

# OSCAR WILDE ON SCREEN



**Week Two**

**Ghosts and Crimes**

## Welcome to *Oscar Wilde on Screen*

### Week Two

Last week, we looked at adaptation of Oscar Wilde's children's stories, especially those drawn from *The Happy Prince*.

This week, we consider two of his most famous stories for adults, both of which were collected in a volume entitled *Lord Arthur Savile's Crime and Other Stories*, originally published in 1891.

Originally consisting of four stories (with a fifth, *The Portrait of Mr W.H.* added to later editions) the book collects stories published by Oscar in the magazines *The Court and Society Review*, *The World* and, in the case of the added story, *Blackwood's*.

Two of the stories, *Lord Arthur Savile's Crime* and *The Canterville Ghost* have achieved particular longevity, with multiple adaptations for film, television, comic books and theatre.

There are some more-or-less faithful versions, along with some that, as appears often to be the case, those who use the original tales as more of a jumping off point.

Building on what we discussed last week, I'd like to look at why *these* stories have lasted, why they are revisited generationally and how they fit into the picture (or portrait) we're building of Oscar's life and work.

Also worth considering – what makes these stories different from those pitched as children's tales (especially as some of those were far from gentle reading)?

## FILMS WEEK TWO

Flesh and Fantasy (1943)

*Dir. Julien Duvivier*

Climax!: A Promise to Murder (1955)

*Dir. Allan Reisner*

Armchair Theatre: Lord Arthur Savile's Crime (1960)

*Dir. Alan Cooke*

The Canterville Ghost (1944)

*Dir. Jules Dassin & Norman Z McLeod*

The Canterville Ghost (1966)

*Dir. John Robins*

Кентервильское привидение (1970)

*Dir. Valentina & Zinaida Brumberg*

The Canterville Ghost (1986)

*Dir. Paul Bogart*

The Canterville Ghost (1996)

*Dir. Sydney Macartney*

Bhoothnath (2008)

*Dir. Vivek Sharma*

Le Fantôme de Canterville (2016)

*Dir. Yann Samuell*

The Canterville Ghost (2023)

*Dir. Kim Burdon*