A Short History of Horror Films

Part II: 1930-1936

A Timeline of Horrors (-1950)

1910 1920 1930 1940 1950

European Tales of Terror  American Monsters

A Timeline of Horrors (1950-)


British Horror  Euro-Horror  Hollywood Devility  Video and Violence
Hollywood’s Monsters

The Classical Period (1930-1936)

Dracula

Dracula, 1931
D: Tod Browning, N: Bram Stoker, C: Karl Freund
A: Bela Lugosi (Dracula), Helen Chandler (Mina)
Dracula

If I were to make over the film, I should depict Nosferatu... not as terrible and fantastic not on the contrary in the guise of an inoffensive young man, charming and most obliging. I should like it to be only on the basis of mild indications, in the beginning, that any anxiety should be aroused in the hero’s. Likewise wouldn’t it be much more frightening if he were presented to the woman in such a charming aspect?

Andre Gide on Nosferatu
quoted from David J. Skal, The Monster Show

Frankenstein

Frankenstein, 1931
D: James Whale, N: Mary W. Shelley, M: Jack Pierce
A: Boris Karloff (Monster), Colin Clive (Frankenstein)

Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde

Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, 1931
D: Rouben Mamoulian, S: Robert Louis Stevenson
A: Frederich March (Jekyll/Hyde)
The Mummy
The Mummy, 1932
D: Karl Freund, M: Jack Pierce
A: Boris Karloff (Im-Ho-Tep)

Freaks
Freaks, 1932
D: Tod Browning
A: Harry Earles (Hans), Olga Baclanova (Cleopatra)

The Old Dark House
The Old Dark House, 1932
D: James Whale, N: J.B. Priestley
A: Boris Karloff, Charles Laughton, Ernest Thesiger, Gloria Stuart, Raymond Massey
Murders in the Rue Morgue

Murders in the Rue Morgue
1932
D: Robert Florey
St: Edgar Allan Poe
A: Bela Lugosi
(Dr. Mirakle)

White Zombie

White Zombie, 1932
D: Victor Halperin
A: Bela Lugosi
King Kong

King Kong, 1932
D: Merian C Cooper, Ernest B Schoedsack, St: Edgar Wallace, M: Max Steiner
A: Fay Wray

The Most Dangerous Game

The Most Dangerous Game, 1932
D: Irving Pichel, Ernest B Schoedsack, M: Max Steiner
A: Joel McCrea, Fay Wray, Leslie Banks

Mystery of the Wax Museum

Mystery of the Wax Museum, 1933
D: Michael Curtiz
A: Lionel Atwill, Fay Wray
The Black Cat

The Black Cat, 1934
D: Edgar G. Ulmer, St: Edgar Allan Poe
A: Boris Karloff, Bela Lugosi

The Werewolf of London

The Werewolf of London, 1935
D: Stuart Walker, M: Jack Pierce
A: Henry Hull (Dr. Glendon)

Bride of Frankenstein

Bride of Frankenstein, 1935
D: James Whale
A: Boris Karloff (Monster), Colin Clive (Dr. Frankenstein), Elsa Lanchester
The Devil Doll

The Devil Doll, 1936
D: Tod Browning, S: Erich von Stroheim, Browning, N: Abraham Merritt
A: Lionel Barrymore, Rafaela Ottiano

Timeline

1930          1931          1932          1933          1934    1935          1936