

## THE RULES OF HORROR MOVIE SURVIVAL

- Stick together: Think of one good reason why you should go off on your own. Got one? Great, you just died. Always have someone watching your back.
- There's a reason that door is locked: Unless it's your escape route, that door might as well be hermetically sealed. Remember the mummy's curse? They don't lock these things up for no reason.
- If you think it's dead, it's not: Demonic forces and supernatural beings don't play by the rules of our world. It's going to take a lot more than a knife to the chest or a few "regular" bullets to put that tormented soul to rest.
- Don't read it out loud: A picture may say a thousand words, but it only takes a couple lines of forbidden prose to raise the dead or summon an evil spirit. Keep it to yourself, and keep everyone safe.
- The shortcut is never the shortcut: Think you'll get away quicker if you cut through that dark alley or those tall corn rows? Surprise — you've just made yourself a much easier target.
- Trust your instincts, not your fears: Terror makes us think crazy thoughts, and soon enough, we become delusional. Don't waste your time on slippery slope worries when you could be using your much more reliable intuition to cheat death.
- Know who, or *what* you're dealing with: A vampire won't fall to a silver bullet, nor will a werewolf to a stake through the heart. Arm yourself appropriately, or you may end up on the business end of a nasty disembowelment.
- Play nice: Karma's a bitch some times, and you don't want to be caught on the bad end of some cosmic revenge. You may think you're sacrificing the group to save your ass, but the killer is always one step ahead of you. It's only a matter of time before you get a well-deserved machete to the face.
- Be aware of your role: Are you the leader? The loveable sidekick? The mysterious vamp? The oblivious blonde? Whoever you are, you're not unique. The quicker you discover your role in relation to the protagonist, the quicker you can get on his or her good side and drastically increase your chances of survival.
- Know yourself, and defy it: Monsters are based on the most primal depths of our imaginations. You *will* have to face your worst fears if you want to have any hope of survival. Prepare yourself accordingly, and you've already won the fight.

— Mike Kendrick

## CARNIVAL



Horror. It's come a long way from its humble beginnings. Before you are some of the best and worst fiendish aficionados Mike Kendrick (MK), Scott C Bourgeois (SCB)

## PSYCHO (1960)

Imagine a time when all was right in the world, and the only threat of danger came from the Soviet Union, which was far on the other side of the world. Movie monsters wore fur-covered masks and latex suits, and were created in the labs of some mad scientist, or came from outer space. This was a time filled with idealism and naiveté, where the "real" dangers of the world couldn't actually harm us. Now imagine stepping into a theatre and witnessing the brutal murder of a beautiful heroine by a seemingly normal but sick and twisted lunatic. This is exactly what makes *Psycho* work so well. While many of us are jaded to such mundane acts today, an entire generation was mercilessly shown that death could come when we least expect it, and not at the hands of the boogey man, but from the friendly guise of a smiling stranger. (MK)

## THE WICKER MAN (1973)

Don't bother with Nicholas Cage's recent remake. The original *Wicker Man*—Starring both the delightfully evil Christopher Lee and the delightfully naked Britt Ekland—is where it's at. A police detective in search of a missing girl makes his way to the island village where she lived, only to have the mysterious locals stymie his investigation. A great movie with a surprise ending that will leave you agog. (SCB)

## DAWN OF THE DEAD (1979)

Director George Romero made a shocking debut a decade earlier with his film *Night of the Living Dead*, but his legacy was established in this 1979 follow-up. The undead plague has spread throughout the nation, and the hordes of rotting zombies now outnumber the survivors. While the film is popular in socially con-

scious circles for its themes on mindless mass-consumerism, it has garnered an even larger cult following for pioneering a great number of "rules" for the zombie genre. Its satirical brand of dark comedy has spawned countless imitations and tributes. (MK)

## THE SHINING (1980)

One of Jack Nicholson's most enduring roles is Jack Torrance, the alcoholic author who takes his family out to the Overlook Hotel to act as caretakers for the winter. Of course, the Overlook is haunted, and begins to prey on Jack and his son Danny, and that's when things get crazy. This is one of those classic movies that you've either seen, or should see immediately. Here's a neat piece of trivia: young Danny Lloyd never saw any of the horrific effects of the movie during the shoot. Remember that when you see some of his reactions in the movie. All work and no play make Jack a dull boy. (SCB)

## AN AMERICAN WEREWOLF IN LONDON (1981)

At times hilarious and at times terrifying, this is one of the classic must-see werewolf movies. A pair of American backpackers is travelling across Britain when they're attacked by a lycanthrope in the moors. Solidly written from beginning to end, and with one of the most horrifying transformation scenes in cinematic history, anyone who loves werewolves and hasn't seen this movie should be ashamed. A definite must on any horror geek's shelf. (SCB)

## THE THING (1982)

A great film starring action hero/"Captain Ron" Kurt Russell. Set in an Antarctic research base, a group of isolated scientists are forced to deal with

an alien shape changer—that could be disguised as any one of them. The film is wonderfully terrifying, especially the first time through, as you really don't know who might be the homicidal alien. The paranoid tension between the characters is great, and the alien effects are both grotesque and astounding. (SCB)

## RE-ANIMATOR (1985)

A cult classic that takes a comedic twist on the mad scientist film, *Re-Animator* is a hilarious gore-filled romp through genre stereotypes and conventions. Herbert West is a bizarre and introverted neurology student who has stumbled across the elixir of life, which has the power to bring the living back from the dead when injected into the brain. Unfortunately, things never quite work out right for mad scientists, and West's re-animated corpses become nothing more than primal, mindless zombies whose only instincts are to kill. The film uses tongue-in-cheek hyperbole with mastery, and while entirely predictable, *Re-Animator* never intended to be anything more than pure and simple fun. A handful of sequels have been spawned in years past, but the original is easily the best of the bunch. (MK)

## EVIL DEAD II (1987)

Before Bruce Campbell was a household name in *Army of Darkness*, but after his first flirtations with the Necromicon in the original *Evil Dead*, came one of the best performances of his career. As Ash, he returns to that haunted little cabin out in the woods to meet his fate once more. Campbell is much more at home in the revised character of Ash, whose slapstick buffoonery is constantly getting him into—and keeping him out of—precarious situations. *Evil Dead II* has one of the most famous and hilarious