

Don't lose your head:
How to Survive a scary movie

Page 2

THE SCREAM

Who is Lewis?
Halloween's sassiest
decoration

Page 6



You've always been scared of fictional horror villains, but how do they become so terrifying?

These villains are not immune to the influences of our society and psychology.

Like all media, our favorite fictitious killers are heavily inspired by the world around them. From creation to prequel and sequel, current events and audience opinions greatly impact the story of evil incarnate.

Two of the best examples of this are the "Nightmare on Elm Street" (1984) psycho Freddy Krueger and "Friday the 13th" (1980) monster Jason Voorhees.

Freddy Krueger

Krueger harnesses and thrives off the fear created from people feeling unsafe. He often twists the dreams of his victims before killing them – pure torture and sadism.

When you explore the creation of the franchise, the execution of Krueger's character is perfect. The concept of a tortuous dream demon makes total sense when you examine the life of his creator and the culture of the 1980s.

From 1975 to 1979, Cambodia faced extreme brutality and ethnic cleansing from its dictator Pol Pot and his Khmer Rouge regime. "Nightmare on Elm Street" director Wes Craven read an article about a refugee child who could not, or would not, fall asleep because he was afraid he would be attacked by soldiers in his dreams.

The child finally drifted off and everyone thought the crisis was over, but the boy died in his sleep. Craven believed he died in the middle of a nightmare.

Thus, Krueger's character was realized.

"Nightmare on Elm Street" followed the serial killer epidemic of the '70s and appeared at the height of child abductions in the '80s.

Some speculate that Krueger is partially inspired by this "stranger danger" panic that ensued after the media covered the uptick in kidnapping and child murder cases.

Krueger also represents the childhood fear of the world outside of parents.

Not only do these factors make Krueger a quintessential slasher, but also a serious threat to horror fans. He is genuinely scary because the invasion of such safe space is all too real.

Jason Voorhees

Voorhees, loosely based on a Finnish mass murderer, has an interesting development throughout his cinematic journey. By the sixth installment, "Friday the 13th Part VI: Jason Lives," Voorhees is essentially invincible because he is explicitly supernatural rather than just a man.

This turn of events in the franchise appears to result from fan sympathy. Fans of the iconic hockey mask-wearing killer feel this way because, to them, Voorhees doesn't kill for fun the way Krueger does. His murderous tendencies are motivated by his victims' immoral behavior and his own childhood trauma. Voorhees also kills to avenge and please his mother.

By the time Voorhees becomes undefeatable, the franchise is bringing in half as much as the first three movies did, so why not adapt his story to please fans?

Maybe dissecting the psychology behind fictional killers makes them less scary, or maybe even moreso, knowing these movies are not entirely fictional. Whatever the case, don't think about it too much before falling asleep. We both know what happens next.



THE SCREAM



Don't lose your head: How to survive a scary movie

Anaiah Davis
Managing Editor

A hallmark of any scary movie marathon is ridiculing the doomed characters that obviously won't survive past the first five minutes.

When watching, it is easy for viewers to think that they would never fall victim to a masked maniac or supernatural entity. That begs the question, what does it take to survive a horror movie? Here are some foolproof ways to make it out alive, should you find yourself in such a harrowing situation.

Don't split up

Everyone knows that as soon as the cast splits up, heads are going to roll. Some characters believe splitting up will cover more ground or increase their chances of survival. However, the opposite is true in most cases.

When groups disperse, it becomes much easier for the killer to pick them off one by one without anyone around to interfere. Even worse, characters often get sidetracked from escaping when they realize someone has been left behind. Sticking together is the better option because there is strength in numbers and the killer likely can't fight everyone at once.

Don't search for the source of the noise

Many characters fall victim to their curiosity. Don't be one of those people.

The moment you hear a door slam, rustling in the basement or footsteps upstairs, don't breathe and don't think – run. There is no reason why you should stick around to find out who or what is lurking in the shadows. It never ends well.

Don't stay in remote locations

Nothing good comes from vacationing in an isolated area. There is nothing wise or enjoyable about partying in a town without a police station and no neighbors for miles.

Nobody will hear you if you scream and there's nowhere to run if your tires get slashed. If you decide to run, it will likely be into the woods. At that point, you'll inevitably glance over your shoulder and trip over a tree branch or step on a pile of crunchy leaves, giving away your hiding spot. It's a lose-lose situation.

Double tap

The most important piece of advice on this list is provided by the character Columbus (Jesse Eisenberg) from the "Zombieland" series. Imagine you're facing off against the antagonist and you've finally gained the upper hand with a deadly weapon at the ready. What's your next move?

If your answer is to hit them and run, you may want to rethink that decision. The worst thing you can do is only strike once. There is no way a knife-wielding killer is down for the count after a single blow and before you know it, they're popping back up to finish you off. Do yourself a favor and double tap.



