

THE Monsters' Reveille

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE HORROR MOVIE QUARTER

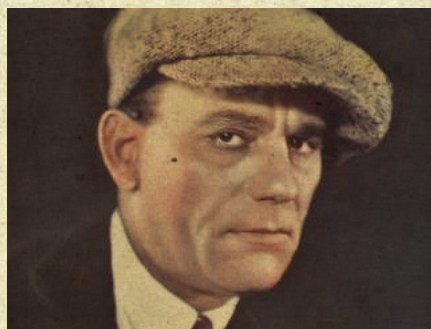
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DRACULA 1931

Dracula was released by Universal on the 14th of February, 1931, bringing Bram Stoker's novel to life on the big screen. Bela Lugosi's depiction of the vampire count has become the popular idea of how vampires look and behave, and although the production has dated somewhat, it's still a must for every horror fan (Universal 1931).



LON CHANEY SR

The 1st of April 1883 saw the birth of the Man with a Thousand Faces, Lon Chaney. His prodigious skill with make-up created some of horror cinema's most enduring images, such as *The Phantom of the Opera* (1925) and saw-toothed Inspector Burke in *London After Midnight* (1927).



TERENCE FISHER

Hammer Horror wouldn't have been the same without the directing skills of Terence Fisher, who was born on the 23rd of February, 1904. His flair for drama created a new golden age of British-bred horror, and helped to launch the careers of Peter Cushing and Christopher Lee.



BORIS KARLOFF

On the 2nd of February, 1969, the world said farewell to Boris Karloff. Key to his success was his sensitivity as a performer, giving each role depth and pathos. From the misunderstood Monster in *Frankenstein* (1931), to the callous Master George Sims in *Bedlam* (1946), the man born William Henry Pratt is a true horror legend.

CREATURE FROM THE BLACK LAGOON 1954

The sci-fi craze of the 1950s heralded the appearance of a new classic monster, when the *Creature from the Black Lagoon* rose from the depths on the 5th of March, 1954. Stunning underwater camerawork and an instantly recognisable monster give this movie a magic all of its own (Universal 1954).



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Who was born?



LON CHANEY JR

Born on the 10th of February, 1906, Lon Chaney Jr didn't remain in his father's shadow for long. He was the only star to play all four classic Universal monsters, his most famous role being that of Larry Talbot in *The Wolf Man* (1941), which cemented his place in werewolf culture forever.



DWIGHT FRYE

The Man with the Thousand-Watt Stare, whose piercing gaze as Renfield in 1931's *Dracula* unnerved countless cinemagoers, was born on the 22nd of February, 1899. His powerful acting skills were often taken for granted by filmmakers, leading to his either being typecast, or having his roles unfairly cut.



RONDO HATTON

Movies such as *The Pearl of Death* (1944) and *The Brute Man* (1946) owed a lot of their impact to the distinctive features of Rondo Hatton, who was born on the 22nd of April, 1894. Disfigured by the pituitary gland disorder acromegaly, he was cast in a number of thuggish roles during his brief movie career.

Who did we lose?



HELEN CHANDLER

Helen Chandler's portrayal of Mina Seward in 1931's *Dracula* is one of the movie's many highlights, but her personal life was dogged by dependence on alcohol and sleeping pills. Disfigured after a fire in her apartment, she died of a heart attack on the 30th of April, 1965, aged just 59.



HENRY HULL

His role as botanist-turned-lycanthrope Wilfred Glendon in 1935's *Werewolf of London* - the first mainstream werewolf movie - assured Henry Hull's place in horror history. After a long and varied career encompassing stage, screen and television work, he died on the 8th of March, 1977 in Cornwall, England.



PETER LORRE

The intensity of Peter Lorre's performances lit up the screen. From the sinister child killer in *M* (1931) to the unhinged Dr Gogol in *Mad Love* (1935), he invested each of his many roles with brooding energy and depth. His death on the 23rd of March, 1964 was a huge loss to the movie world.



WILLIAM CASTLE

If the movie itself wasn't scary enough, why not add some extra horrors? Director William Castle was born on the 24th of April, 1914; he brought us the likes of Percepto, the vibrating-seat effect used to accompany screenings of 1959's *The Tingler*, and inspired modern filmmakers such as John Waters.



GARY CONWAY

On the 4th of February, 1936, Gary Conway made his appearance in the world, and would go on to secure his place in horror history with cult classics *I Was a Teenage Frankenstein* (1957) and *How to Make a Monster* (1958). His career didn't end there, of course, but we can't resist these campy classics!



BARBARA SHELLEY

Barbara Shelley was born on the 13th of February, 1932. With roles in movies including *The Gorgon* (1964), *Dracula Prince of Darkness* (1966) and *Quatermass and the Pit* (1967), she was the quintessential Hammer Horror icon, screaming her way from one supernatural disaster to another.



BRAM STOKER

The novel *Dracula* has become part of horror folklore, defining our perception of vampires. Sadly, Bram Stoker himself saw little of its success, and by the time of his death on the 20th of April, 1912, he was unaware of the colossal impact his creation would have in the years to come.



GLORIA HOLDEN

The title role in *Dracula's Daughter* (1936) would be a challenge for any actress, but Gloria Holden played Countess Marya Zaleska with darkly ethereal style. Her performance is the centrepiece of this movie, and has kept her memory alive for horror fans ever since her death on the 22nd of March, 1991.



