

## The downfall of the horror movie

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# Action!

## The Hilltop's best spots for a Halloween film

**Matt Lucas**

Sports Co-Editor

Whether in the fictional towns of Haddonfield or Woodsboro, Halloween brings about screams and scares all over the nation. As I watched old Halloween cult classics, I wondered where a horror flick could be filmed on Bradley's campus.

So, camera crews and production teams take notes, because the Hilltop has several locations for thrill and suspense to thrive.

### Olin Greenhouse

What other purpose does a dark, humid and large greenhouse serve other than to become the next home for a thrilling scene in our campus movie?

The glass-paned room that overlooks the campus sports a multitude of ways for our main character to dodge and hide from the antagonist. Not only would the reflections on the panes help to add suspense, but they could even be shattered when the antagonist makes their first move...

### Alley between Robert H. Michel Student Center and Hartmann Center

This may be the most cliché option on the list, but when running from a Michael Myers-esque killer, this alley is ideal for a production crew. The mirrors on both corners allow for an overhead shot of the victim being stalked down from behind. The yellowish hue that stains the alley would only add to the suspense as the main character frantically looks back and forth wondering why they entered the alley in the first place.

### Centerpeace outside Cullom-Davis Library

Despite being in an open area, the "Centerpeace" statue brings with it unlimited potential for a final showdown. Our protagonist could slip in between the bars just to be met by the killer who was perched above awaiting their victim.

The steel bars also add a clean look. The gleam from the bars will allow for a nice pairing with the night sky above it. A crimson paint job will only make it stick out that much more.

### Renaissance Coliseum Hallways and Loading Dock

While many think of Renaissance Coliseum as the place to cheer on Bradley's athletics teams, if you've ever walked around the building, you'd understand this selection

Connecting to a loading dock on the outside, the skeleton of this building is made up of intersecting hallways that all look similar. This invites our main character to run away from the predator, but, as all main characters do, a slip of the mind and a loss of direction will surely doom their chances of survival as play-by-play announcer Dave Snell echoes "Kaboom!" from a distance.

### Cullom-Davis Library Basement

If a camera crew did visit Bradley to film a scary movie, you could safely bet that the first location they'd head to would be the Cullom-Davis Library.

There's something about the library and its eerie silence that just screams "this is a trap" whenever you see it in a horror film. The basement especially gives off that vibe, the low ceiling and older design adding to the suspense. Paired with some flickering of the lights and a student opening their backpack too loudly, this location has all the makings of a scene in our Hilltop horror classic.

### Constance Hall

I can't say I've been in this building too much, but just from hearing the music that slips out from the doors, I think Constance Hall could become an overlooked building for the film.

Think about it: our main character walks through the doors and as they climb the stairs, the music begins to crescendo. As our protagonist reaches the top, the soft tune comes to a sharp halt. The only noise remaining is the screams echoing throughout the campus.

If you're ever going to film a horror movie on campus, these locations are optimal for achieving on-screen terror.



## THE SCREAM

# There's nothing scarier than a Jeffrey Dahmer costume this Halloween

**Daniel Kerns**  
Co-Editor-In-Chief

It should go without saying, but don't idolize serial killers.

This piece of seemingly common sense has been called into question by recent Netflix originals like the wildly popular series "Monster: The Jeffrey Dahmer Story" and the film "Extremely Wicked, Shockingly Evil and Vile" about Ted Bundy.

Halloween is meant to be a joyous occasion, indulging the macabre and making light of our fears with silly costumes and parties. Giving this treatment to real-life killers that have ended so many lives sends a callous message to survivors and loved ones.

Thankfully, celebrities like Simone Biles have urged everyone to refrain from imitating the serial killer, tweeting "im just gon go head and say it, put the jeffrey dahmer costumes back in the closet. we ain't having it!!!!!!!"

While Biles' words are appreciated, if it takes an Olympic gymnast on social media to sway you from dressing up as a notorious cannibal, you may have other problems.

Additionally, eBay's violence and violent criminals policy prohibits the sale of items "that promote or glorify violence or violent acts, or are associated with individuals who are notorious for committing violent acts." It's unclear when the online retailer actually enacted this policy since it recently had items like masks of Evan Peters as Dahmer available for purchase.

While not a costume, you can buy a T-shirt that reads "Choke me like Bundy. Eat me like Dahmer" with their faces from Amazon for as low as \$15.95. As a general safety tip, don't advertise your wish to be violently killed.

