

FOR FICTIONAL PURPOSES ONLY

FEATURE

Contact: Rebecca Flynn

Days/Evenings: (905) 3467065

Hamilton, ON. Mar 25, 2020

Rebecca@RottenTomatoes.com

Night of the Living Remake

Some movies prove that the only thing scarier than their villains is what a new direction can do to them.

These are scary times we live in, and one of the best ways to escape reality is to immerse yourself in a world even more radical and outrageous than the one around you. With an ever-rising viewership in horror movies, a need to revive the classics has plagued a generation, but not always for the better. The saying “if it ain’t broke, don’t fix it” has failed to apply through the ages. Looking past the famous ‘sequel curse’, the idea that the sequel won’t do as well as the original, can’t even begin to hold a candle to the ‘revenge of the remake’. In light of Jordan Peele’s remake of *Candyman*, set to premiere in June 2020, let’s take a look at some horror classics and the remakes that followed.

Candyman (1992)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AFjb447gMIM>

Tomatometer: 74%

Let’s start with the original in question. The story of a college student named Helen Lyle doing research into urban legends. The legend goes that anyone who says his name in a mirror five times, shall meet their end at the mercy of the Candyman’s metal hook. Lyle does not believe in the myth until she begins to see for herself that the Candyman is more than a schoolyard tale. The glory of Candyman is that it caused a generation of young people to crowd around mirrors, shut off all the lights, and chant his name in slow succession. Many claimed results, but most knew it was tall tales told to spook friends at slumber parties. Bernard Rose took the work of Clive Barker and brought it to the big screen in a big way. Candyman lived in everyone’s nightmares, and it will take a special touch to make him haunt us once again.

The Texas Chainsaw Massacre

Tomatometer:

1974: 88%

2003: 37%

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AFjb447gMIM>

-More-

The story is simple, a group of friends want to spend a weekend on Sally's grandfather's farm and end up falling into the hands of the cannibalistic Sawyer family. Stalked mercilessly by Leatherface, Sally and the gang must fight for their lives in a battle they, spoiler alert, can't win. In 1974, Tobe Hooper created a movie shot to invoke the absolute most anxiety it could. For its time, the movie was deemed "scariest of all time" due to the nature of the film and its "based on a true story" bi-line. With a killer loosely based on the ideals of Ed Gein, the idea of a chainsaw-wielding cannibal and his family who are ready to turn you into a mask and eat the rest kept audiences awake for weeks.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=janre4HxsX4>

2003 did not offer the same discomfort to audiences that 1974 delivered. The mask did not have the same "fresh from the muscle" discomfort and appearance that audiences knew and feared. With Michael Bay at the helm, audiences were expecting more of an experience. The glory of the original story was chill that shot down your spine as you see average people put in peril. A sensationalized version of a classic killer almost made his appearance too "polished" and that takes away the ability to fear him, with a cast of people too "beautiful" to feel relatable.

A Nightmare on Elm Street

Tomatometer:

1984: 94%

2010: 15%

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2-frM2Lf8KE>

This movie kept its audiences awake for the sheer fact that the killer could only get you while you were asleep. Freddy Krueger stalks the dreams of Elm Street residents, and unfortunately for Nancy Thompson, her and her friends are at the top of his list.

1984's Freddy was a murderer of young children before being set on fire by local parents who craved vindication for their missing children. Robert Englund put the character on the map, with a laugh and a voice that anyone could identify, horror fan or not. Johnny Depp's iconic death scene sits in the minds of horror junkies and will go down in history as one of the most haunting watching experiences of all time. Not only was it Johnny's first role, but it also made a huge splash... ahem.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZuYoEtEI_go

-More-

2010, Freddy Krueger got a facelift... almost literally and was a predator of a much more socially sensitive nature for 2010. This movie focused more on Freddy's backstory than the original and relieved the villain of the classic one-liners his following love him for. This was yet another Michael Bay project that fell short on deliverables. Where Texas Chainsaw failed to showcase the beauties of the original, this interpretation of Nightmare on Elm Street focused too heavily on recreating iconic imagery and missing the mark on what made them so iconic in the first place.

Evil Dead

Tomatometer:

1981: 95%

2013: 62%

Ash Williams and his friends head out to a cabin in the woods and find the Necronomicon Ex Mortus. Upon reading from its pages, a weekend of relaxation becomes a bloodbath of epic proportions.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NL6mioAlpJk>

Every weekend getaway movie has its catch, Evil Dead's just happens to be the fact that the hero is viewed as a villain to the rest of the world. Ash Williams is the anti-hero we didn't know we needed. Bruce Campbell and Sam Raimi took their friendship and an idea and made the movie they wanted to make with close to no budget at all. That's the beauty of Evil Dead. It does more than it needs to with minimal resources. The sequel, Evil Dead 2, holds the highest tomatometer rating for a horror movie with 97%. The perfect marriage of camp and gore give this movie its well earned 95%.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Im6koyYDwcA>

2013 is a variation of a remake that sets it apart from its original. With the smallest rating variation, Evil Dead 2013 still doesn't achieve the same beauty that its 1981 counterpart did all of those years ago. Holding the record for most blood used in a horror movie, the movie revisits the ideas and story of the combined first and second Evil Dead movies and makes them one long running story. It fails to capture the humorous and almost fourth wall shattering essence of its predecessor and tried to lean too far into the horror. It's not the movie fans wanted, and as a result, missed its mark. Even if our original Ash Williams, Bruce Campbell himself, deemed the remake "groovy."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tlwzuZ9kOQU>

-More-

Remakes aren't always bad, and some may argue that there are remakes that outshine their originals, unfortunately that won't always be the case. With an already successful resume featuring *Get Out* and *Us*, Jordan Peele is expected to deliver a high quality, interesting, and horrifying ride with his *Candyman* remake. Only time will tell if the movie will be the bee's knees, or whether it's time Mr. Peele stepped off his soap box... or should I say soap can.