THE SCREAM

Sensational scares: Five horror films to look out for this Halloween

Rodrigo Trujillo
Assistant Voice Editor

Spooky season means horror is in fashion – not just for your costume, but also for your favorite films. After a summer full of blockbuster movies, it makes sense that the fall follows fiercely. Whether it's a late-night getaway to your local movie theater or streaming from the comfort of your home, here are a few recent and upcoming releases you'll want on your Halloween binge list.

“Five Nights at Freddy’s”

For many audiences, “Five Nights at Freddy’s” can be described as nightmarish nostalgia. Directed by Emma Tammi, the film follows the same premise as the video game franchise of the same name.

“Five Nights at Freddy’s” tells the story of a security guard (Josh Hutcherson) working the night shift at a questionable pizza parlor who makes life-altering discoveries. Game developer Scott Cawthon co-wrote the screenplay alongside Tammi and director Seth Cuddeback. This long-anticipated horror flick lands in theaters on Oct. 27.

“Saw X”

If you thought there were enough “Saw” movies, think again. Director Kevin Gertruet returns with the tenth installment of this brutal horror film franchise. “Saw X” follows serial killer John Kramer (Tobin Bell), also known as Jigsaw, with an infamous modus operandi of insidious and puzzling contraptions to turn the tables on con artists.

The film has been in theaters since late September and is now available to stream on Amazon Prime Video.



“The Nun II”

When it comes to horror, Warner Bros. rarely disappoints. After watching this long-anticipated sequel, audiences agree that the newest addition to “The Conjuring” universe holds up to the standard. Directed by Michael Chaves, the film was deemed by many critics as an improvement from its predecessor, “The Nun”.

Set in 1965, a priest is violently murdered by an unknown force. Sister Irene (Taissa Farmiga) investigates the crime and once again faces a powerful evil nun. “The Nun II” is available for streaming on Amazon Prime Video and Apple TV+.

“Dark Harvest”

Despite being a less anticipated film, “Dark Harvest” caught the attention of horror fanatics everywhere. Directed by David Slade, this motion picture is a beautiful adaptation of Norman Partridge's 2006 novel of the same name.

The story follows a group of teens battling an evil entity who emerges from local cornfields. It's available on streaming platforms Amazon Prime Video, Apple TV+ and YouTube.

“Totally Killer”

Ripe for the spirit of Halloween, “Totally Killer” captures the quippy humor of a comedy while staying true to horror movie fundamentals. Director Nahnatchka Khan tells the story of an infamous killer who appears for the first time in thirty-five years on Halloween night, searching for a new victim.

After an encounter with this evil entity, a teen girl travels back to 1987 where she teams up with her teenage mother to take down the masked killer. This isn't a film you'll want to miss. “Totally Killer” is streaming on Amazon Prime Video.

THE SCREAM

Ranking Disney Channel original Halloween movies

Madalyn Mirallegro

Editor-in-Chief

As Halloween quickly approaches, it is time to enter my favorite part of the month: Monstober. Monstober is a time in October when Disney Channel premieres its Halloween-inspired episodes and original movies.

A memorable part of spooky season growing up was sitting in front of my TV and preparing to see whatever spooky episode or movie would be on next. Here are the best Disney Channel Originals to watch this Halloween.



1. "Girl vs. Monster" (2012)

This may be biased considering this is my favorite Halloween movie of all time, but the number one spot on this list has to go to "Girl vs. Monster." Starring Olivia Holt and Luke Benward, this film is filled with silly one-liners and the iconic song "Had Me at Hello."

There is not a Halloween that goes by without this pop tune resurfacing on TikTok to remind everyone how good this movie is. It's enjoyable to watch, or rewatch, Holt battle monsters with epic gear that I wish I owned.

2. "Hocus Pocus" (1993)

"Hocus Pocus" earns the second spot on this list thanks to the comedic charm of the Sanderson sisters, played by Bette Midler, Sarah Jessica Parker and Kathy Najimy. These actresses work together to portray a trio of witches hunting for immortality. The iconic scene depicting their performance of "I Put a Spell on You," bewitches the entire town of Salem as well as audiences on the other side of the screen.

This movie holds a strong sense of nostalgia and comfort of settling down on the couch to watch a funny, yet scary, Halloween film with family and friends.

3. "Halloweentown" (1998)

"Halloweentown" is the perfect example of an epic Halloween tale. From witches to monsters to ghouls, this film doesn't miss. It keeps viewers entertained as the Cromwell siblings travel to a mysterious town with their grandmother to fight against an evil force. It is a short yet sweet movie of a family coming together in the spirit of Halloween.