If you're tired of all the fictional character costumes and want to dress as something scary from real life, steer clear of serial killers. Instead, try something abstract like the climate crisis, taxes or crippling loneliness.





## THE SCREAM



# Safety tips to remember for Halloween parties

**Trinity Eaton**  
Contributor

October is coming to an end and Halloween is right around the corner. Amongst everyone's favorite Halloween traditions is one made for college students: Halloween parties.

Although it's fun to dance the night away with your friends, it's also important to remember ways to stay safe. There are many safety risks around this time of year because there are people who might take advantage of others enjoying a carefree night. Around Halloween, it's not uncommon for assaults, drug usage and alcohol poisoning to spike on college campuses. Here are some ways to ensure that your Halloween night is both enjoyable and safe.

### Charge your phone

Having access to your phone is essential because it is one of the primary forms of communication, especially at night. It can be a total lifesaver if you were somehow separated from your friends or if you need help getting back home safely.

### Arrive with your group and leave with your group

Walking alone at night shouldn't be a safety hazard, but in our society it is. Staying with a group of friends decreases the risk of being a potential target for someone with malicious intentions.

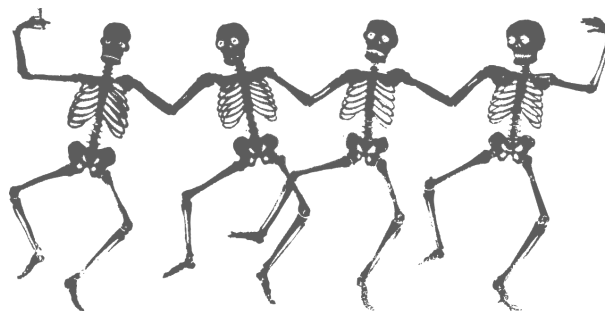
### Know your limits and drink responsibly

Listening to your body can save you from future unpleasant side effects. If you plan on doing a lot of drinking, make sure you're properly hydrated and nourished. When you start drinking, your body will benefit from adequate nutrition as it prevents severe spikes in blood alcohol levels.

### Look out for others

If you see someone who appears to be in danger, make sure to check in and see if they're OK. It's important to help others who may be in unsafe situations because people are often too busy partying to notice. Someone in danger could benefit from the intervention, even if it's from a stranger.

Everyone deserves to have a good time on Halloween, and these safety tips can help partygoers remain safe while also making the most of their night.



# THE SCREAM



## 'House of the Dragon' Characters take on trick-or-treating

**Madalyn Mirallegro**  
News Co-Editor

Since the first season of the HBO series “House of the Dragon” ended on Oct. 23, I can’t help but wonder what kind of candy the characters would hand out on Halloween. After much thought, I have compiled a list of candy selections. And no, no one would have their dragons burn any kids if they complained.

### Rhaenyra Targaryen: Cake pops

Rhaenyra would go above and beyond for Halloween. Instead of passing out candy, she would bake little dragon cake pops and individually wrap them for the kids. She would definitely have to make sure that Jace and Luke don’t eat them before she gets the chance to pass them out.

### Daemon Targaryen: Razor blades inside candy

I know for a fact that Daemon would be the one to actually put razor blades in the candy. He is violent, short-tempered and most importantly, sassy. Daemon would certainly add some truth to those frightening rumors/warnings.

### Alicent Hightower: Dum-Dums

Alicent would have no clue what to actually pass out for Halloween, so she would look to copy Rhaenyra. She figured that if she passed out a candy that slightly resembled a cake pop, then she would get the same attention that Rhaenyra’s cake pops got, which of course would not be the case.

### Viserys Targaryen: He has no idea

Viserys would try to give out the best candy in the realm, but with his condition, there is no way he would be able to. He would just leave it all up to the Hand of the King, Otto Hightower, and then be confused when no one wants to trick-or-treat at the castle anymore because of Otto’s candy selection.

### Otto Hightower: Revolting/allergenic candy

Otto is a man who wants nothing more in the world than for his family to be in power. So for Halloween, he would first judge the child’s costume. If the costume was better than his daughter Alicent’s, he would purposefully hand out candy that the child did not like or candy that they are allergic to.

