

ARROW VIDEO ANNOUNCES AMERICAN HORROR PROJECT

The 1970s was one of the most inventive periods for horror cinema, especially for filmmakers working outside of the Hollywood system. In addition to emerging regional talent such as Tobe Hooper, David Cronenberg and Wes Craven, hundreds of other directors were making noteworthy independent efforts at the time, some of which will be collected in Arrow Video's newly announced *American Horror Project Volume 1* box set. The first volume, due in late February, features a trio of otherworldly drive-in treats: scuzzy acid trip *Malatesta's Carnival of Blood* (1973), Matt Cimber's psychosexual thriller *The Witch Who Came from the Sea* (1976) and the surreal parental panic of *The Premonition* (1976), all of which are set to make their Blu-ray debut.

"There's something particularly alluring about the sort of regional, independent genre fare that was being produced in the US during this period," says Ewan Cant, producer of Arrow's *American Horror Project* set. "Much more than studio films, these productions are a product of the circumstances in which they were made — often by filmmakers with a lot of ambition and heart, but not necessarily money at their dis-



posal. These films had to innovate in their own ways, and that independent spirit makes these films very intriguing."

Cant notes that the inspiration for the set is partially due to *Nightmare USA* author Stephen Thrower, whose book offers an in-depth look at the regional horror boom.

"Stephen is the leading authority in this area, so naturally when he came to us with a few suggestions for titles that he felt were deserving of the Arrow treatment, we jumped at the chance. Stephen already had a relationship with many of the filmmakers, having interviewed them back when he was working on his book."

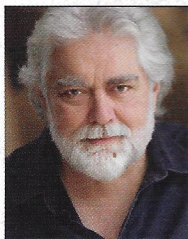
Aside from new extras produced with Thrower's participation, *American Horror Project Volume 1* features fresh transfers created especially for the box set. Arrow is hoping that sales will justify releasing future volumes in what may prove to be a groundbreaking collection.

"There's an element of film preservation," says Cant. "For many genre movies of this period, the original film materials have either been destroyed or lost. We want to make sure that these movies are preserved to the best possible standard to be enjoyed by future generations of genre fans."

PAUL CORUPE

ENTRAILS

☾ Gunnar Hansen, best known for playing Leatherface in *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre*, died November 7 in Maine at age 68, from pancreatic cancer. Born in Reykjavic, Iceland, he immigrated to the US at age five. While at the University of Texas, in Austin, Hansen met director Tobe



Hooper and writer Kim Henkel, and they created 1974's *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre*. Hansen, a favourite on the horror convention circuit, also appeared in horror films *Mosquito* (1995) and *Reykjavik Whale Watching Massacre* (2009), and authored two books, 1993's *Edge of Time: A Journey to America's Barrier Islands* and his 2013 memoir, *Chain Saw Confidential: How We Made the World's Most Notorious Movie*.

☾ Actor and former United States Senator Fred Thompson died on November 1, at age 73, after suffering a recurrence of lymphoma. Thompson was best known for his long-running role as D.A. Arthur Branch on NBC's *Law & Order* franchise, but also appeared in Martin Scorsese's 1991 remake of *Cape Fear* and in 2012's *Sinister*.

Thompson served as the US Senator from Tennessee from 1994 to 2003.

☾ After a few false starts and a change in director, the motion picture adaptation of Stephen King's 1986 novel *It* is set to film this coming summer. According to an interview in *Variety* with director Andy Muschietti (*Mama*), who stepped into the role vacated by Cary Fukunaga earlier this year, *It* will be split into two features, with part one focusing on the main characters as children fighting against the demon clown known as Pennywise. *It* was previously adapted into a four-hour miniseries for ABC in 1990.

☾ As work on the new *Twin Peaks* continues, the latest casting news brings back another familiar face. According to *Deadline*, Miguel Ferrer will reprise his role as FBI Agent Albert Rosenfield, who he portrayed during both seasons of the original series and in David Lynch's 1992 prequel film *Twin Peaks: Fire Walk With Me*. Also rumoured to be returning are Richard Beymer and David Patrick Kelly, who played the Horne brothers, Ben and Jerry,

respectively. Meanwhile, multiple reports have Jennifer Jason Leigh joining the series in an as-yet-unspecified role. The new season of *Twin Peaks* will debut in 2017.

☾ Virtual reality headsets may still be in their infancy but that hasn't stopped the porn industry from jumping headfirst into the new technology. VirtualRealPorn.com offers a sexual experience designed specifically for users of Oculus Rift, Samsung Gear VR and Google VR. Among the films up for grabs is a short with creepy blackouts, sound effects and a blow job courtesy of a knife-wielding demon that comes right at you in a scene that doesn't exactly feature a happy ending.

☾ Director Mick Garris, creator of the television series *Masters of Horror*, announced at the Mexican horror film festival Morbido the full lineup of directors for his new anthology film *Nightmare Cinéma*. The roster includes Joe Dante (*Gremlins*), David Slade (*30 Days of Night*), Ryuhei Kitamura (*Midnight Meat Train*), Aledjandro Bruges (*Juan of the Dead*) and Garris himself. *Nightmare Cinéma* will begin shooting in early 2016.

ANDY BURNS

MONSTRO BIZARRO

The BBC News recently reported that sightings of the Yeti have dramatically decreased in the remote villages of Bhutan since the installation of electricity. Chendebji, one such village nestled among the Himalaya Mountains between China and India, noted this trend since a hydroelectric plant was installed seven years ago. Before that, "much of the day would be spent searching for firewood to light stoves and walking up into the high pastures to graze their yaks and goats," resulting in alleged sightings of tracks or the creatures themselves. The villagers now cook with gas and spend more time growing crops. Elder villagers remain confident the creature is out there, but the decline in sightings leaves the younger generation wondering if the Yeti truly exists.

LYLE BLACKBURN

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