
SATANIC PANIC!

THE DEVIL ON THE SILVER SCREEN

OVERVIEW

Since cinema was invented, filmmakers have sought to highlight and exploit our fascination with black magic, possession and the very Devil himself. To usher in the witching season, this course, using plenty of clips and discussion, will conjure out of the shadows many known and not so well-known cinematic delights perpetuated with Satanism and a Hellish sense of the occult. As well as examining cinema itself we will also scrutinise the controversies behind many of these features and how cinema became embroiled in the satanic panic scare of the 70s and 80s and how it also got caught in the crossfire of the PMRC's attack on heavy metal music and devil worship. We will look at a whole host of films from the silent days onwards and make detailed studies of movies such as *The Devil Rides Out*, *The Exorcist*, *The Omen*, *A Field in England*, *Late Night with the Devil*, *Brimstone and Treacle*, *Wall Street*, *Naked* and many, many more. Expect midnight ceremonies and sacrificial rites as we stare into the eternal flickering abyss.

WEEKLY OUTLINE

Week 1: Please allow me to introduce myself

Haxan (1922) and *Faust* (1926)

Week 2: What's puzzling you is the nature of my game

Doctor Jekyll and Mr Hyde (1931), *Night of the Demon* (1957), *Night of the Eagle* (1962)

Week 3: After all it was you and me

Bedazzled (1967), *Rosemary's Baby* (1967) and *Performance* (1970)

Week 4: When I saw, it was a time for a change

The Devil Rides Out (1968), *The Witchfinder General* (1968) and *Blood on Satan's Claw* (1971)

Week 5 All the sinners, saints

The Exorcist (1973) and *The Omen* (1976)

Week 6: Hope you guessed my name

The Sentinel (1977), *The Shout* (1975) and *Prince of Darkness* (1987)

Week 7: A moment of doubt and pain

Brimstone and Treacle (1976), *Wall Street* (1987) and *Naked* (1993)

Week 8: I'm a man of wealth and taste

Hellraiser (1987), *Angel Heart* (1987) and *The Devil's Advocate* (1997)

Week 9: Many a man's soul and faith

A Field in England (2013), *The House that Jack Built* (2018) and *Hail Satan* (2019)

Week 10: Seal his fate

Late Night with the Devil (2024) and *Heretic* (2024)

***Notes will be shared on the notice board after each session**

Suggested Reading List

Benshoff, H.M. (1997) *Monsters in the Closet*, Manchester University Press, New York.
Cawkwell, T. (2004) *The Filmgoers Guide to God*, Darton, Longman, Todd Ltd, London.
Creed, B. (1993) *The Monstrous Feminine: Film, Feminism, Psychoanalysis*, Routledge, London.
Doherty, T. (1999) *Pre-Code Hollywood*, Columbia University Press, New York.
Falconer, R. (2007) *Hell in Contemporary Literature*, Edinburgh University Press, Edinburgh.
Frank, A.G. (1974) *The Movie Treasury Horror Movies: Tales of Terror in the Cinema*, Octopus Books, London.

- Gettings, F. (1987) *Visions of the Occult*, Guild Publishing, London.
- Gettings, F. (1988) *Dictionary of Demons*, Guild Publishing, London.
- Gifford, D. (1973) *A Pictorial History of Horror Movies*, Hamlyn Publishing Group Ltd, Middlesex.
- Janiss, L, K. (2012) *House of Psychotic Women*, FAB Press Ltd, Surrey.
- Peirce, A. (2013) *After Dracula: The 1930s Horror Film*, I.B. Tauris, London.
- Pool, W. S. (2022) *Dark Carnivals: Modern Horror and the Origins of American Empire*, Counterpoint, Berkley, USA.
- Skal, D, J. (1993) *The Monster Show: A Cultural History of Horror*, Plexus Publishing Ltd, London.
- Strick, P. (1979) *Science Fiction Movies*, Galley Press, Cathay Books, London.
- Vieira, M.A. (2019) *Forbidden Hollywood*, Running Press, New York
- Zinoman, J. (2012) *Shock Value*, Duckworth Overlook, London.