### Ser Criston Cole: Warheads

After getting rejected by Rhaenyra, Criston Cole became extremely bitter. For Halloween, he would want others to feel the same sour feeling he felt. He would pass out handfuls of sour Warheads before slamming the door in the children’s faces.

### Aegon Targaryen: Haribo gummy soda bottles

After already getting in trouble with both his mother and the guards for passing out alcoholic beverages to young children, Aegon would switch to the second best option: Haribo gummy soda bottles. He wanted to stick to his original plan of passing out drinks, but this time in a kid-friendly way.

### Aemond Targaryen: Nothing

Aemond refuses to interact with loud, sticky kids, so he stays locked away reading in his room all night long. If a kid ever did approach him, he would threaten to feed them to his dragon Vhagar.

### Helaena Targaryen: Gummy bugs

Since Helaena almost always has a bug or a spider in her hand, she would be overjoyed to find out that there are gummy versions of all her favorite bugs. Helaena would want to spread her joy to anyone who comes to the castle and pass out handfuls of gummy bugs for them to eat.

### Jacaerys “Jace” Targaryen: Anything chocolate

Jace would have the biggest sweet tooth in Westeros, which means that he would pass out anything that involved chocolate. From Snickers to Hershey’s and everything in between, he would buy giant bags of it to pass out to all the kids.

### Lucerys “Luke” Targaryen: King-size candy bars

Luke just wants to make sure that everyone has a fun and safe Halloween. To ensure that they will definitely have a good time, he would pass out all the king-size candy bars he could find. He might even give someone an extra if he really liked their costume.



## THE SCREAM

# Poor execution stops 'Mad God' from being a creative masterpiece

Logan Wessel  
Contributor

After a production period of 30 years, the stop-motion animated adult horror film "Mad God" was finally released in June. Having missed the initial release, I decided to visit this horror film in time for Halloween.

"Mad God" follows a soldier who ventures deep into a hellish, post-apocalyptic landscape—encountering monsters along the way, while on a quest to detonate a bomb.

The film is a visual extravaganza, courtesy of director Phil Tippett, who is the mind behind much of the stop-motion effects of "RoboCop," "Jurassic Park" and the original "Star Wars" trilogy.

However, the strikingly beautiful, yet grotesque film that is "Mad God" struggles to maintain interest. While the strongest aspects of the movie are its visual style, lighting and composition, the film is otherwise difficult to get through.

From the opening scenes, it becomes evident that the movie has no speaking or acting. Most of its budget—which came from crowdfunding like Kickstarter—is seen in the animation itself.

Sadly, "Mad God" manages to both linger too long on many shots and spend too little on visual storytelling cues, failing to develop any investment in its paper-thin characters.

While viewing, I was expecting at some point to be hooked in by memorable scenes that could have been key turning points. One such scene involves a character being captured and subjected to a gory and unsettling dismemberment. But the scene drags on and any element of fear disappears with how cartoonish it becomes. There is also a noticeably abrupt ending.

There are apparent themes of violence and the brutality of war, as well as notable sexual imagery that demonstrates its intentions.

"Mad God" depicts these themes by showing how they become endless cycles. Much of the violence is seen throughout and destruction is shown as having created the world. On the other end, any semblance of the psychological, or perhaps sexual, elements that led to that destruction were hardly touched upon.

What is there hardly feels like it needed to be included in the first place. Beyond that, the ending does little to incite new ideas regarding the subject matter and feels as though the director struggled to complete it.

A beautiful and uneven mess is how I summarize "Mad God." Still, I hope more filmmakers are willing to take a chance and use some of Tippett's ideas and have the same motivation to create something new.



THE  
SCREAM

# The downfall of the horror movie

Kaitlyn Walls

Contributor



Besides the traditional pumpkin carving, corn mazes and haunted houses, horror movies are crucial for the optimal October experience. Whether I'm cuddled up with my partner or purposely grabbing my friend to scare her pants off, watching scary films is a bonding experience unlike any other.

Typically, I choose films such as "Insidious" (2011) or "The Conjuring" (2013). Their stories are original and frightening, plus the acting is convincing as far as horror movie standards go, which unfortunately isn't too high.

James Wan, director of "The Conjuring," is considered a trailblazer in the horror genre, creating other iconic films such as "Saw" (2004) and "Lights Out" (2016). His films speak to me because they have intentional framing of their villains, as well as their victims, and the jumpscare is created organically. The audience is consumed by every frame until they scare themselves from a door slam or the wind blowing.

