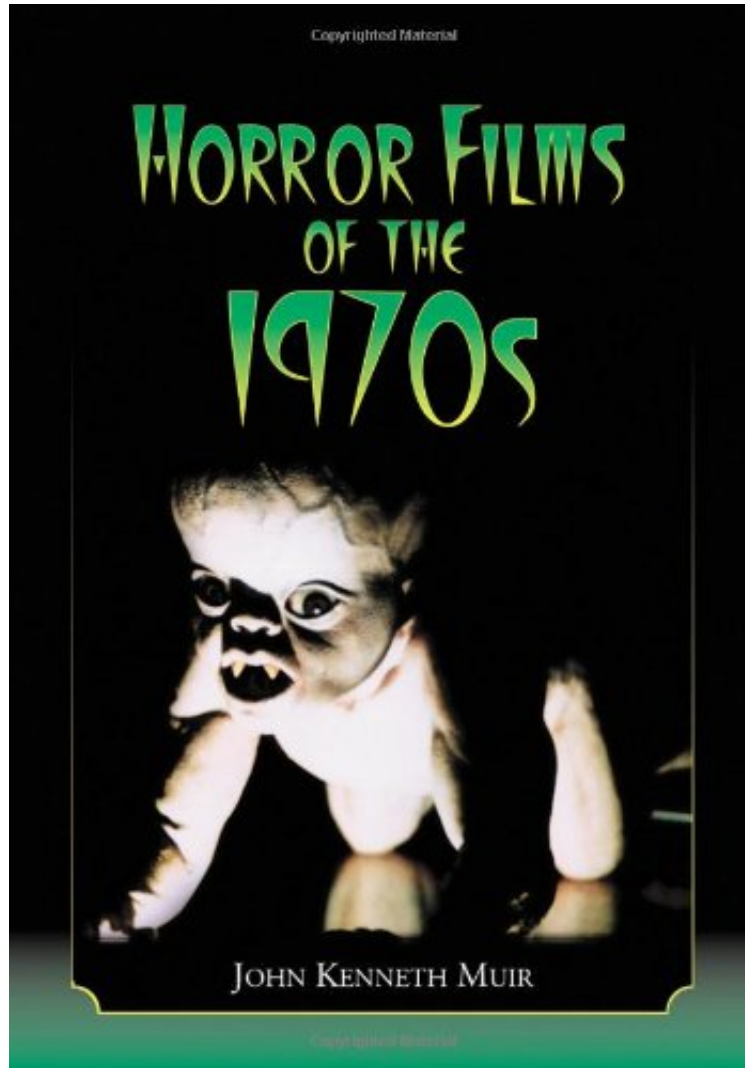


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Horror Films of the 1970s (2 volume set)

John Kenneth Muir

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John Kenneth Muir : Horror Films of the 1970s (2 volume set) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Horror Films of the 1970s (2 volume set):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Sinister Cinema...By Erik Olson Back in the 1970s I used to stay up late on Saturday nights and watch "Sinister Cinema" on Channel 2. A comedy-relief host presented various cut-for-TV horror movies that tended to be more fun than frightening. My biggest childhood movie scares came from creepy advertisements for classic R-rated shockers such as "The Exorcist", "Amityville Horror", and "Phantasm". All this titillation generated an abiding love of horror movies, and "Horror Films of the 1970s" brought it all back with a view through blood-colored glasses. John Kenneth Muir begins his compilation with an overview of horror cinema from that

seminal decade. Then he launches his film list (over 225) with "And Soon the Darkness" from 1970, and proceeds through each year until finishing up in 1979 with "Zombie". Some less-compelling movies only receive a cursory entry, while others that made a bigger impression on Mr. Muir get a more substantial treatment including quotes from critics, a star rating, extended commentary, and even a short legacy section featuring sequels and copycat films. He even provides cast and credits to satisfy completists. The author's commentary (particularly on his favorites) is the most compelling reason to buy this book, as Mr. Muir's insights are equivalent to higher-end, thoughtful reviews. He reveals an unshakable passion for the subject matter given the comprehensive nature of "Horror Films of the 1970s" (further proof of his devotion is demonstrated by follow-up books dealing with horror movies of the 1980s and 1990s). However, be advised that his synopses tend to go a bit heavy on the spoilers, so keep that in mind if you haven't seen a particular movie in his list. Mr. Muir's enjoyable look back wraps with a glance at how the 70s horror trends were expanded upon during the following decades, along with some appendices containing era-specific esoterica such as his "Best Of" list and "Memorable Movie Ad Lines." I recommend "Horror Films of the 1970s" for anyone who shares my fascination with the genre, especially if you were warped as a youth in that wild era of pre-political correctness. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Worth every penny. By Sergio pescador. Amazing; I considered the price was high for a 2 book set, when I received it, the almost no presence of images, made me wonder. Once I started to read, I fell back. In these times of bloggers, youtubers, and any "dude"-with-a-computer-that-posts-whatever-the-first-thing-that-comes-to-his/her-mind, this book is written by a really talented author. Very entertaining, opinionated, I don't agree on some points, but that's the idea, right? Actually I felt like being next to him, talking. The author has a great knowledge on the topic and never underestimates or down-talks the reader. Absolutely loved it. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not So Much in the Past As You Might Think. By Bruce J Blanchard. The 70's were a wild time. We passed the disintegration of the late 1960's and fell into cynicism and the true violence of life. The issues turned nasty and also did the movies. The films of that time showed that much, though you should remember that it's only a movie. Special effects were only growing up and makeup artists had a field day. John Kenneth Muir's Horror Films of the 1970's is a flashback to the times when I grew up. You wanted flesh and blood/ta/graphic violence - this is your era. You wanted the foolish in horror films - this was their era. You want to know about the film's being remade today they are found right here. What makes Mr. Muir's reviews worth reading is the level of depth, broken down into years, and supplemented by some cool lists in the Appendix. He takes the films seriously or barbecues them over the coals, with a touch of grace. The cost is high, but I can assure it's well worth it. And P.S., there is no table of contents.