The only faults with "Halloweentown" are the characters' subtle flaws. Marnie's overeagerness to be a witch often gets annoying and her little brother Dylan is a know-it-all and tries to crush the spirit of Halloween.

4. "Invisible Sister" (2015)

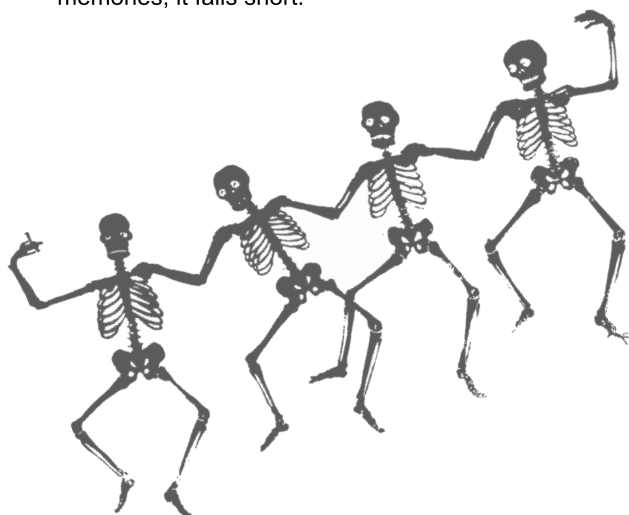
"Invisible Sister" premiered during the tailend of what many people call the "good" Disney Channel. Honestly, this film is neither impressive nor unimpressive as Cleo (Rowan Blanchard) accidentally turns her sister Molly (Paris Berelc) invisible. Audiences find themselves watching a family film rather than a Halloween movie.

This film could've dealt more with the spooky elements of Halloween but instead focused on the race against time to make Molly visible again. That being said, I still wish I could put pink streaks in my hair just like Cleo.

5. "Under Wraps" (2021)

The kids at the summer camp I worked at are the only reason I watched this movie. "Under Wraps" is filled with lackluster acting and scares as a group of kids try to put their new mummy friend back to his resting place before midnight on Halloween.

This film is rather forgettable, other than the excellent mummy costume. It's a great watch for young children, but for those of us looking to reminisce on childhood memories, it falls short.



THE SCREAM



Five spooktacular celebrity costumes

Payton Egnew
News Editor

Whether you're going to a party or hanging with friends, Halloween costumes are a must.

Many people also look forward to seeing what their favorite celebrities wear for over-the-top Halloween parties every October. Here are five notable celebrity costumes from the last couple of years.

Lili Reinhart, Camila Mendes and Madelaine Petsch as the Sanderson sisters

The famous "Riverdale" actresses hit downtown Hollywood in 2022 dressed as the iconic Sanderson sisters from "Hocus Pocus." Reinhart wore a pink corset paired with a red skirt and cape, Petsch styled a green corset with a purple skirt and green jacket and Mendes wore a brown corset with orange and red skirt elements.

This trio of costumes stands out because of the fun twist on the outfits, and the actresses' close bond is sweetly emphasized by this costume choice.

Kylie Jenner as the Bride of Frankenstein

The Kardashian-Jenner family is known for their many different costumes leading up to Oct. 31, and Kylie Jenner's 2022 costume takes the cake. Wearing a Jean Paul Gaultier custom-made dress, Jenner posed for a photoshoot that embodied the titular character from the 1935 film "Bride of Frankenstein."

The dress was made from tied pieces of sheer fabric, and Jenner paired it with fabric-covered heels and gloves. Jenner's costume caught the eyes of many, as she also had her hair sticking up, dramatic eyebrow makeup and lipstick to complete the look.

Harry Styles as Dorothy Gale

Harry Styles took the stage at Madison Square Garden in 2021 dressed as Dorothy from "The Wizard Of Oz," his first costume during his two-night Halloween-themed performances that he dubbed "Harryween."

Thousands of fans wore costumes and attended Harryween as Styles sang "Somewhere Over The Rainbow." The "As It Was" singer donned a blue and white checkered dress with strawberry decals and a matching bow, red tights, blue and red heeled boots and a basket with a stuffed Toto.

Kim Kardashian as Mystique

In 2022, Kim Kardashian wore a full body latex suit to embody the mutant from Marvel's "X-Men" films.

Prosthetic bumps from head to toe, yellow contacts, bright blue heels and face paint amplified the look. Kardashian even dyed her hair red to finalize the costume. The time, effort and detail put into Kardashian's Mystique makes it a personal favorite.

Heidi Klum as a worm

For her annual Halloween bash, Heidi Klum goes all out with her costumes. Walking out on the red carpet of her 2022 party, Klum wore a giant – and quite terrifying – worm costume as a part of a couples costume with her husband Tom Kaulitz, who dressed as a fisherman. Camouflaged in the body of the worm, Klum's eyes and smile were just barely visible.