That's the mark of a great horror film: dread conjured by the audience from subliminal and purposeful placement of horror. However, films released this year such as "Scream" and "Halloween Ends" are almost the exact opposite of these standards for horror.

"Scream" attempted to satirically poke at Internet forums and the chaos that can arise from them. Without spoiling, writers James Vanderbilt and Guy Busick decided to kill off an original "Scream" actor in, to put it simply, a lame and unreasonable way. To have the experience that this character had and die the way they did felt like an injustice to not only the series but also horror in general.

In "Halloween Ends," Jamie Lee Curtis once again plays Laurie Strode in the final film of the franchise. The original director John Carpenter, who is also known for "The Thing" (1982) and "They Live" (1988), returned to direct this recent installment. As the 13th movie in the series, it feels as though we're beating a dead horse. How can I take an iconic serial killer with a rich backstory seriously when he's made to look like a child with a knife who can be taken down by a random guy with no experience?

This is not to say that fantastic horror movies are extinct. Also released this year, "Nope" and "Pearl" received critical acclaim. Their originality proved that quality content can be found among dozens of sequels and reboots.

Unfortunately, most recent horror movies are unoriginal, awkward and desperate cash grabs. However, directors such as Jordan Peele and Ti West offer promise to the future for horror movies.







## THE SCREAM



# Staff Picks: The Scout's spooky playlist



With a great Halloween party comes a great Halloween playlist. Here are some of the Scout's choices to set the perfect scary mood.

### Anaiah Davis

"Thriller" by Michael Jackson

"Thriller" is timeless, soulful and, most of all, groovy. The song features sound effects like wolf howls, creepy footsteps and slamming doors in addition to the outro spoken by horror movie icon Vincent Price, both of which create an excellent horror movie vibe. "Thriller" is also the perfect song to play at a Halloween party to perform the legendary dance numbers from the music video.

### Daniel Kerns

"(Don't Fear) The Reaper" by Blue Öyster Cult

Although it's probably most famous for the "More Cowbell" sketch on "Saturday Night Live," the eeriness of this rock classic shouldn't be discounted. The chilling lyrics about the peaceful acceptance of death are anything but comedic. Full of energy, the haunting guitar riff that drives the song is iconic. "(Don't Fear) The Reaper" has been a Halloween must-have since its 1976 release and deserves to stick around for years to come.

### Mason Klemm

"Spooky, Scary Skeletons" by Andrew Gold

This song's upbeat tempo and joyful tone lend themselves well to a good Halloween party. Already a viral TikTok dance trend, many consider this trick-or-treating classic to be the Internet's Halloween anthem, and I assume it'll be that way for the rest of time.

### Payton Egnew

"Somebody's Watching Me" by Rockwell

"Somebody's Watching Me" will always be a favorite Halloween song of mine because of the creepy instrumental and lyrics. Michael Jackson lends his vocals to the track and it is a perfect addition to the song.

### Jonathan Michel

"Stay Hollow" by Ekali

This is a peaceful, yet eerie track that I've found is perfect for a late-night drive in the country as your car is bathed in the light of a full moon. The song opens with waves coming in, followed by haunting piano chords and a progressively imposing guitar provides a mysterious vibe. "Stay Hollow" doesn't have many words but "You wouldn't like it out there" whispered in the song's bridge sends a chill down your spine.

### Matt Lucas

"Abracadabra" by Steve Miller Band

As the first track in the album, "Abracadabra" adds all the spookiness one needs to form a Halloween playlist. From the piano that leads in, to the vocal fade as the song exits, this song is the perfect playlist addition for a full moon on a cold, Halloween night.

### Maddy Mirallegro

"Ghostbusters" by Ray Parker, Jr

This is by far one of the most recognizable themes there is around Halloween. When it comes on people can't help but scream the lyrics "Ghostbusters" in time with the song. The theme itself brings memories of the '80s and its cinema. It reminds people of the team of nerds hunting down ghosts around New York City.

### Maddy Mirallegro

"The Addams Family" theme by Vic Mizzy

Just at the sound of the snaps in the very beginning, it is clear what Halloween song is coming on. "The Addams Family" is a staple creepy family movie for all to watch. The song itself carries the fun theme of what the franchise is all about.

