

# **STEPHEN KING ON SCREEN**



## **Week One**

**Prom Dates, Vampires & Hotel Service**

## Welcome to *Stephen King On Screen*

### Week One

Stephen Edwin King is a contemporary writer whose work has transcended the mere idea of ‘best-selling’. The name itself is a brand, a signifier of the type of story you might be letting yourself in for. And this applies as much to the cinematic adaptations, for better or worse, of his canon as much as it does the books themselves.

There’s no doubt that ‘from the mind of Stephen King’ is definitely going to feature in any promotion of a film drawn from one of his many short stories or novels. It’s a shorthand, often, for a particular type of creepiness, a certain flavour of terror.

But when you actually examine the work – this hardly tells the whole story. (It’s a good thing we’ve got 10 weeks to set that right.) Yes, just over there in the shadows sits a body of work that has had as much influence on modern horror and suspense writing as any other. And many of the films drawn from those works sit comfortably alongside the masterpieces of horror cinema. (Others not so much – as we’ll discover.)

But for every *Carrie* or *Shining*, there’s also a *Stand By Me* or *Shawshank Redemption* with which to reckon. Tales about the terrible things that humans do to one another, certainly, but also, decidedly, tales of what it means to be human.

Over the next 10 weeks, we’ll be looking at the cinematic output drawn from King’s work – from frightening to funny, from profound to, well, *Maximum Overdrive*.

And this will be one of the key questions:

Why do we enjoy letting this man scare us, excite us, even enlighten us?

What, in the end, is Stephen King *up to*?

## **FILMS WEEK ONE**

### **Carrie**

*Carrie (1976) – Dir. Brian De Palma*

*The Rage: Carrie 2 (1999) – Dir. Katt Shea*

*Carrie (2002) – Dir. David Carson*

*Carrie (2013) – Dir. Kimberly Peirce*

### **Salem's Lot**

*Salem's Lot (1979) – Dir. Tobe Hooper*

*A Return to Salem's Lot (1987) – Dir. Larry Cohen*

*Salem's Lot (2004) – Dir. Mikael Salomon*

*Salem's Lot (2024) – Dir. Gary Dauberman*

### **The Shining**

*The Shining (1980) – Dir. Stanley Kubrick*

*The Shining (1997) – Dir. Mick Garris*