VAL LEWTON

As producer on such psychological horror classics as *I Walked with a Zombie* (1943), *The Ghost Ship* (1943) and *The Body Snatcher* (1945), Val Lewton brought us a series of unforgettable suspense movies. He passed away on the 14th of March, 1951 at just 46 years of age.

OTHER KEY SPRING QUARTER BIRTHDAYS...

Helen Chandler 1st February 1906
John Carradine 5th February 1906
Brian Donlevy 9th February 1901
Hazel Court 10th February 1926
Wallace Ford 12th February 1898
Ralph Bates 12th February 1940
Oliver Reed 13th February 1938
Frances Dade 14th February 1910

John Barrymore 15th February 1882
Cedric Hardwicke 19th February 1893
Bramwell Fletcher 20th February 1904
Carroll Borland 25th February 1914
Lionel Atwill 1st March 1885
Willis O'Brien 2nd March 1886
Edgar Barrier 4th March 1907
Virginia Christine 5th March 1920

Lou Costello 6th March 1906
Eddie Powell 9th March 1927
Tod Slaughter 19th March 1885
Onslow Stevens 29th March 1902
Jack Asher 29th March 1916
Turhan Bey 30th March 1922
Edgar Wallace 1st April 1875
Andrew Keir 3rd April 1926

Valerie Hobson 14th April 1917
Roy Ashton 16th April 1909
Nigel Kneale 18th April 1922
Elena Verdugo 20th April 1926
Lionel Barrymore 28th April 1878
Carl Laemmle Jr 28th April 1908
Richard Carlson 29th April 1912
David Manners 30th April 1900

OTHER KEY SPRING QUARTER PASSINGS...

Mary Shelley 1st February 1851
Rondo Hatton 2nd February 1946
Carroll Borland 3rd February 1994
Una O'Connor 4th February 1959
O P Heggie 7th February 1936
Edgar Wallace 10th February 1932
Guy Endore 12th February 1970
Marceline Day 16th February 2000

Tod Slaughter 19th February 1956
Max Schreck 20th February 1936
Ben Chapman 21st February 2008
Franz Waxman 24th February 1967
John Boles 27th February 1969
Lou Costello 3rd March 1959
Whit Bissell 5th March 1996
Edward Van Sloan 6th March 1964

John L Balderston 8th March 1954
F W Murnau 11th March 1931
Freddie Francis 17th March 2007
Michael Gough 17th March 2011
Ralph Bates 27th March 1991
Gil Perkins 28th March 1999
Conrad Veidt 3rd April 1943
Brian Donlevy 5th April 1972

Gaston Leroux 15th April 1927
Hazel Court 15th April 2008
Michael Carreras 19th April 1994
Merian C Cooper 21st April 1973
Lionel Atwill 22nd April 1946
Bud Abbott 24th April 1974
Eva Moore 27th April 1955
Mae Clarke 29th April 1992



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What did we go and see?



FREAKS 1932

Tod Browning's controversial pre-code movie was released on the 20th of February, 1932. Featuring real carnival performers, it was banned for thirty years in the UK, but cinemagoers and critics today applaud its pacy direction - in particular, the nightmarish horror of its rain-soaked climactic scene.



HOUSE ON HAUNTED HILL 1959

As creepy millionaire Frederick Loren, Vincent Price is on excellent form in William Castle's gripping haunted house romp. Released on the 17th of February, 1959, it has the power to scare even today, with acid pools, skeletons and screams aplenty - not to mention a script rich in the blackest of humour.



THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY 1945

Hurd Hatfield has a rather unpleasant portrait locked away in MGM's adaptation of Oscar Wilde's novel. *The Picture of Dorian Gray* was released on the 3rd of March, 1945, bringing the tale of the pleasure-seeking socialite to a new audience. The unveiling of the distorted painting is a true horror moment and remains powerful today.



TALES FROM THE CRYPT 1972

Amicus' anthology horror movie tells five different terrifying tales, with stars such as Joan Collins and Peter Cushing showing us that in horror cinema, bad deeds seldom go unpunished. Directed by Freddie Francis, *Tales from the Crypt* was released on the 9th of March, 1972.

THE GHOST OF FRANKENSTEIN 1942

Universal brought the Monster out to play again, this time as Lon Chaney Jr, in the fourth movie of their Frankenstein series. Released on the 13th of March, 1942, *The Ghost of Frankenstein* also features Bela Lugosi as broken-necked shepherd Ygor, and Cedric Hardwicke as well-intentioned, but doomed, Dr Ludwig Frankenstein.



WHAT ELSE WERE WE WATCHING?

Invasion of the Body Snatchers 5th February 1956 / *Waxworks* 6th February 1929 / *The Beast with Five Fingers* 8th February 1947 / *Mystery of the Wax Museum* 18th February 1933 / *Murders in the Rue Morgue* 21st February 1932 / *The Incredible Shrinking Man* 22nd February 1957 / *The Mad Doctor of Market Street* 27th February 1942 / *Dr Terror's House of Horrors* 28th February 1965 / *Frankenstein Meets the Wolf Man* 5th March 1943 / *The Reptile* 6th March 1966 / *Metropolis* 13th March 1927 / *The Walking Dead* 14th March 1936 / *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* 18th March 1920 / *Godzilla vs Mechagodzilla* 21st March 1974 / *Legend of the Werewolf* 27th March 1978 / *Man Made Monster* 28th March 1941 / *One Million BC* 5th April 1940 / *King Kong* 7th April 1933 / *Captain Kronos Vampire Hunter* 7th April 1974 / *The Creature Walks Among Us* 26th April 1956 / *Mark of the Vampire* 26th April 1935



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