Klum told Vogue in an interview that the costume was very hard to walk in and she had to repeatedly ask for help when falling over. Underneath the suit, Klum wore heels and a glittery bodysuit. The realistic and utterly terrifying look of this costume easily landed it in the top five.

THE SCREAM



Who is Lewis? Halloween's sassiest decoration

Ian Cunningham

Copy Editor

No one could have expected an 8-foot-tall, pumpkin-head Halloween decoration to define spooky season this year.

Lewis, an outdoor Halloween decoration, was discovered by TikTok user Makaylah J. [@big.makkk] in the seasonal section of a Target in California.

In a Sept. 28 TikTok video, Lewis introduces himself to the world, proclaiming in a booming voice, "I am not a Jack-O-Lantern! My name is Lewis," followed by a cheeky "hehehe."

The video, which has amassed over four million views, gained traction on social media platforms and became fodder for endless internet memes and Lewis-inspired content. Since rising to fame, Lewis has inspired everything from Halloween costumes to thirst traps.

Lewis has seemingly found his way into every corner of the internet, even making an appearance on Taco Bell's official TikTok account. It seems that everyone is finding a way to get onboard the Lewis train this Halloween.

His ubiquitous internet presence has mobilized many shoppers to get a Lewis of their own, leaving many Target stores sold out of the decoration that began this year's craze.

Although he comes from humble beginnings, Lewis has become an undeniable symbol of light-hearted Halloween fun.

If you're out celebrating Halloween this weekend, keep an eye out for a towering "not Jack-O-Lantern" with a sassy attitude. If internet trends are your thing and you find yourself in the presence of a Lewis, consider snapping a photo and adding to Lewis' online popularity.

THE SCREAM

Staff Picks: Scariest player to play against

In honor of the spooky season, we asked our writers to pick the scariest player to play against throughout sports history.

Ray "The Quarterback Killer" Lewis

Umar Syed

There are many professional athletes that people are scared of because they have elevated their craft and their game to an unbelievable level. Ray Lewis is one player that I would never dream of lining up against.

Lewis is one of the greatest football players of all time and considered to be the best linebacker in football. Lewis is the only player in league history to have 40 career sacks, 30 interceptions and 19 fumble recoveries and when he hits you, I can imagine it's like getting hit by a freight train.

The defensive beast: Metta Sandiford-Artest

Ethan Carbone

If I had to pick one athlete that I wouldn't want to go up against, it would have to be Metta Sandiford-Artest, formerly known as Metta World Peace and Ron Artest. For a short period of time, Sandiford-Artest was the best defender in the NBA, as evidenced by his Defensive Player of the Year trophy in 2004 and the fact that he made three All-Defense teams.

Yet, the moment that many people think about when they hear his name and the moment that made me pick him is the Malice at the Palace. In a 2004 game between the Pistons and Sandiford-Artest's Pacers, a fan threw a drink at Sandiford-Artest. In response, he ran into the stands and mistakenly grabbed a different fan, leading to a massive brawl and the cancellation of the game. Sandiford-Artest was suspended for 86 games, the longest suspension for an on-court incident in NBA history.

All Day: Adrian Peterson

Aiden Dewhurst

When I think of most-feared, there is only one player in the sports world that comes to mind: Adrian Peterson.

Peterson is one of the best running backs to step onto the field. He can truck, stiff-arm, juke, spin, hurdle and break tackles. Peterson has the most rushing yards in a single game with 296 and has the second-most rushing yards all-time in one season with 2,097.

More than anyone else, Peterson strikes fear into his opponents' hearts.

Tackles, fights and red cards: Pepe

Rodrigo Perez

While it's easy to pick the best player from any given sport, I decided to go with brute force instead of proficiency. Former Real Madrid defender Kepler Laveran de Lima Ferreira, or commonly known as Pepe, was once one of the most feared defenders in Spanish soccer.

With numerous fights and dirty tackles overshadowing his defensive brilliance, Pepe made Real Madrid fans question his way of play. He would do anything to come out on top, even if it meant hurting another player.

The Home Run King

Mason Klemm

Here's a crazy stat: If Barry Bonds played the entire 2004 season without a bat, his on-base percentage would be .608, the highest single-season mark in MLB history. He's the all-time leader in intentional walks with 688, nearly 400 more than the next highest player. You don't purposely walk someone that much unless you know what will happen if you pitch to him.

Although I never saw him play, the stories of Bonds' dominance transcend generations and his name is etched into baseball folklore forever. His steroid usage doesn't apply when talking about his mythology, as my stomach would be doing somersaults if I ever saw a guy with 762 career home runs step in the box.

P.S. He should be in the Hall of Fame, no questions asked.