### Payton Egnew

"This is Halloween"

"The Nightmare Before Christmas" has always been one of my favorite movies, so "This is Halloween" will always be a classic Halloween song for me. Its eerie vibe makes it the perfect song to listen to on a cold October night.

### Lee Lard

"Time Warp" by Richard O'Brien

This song, featured in the 1975 cult classic "The Rocky Horror Picture Show," is a staple Halloween song for me. Going to Peoria Players Theatre to watch and act out in the film at Halloween time is a longstanding tradition for me. The wacky horror of the characters and their plight will always be a Halloween favorite.



## THE SCREAM

# Staff Picks: What is the scariest mascot in sports?

Halloween is a time for scares, and while some mascots try to appear friendly to the fans, there is no helping some of them. This week, we asked the Scout Sports Staff who they think is the scariest of them all.

### Gritty isn't fun and games

By Caden Sexton

Have you ever been to a Philadelphia Flyers game? If you did before 2018, you wouldn't be scarred for life.

Today, the orange blob with googly eyes and a hockey helmet walking around Wells Fargo Center is none other than Gritty. This big-bearded, seven-foot tall creature can and will scare you. I mean, google this guy and look at the images. It genuinely makes you uncomfortable.

The Phillie Phanatic might be the most iconic mascot in baseball, but Gritty instills tremendous fear into the kids of Philadelphia.

### More of a trick than a treat

By Matt Lucas

Let me start off by saying that the sports world needs more unique mascots and nicknames, but the Kansas State Wildcats mascot is... an interesting way of dealing with that.

Imagine you took a football player and slapped a giant, gray, circular wildcat head on top. A wild idea maybe, a lazy attempt certainly, but no amount of laziness and wildness is too much in Manhattan, Kansas. I applaud the effort to not implement a full wildcat costume, but this human-wildcat hybrid is terrifying to gaze upon.

### The Pelican from Hell

By Ethan Carbone

Pierre the Pelican is meant to symbolize the state bird of Louisiana, New Orleans and their French culture. Typically, mascots are supposed to be cute attractions for fans, especially at younger ages.

However, when you look into Pierre's eyes you feel like your soul is being stolen. The other part about him that will easily spook you is his abnormally large beak. The beak opens wide like an actual pelican, however in this case one could fit a small child inside the mouth of the beast.

### Purdue Pete is not a treat

By Jonathan Michel

Mascots with plastic heads, rather than soft and furry heads, are always a gamble. In some instances, it works, especially if the harder helmet looks realistic like Oklahoma State's Cowboy. However, Purdue Pete is just...hard to look at.

The dimensions of his face make it look like it was squished between two pieces of bread. The Boilermaker's body and legs are a human's dressed up in Purdue attire, but his blank, soulless eyes are enough to make Purdue fans look away in disgust, just as they've done for years after watching their football team.

### The Providence Fri(ght)ar

By Mason Klemm

If you don't know what a Friar is, you're not alone. However, you don't need to know the four mendicant orders to understand how terrifying the Providence College mascot truly is.

The pale white face paired with the black abyss of a mouth, cemented in a crooked smile, provides an unsettling image for all fans and opponents alike. The black cowl and big, gleaming eyes do not do it any favors either. Their men's basketball team made the Sweet 16 last season, and who's to say the absurdity of their mascot didn't play a factor in scaring their opponents to elimination.

### The Sea Monster of Seattle

By Luke Kotcher

I had a few finalists on my list. Gritty and the Reds' mascot, Mr. Redlegs, joined the Providence Friar to make for some scary sights. Ultimately, my pick has to be the new Seattle Kraken mascot, Buoy.

If I was an opposing team losing to the Kraken and I see whatever this is on the jumbotron, I would quit hockey then and there. Seattle has the best jerseys and color scheme in hockey and they went with a sea troll for their new mascot. Every hockey fan expected an octopus or a squid mascot, but we received a troll.

### Kingsley may just burn your eyes

By Rodrigo Perez

Not all mascots are created equally, as Kingsley seems to have come out of an evil and distorted kids cartoon. Representing Scottish Premiership side Partick Thistle, Kingsley can be best described as an amalgamation between the angry sun from Super Mario World and Lisa Simpson.

Bred from the hands and mind of Glasgow-based artist David Shrigley, Kingsley is supposed to represent the angst of a Partick Thistle soccer fan. Any team with Kingsley as their mascot won't have to worry about generating fear before a match.