The seventies were a decade of groundbreaking horror films: The Exorcist, Carrie, and Halloween were three. This detailed filmography covers these and 225 more. Section One provides an introduction and a brief history of the decade. Beginning with 1970 and proceeding chronologically by year of its release in the United States, Section Two offers an entry for each film. Each entry includes several categories of information: Critical Reception (sampling both '70s and later reviews), Cast and Credits, P.O.V., (quoting a person pertinent to that film's production), Synopsis (summarizing the film's story), Commentary (analyzing the film from Muir's perspective), Legacy (noting the rank of especially worthy '70s films in the horror pantheon of decades following). Section Three contains a conclusion and these five appendices: horror film cliches of the 1970s, frequently appearing performers, memorable movie ads, recommended films that illustrate how 1970s horror films continue to impact the industry, and the 15 best genre films of the decade as chosen by Muir.

From Library Journal. Independent filmmaker Muir (The Films of John Carpenter; Wes Craven: The Art of Horror) offers a top-notch overview of American horror movies of the 1970s, an era rife with social and political turmoil. Many of the films made at the time reflected changes in conventional morals and ideals while introducing a new brand of monsters and new versions of classics. Muir opens with an entertaining and informative "Brief History," which discusses actors Christopher Lee and Peter Cushing, the influence of productions by Hammer Films (the most financially successful British film company), and some of the best, worst, and most controversial flicks of the period. Part 2, which makes up the bulk of the book, consists of some 228 chronological entries on standout movies, including Carrie and The Exorcist. Each entry covers cast and crew, critical reception (based on reviews from the 1970s and later), synopsis, direct quotes from cast when available, and commentary providing further information on the film's merits or bad points. Muir's commentaries are well worth reading, especially for those who have seen the particular film. He closes with five appendixes, including his pick of the ten best movies of the decade and memorable ad lines, such as "You have been warned" from The Omen. An impressive resource for all film collections, this work complements Mike Mayo's excellent Videohound's Horror Show: 99 Hair-Raising, Hellish, and Humorous Movies, which covers the 1950s through the 1990s but with less analysis. Highly recommended. Rosalind Dayen, South Regional Lib., Pembroke Pines, FL Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist. The 1970s is one of the great decades for horror films. Classics such as Carrie, The Exorcist, Jaws, Halloween, and Texas Chainsaw Massacre all debuted during this time. Works by directors Stephen Spielberg, John Carpenter, Brian de Palma, Wes Craven, and others helped shape horror cinema. Focusing mostly on American films, this resource examines 200

movies released from 1970 to 1979. The book is organized into 10 year-by-year sections, with the films arranged alphabetically by title and given ratings of between one and four stars. Most of the entries begin with excerpts from reviews, information on cast and crew, a synopsis, commentary by the author, and in some cases comments about the film's legacy. The cast and crew information and plot summaries are important reference resources. The commentary, which can go on for several pages, puts each film in context and discusses style and filmmaking techniques. It also explores how topics such as racism, religion, and women's rights are represented in films like *Blacula*, *The Exorcist*, and *The Stepford Wives*, respectively. Perhaps the best part of the work is the beginning essay, "The History of the Decade (in Brief . . .)," which explains why horror films were so unique during the 1970s and explores some of the common themes, such as post-Vietnam distrust of government, nature run amuck, and the failure of science. The work ends with five appendixes: "Horror Film Conventions of the 1970s," "The 1970s Horror Hall of Fame," "Memorable Movie Ad Lines," "Then and Now--Recommended Viewing," and "The Best Horror Movies of the 1970s." *Horror Films of the 1970s* is an important reference tool for film collections in academic and public libraries and a must for fans. RBB Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved Extensive...very fun...most of the films are discussed thoroughly and meticulously...excellent. --Classic Images A top-notch overview...entertaining...informative...well worth reading...impressive...highly recommended. --Library Journal Important...a must --Booklist/RBBA top-notch overview...entertaining...informative...well worth reading...impressive...highly recommended. --Library Journal Important...a must --Booklist/RBB Booklist Editors' Choice --Booklist ALA Outstanding Reference Source --American Library Association