
I WAS A TEENAGE SURFER ZOMBIE FROM MARS: A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO CULT CINEMA

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Overview

Ed Wood, Russ Meyer, Roger Corman and John Waters, these are some of the names which inevitably pop up when we talk about cult movies. But what is a cult movie? This course will delve into the trashy, sexy, ridiculous and shocking world of outsider cinema offering a whistle stop tour of the best examples that have spewed out of the flea-pits and picture houses since filmmaking began. Looking at grindhouse, extreme horror, exploitation and low budget B movies, we will examine Shaw Bros Kung Fu pictures, Mexican wrestling flicks American splatter and much, much more, taking in individual films as diverse as *Plan 9 from Outer Space*, *Repo Man*, *Reefer Madness* and *Freaks*

Weekly Outline

Week 1: What is Cult Cinema?

Freaks (1932), *Reefer Madness* (1936)

Week 2: Ed Case: The Low Budget Cinema of Edward D Wood Jr.

Glen or Glenda (1953), *Bride of the Monster* (1955) and *Plan Nine from Outer Space* (1959)

Week 3: Arkoff, Corman and AIP

I Was a Teenage Werewolf (1957), *A Bucket of Blood* (1958) and *The Man with the X-Ray Eyes* (1963)

Week 4: Gimmicks, Ghosts and Hollywood Has-beens

The Tingler (1959), *Whatever Happened to Baby Jane?* (1962), *Straight-Jacket* (1964)

Week 5: The Psycho Effect

City of the Dead (1960), *Carnival of Souls* (1963), *The Haunting* (1963)

Week 6: Mexican Wrestlers and Kung Fu Killers

Santo vs The Evil Brain (1961), *The Chinese Boxer* (1970) and *The Legendary Weapons of China* (1982)

Week 7: American Extremes: Russ Meyer and John Walters

Faster Pussycat Kill! Kill! (1965), *Beyond the Valley of the Dolls* (1970) and *Pink Flamingos* (1972)

Week 8: Sing Something Strange

The Phantom of Paradise (1974), *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* (1975) and *Shock Treatment* (1981)

Week 9: Italian and Spanish Oddities

Tombs of the Blind Dead (1972) *Suspiria* (1977) and *Zombie Flesh Eaters* (1979)

Week 10: The Cult of Cox, Cronenberg and Lynch

Shivers (1972), *Eraserhead* (1977) and *Repo Man* (1984)

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.
- Creed, B. (1993) *The Monstrous Feminine: Film, Feminism, Psychoanalysis*, Routledge, London.
- Cross, R. (1981) *The Big Book of B Movies*, Fredrick Muller Ltd, London
- Doherty, T. (1999) *Pre-Code Hollywood*, Columbia University Press, New York
- Frank, A.G. (1974) *The Movie Treasury Horror Movies: Tales of Terror in the Cinema*, Octopus Books, 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.
- Jaworzyn, S (ED) (1996), *Shock: The Essential Guide to Exploitation Cinema*, Titan Books, London.
- King, S. (1981) *Danse Macabre*, Everest House, New York.
- Marriott, J and Newman, K. (2006) *Horror! The Definitive Companion to the Most Terrifying Movies Ever Made*, Carlton Books Ltd, London
- Peirce, A. (2013) *After Dracula: The 1930s Horror Film*, I.B. Tauris, London.
- Poole, W.S. (2022) *Dark Carnivals: Modern Horror and the Origins of American Empire*, Counterpoint Press, Berkley
- Ross, J. (1993) *The Incredibly Strange Film Book*, Simon and Schuster Ltd, London.
- Skal, D, J. (1993) *The Monster Show: A Cultural History of Horror*, Plexus Publishing Ltd, London.
- Skal, D, J. (1990) *Hollywood Gothic*, W.W. Norton and Company Inc. USA.
- 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.

