's teeth, smiling, were visible even in the darkness! I got up and started to leave, but when I got to the theater doors, they were locked!!!! I don't know about your theater, but ours don't have locks on the swinging doors into the theater! I tried to turn on the cleaning lights, (Which are operated by a manual switch behind curtains.) and those wouldn't come on either.

By now I was getting quite worried. Then a LOUD blast came from the speakers, so I turned around and saw the scene where Dr. Weir is holding Capt. Miller's head and yelling "DO YOU SEE?" Then, as abruptly as it had started, the film stopped, the lights turned back on, and everything was normal!

I ran to the doors again, and found them easily opened! I took off toward the front entrance to the theater, only to find Alex walking up to them to unlock them. Needless to say, I threw open the door and yelled at him for a few minutes, still thinking it had all been some elaborate prank, then he told me something that I Still remember to this day.

"Drew, I just went to the store to get some smokes! I wasn't even here! And I know you're making it up, because that just isn't possible. The house lights only go off and on with a cue on the film itself, and the film has to start at the beginning and run through to the end! You can't just stop start and rewind it like a video. Quit messing with my head!"

## In parting...

So until next time, enjoy your show in the dark quiet theater. And remember the shadow moving beside you is *probably* just an Usher.

Horror Month

*"What are some of your favorite things to do?"*

*"Well, on Sundays I used to like to go hiking, but now..."*

**Blair Witch Project (1999)**

# Next Issue, Submissions

## Next Issue

Next issue we will be diving into November, month of Thanksgiving and lots of Christmas commercials. It's also has the Friday after Thanksgiving, known as the busiest shopping day of the year. It is also the busiest day, bar none, for movie theaters. Luckily I'll be here next month as usual to help guide you through the crowds and to make sure you see something worthwhile.

## Submit something!

I'm always looking for help in putting this magazine out. So if you have any opinions, views, interesting facts or long ramblings please send them to me

Right now this is a free zine, so no payments are offered. Other than the nice warm fuzzy feeling that you'll get to see your name in print.

Send any submissions to:

Cambridge Movie News  
C/o Chris DeKalb  
1 McLean Place  
Cambridge MA  
02140

Or email:

Cdkboston@earthlink.net

## What I'm looking for:

### Reviews.

**Current or recently released films.** Please include the genre and the rating, along with your thoughts about how good the film was. Anything that was in release 4-6 weeks before the publication month are fair game. In the review please have a little bit more than "it was neat", and try for about three paragraphs.

**Videos and DVDs,** write down a brief description of the movie, and if it's a DVD please include the special features, or lack there-of. With DVD reviews the "recent release" rule is greatly relaxed. New stuff, is nice, but there is plenty of other releases to talk about.

**TV films, Internet films.** Reviews of this sort are also appreciated. Please include the source (website, or network) of the broadcast.

**Columns, articles.** If you want to write on something long, I would love to see your work. An article will hopefully fill an entire page or more. If you want to cover a topic every month, then you're a columnist. Write a page every month and figure out a name for your wonderful new feature.

Right now I'm looking for the following columnists: Anime and Behind-the-scenes/Filmmaking. Suggestions for others are always appreciated.

**Artwork** of theaters and other cinema affects would also be useful.

### Negative Clippings

In the spirit of Halloween here are the movies that actually scared me (or at least gave me a bad night's sleep). Please note I'm not saying these are great movies...they just have some freaky parts. Enjoy.

In the Mouth of Madness  
Blair Witch Project  
St. Francisville Experiment  
Dawn of the Dead