

STEPHEN KING ON SCREEN



Week One

Viruses, Psychic Powers and Very Bad Dogs.

Welcome to *Stephen King On Screen*

Week Two

Last week, we started looking at Stephen King's early work – three of the books and films that made his name in the first place. This week, we're pushing forward with a handful of other films that loom large in his legend.

The Stand, in particular, is the beginning of a run of work that illustrates some of the key challenges in adapting King to the screen.

One of those difficulties is the epic nature of some of the work, driven by Stephen King's love both of multiple characters and digging into the minutiae of their day-to-day lives. It's something oft-commented upon by critics, for better or worse, and it has led to a number of the books being deemed better suited to long-form television treatment, rather than feature films.

We'll also see further examples of how King's work has tended to be revisited generationally, with all but *Cujo* from this batch being tackled more than once.

Many of the stories were first tackled more or less contemporaneously, as modern fiction and then again 20-30 years later. We'll look at some of the differences of approach conjured by the books being treated as adaptations/remakes of classics, rather than as new work.

As cinema and television changed over the years, so too did the way in which King was adapted. Partially due to the differences in which films and television were made and the outlets available for broadcast of dark material. But also because as King became more of a known quantity, the public's feelings *about* Stephen King became more ingrained.

FILMS WEEK TWO

The Stand

The Stand (1994) – Dir. Mick Garris

The Stand (2020) – Dir. Josh Boone, et al.

The Dead Zone

The Dead Zone (1983) – Dir. David Cronenberg

The Dead Zone (2002- 2007) – Dir. Rob Lieberman, et al/

Firestarter

Firestarter (1984) – Dir. Mark L. Lester

Firestarter: Rekindled (2002) – Dir. Robert Iscove

Firestarter (2022) – Dir. Keith Thomas

Cujo

Cujo (1983) – Dir. Lewis Teague