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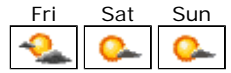


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Deeds: Halloween DVDs to rent at your own risk

- Idaho Statesman

Edition Date: 10/26/07

Every Halloween, lists of must-see horror movies get published everywhere, and each year, it's the same predictable lineup. If you haven't already seen "The Shining," "Halloween," "The Exorcist," "Poltergeist" or "Hellraiser," well ... you're the one who's scary. And if you're dumb enough to rent most of the so-called great horror movies of the past decade — aka "The Ring" (I almost fell asleep at the theater) or anything associated with Rob Zombie — you're definitely in need of zombie food.

You know, braaaains.

Being the sort of kid who leafed through Fangoria magazine while waiting for his mom to get off work at Waldenbooks — and who somehow managed to rent and view "Maniac" and "I Spit on Your Grave" (which nobody under 18, er, nobody at all, should see) — I have a broad knowledge of the sick and twisted. Of course, you already knew that.

So here's half a dozen ideas for the adult Halloween geek looking to move past "Psycho" and into the truly psychotic. (Disclaimer: True horror fans will have seen some of these, but if you've seen all six, I'll buy you a Bloody Mary.)

- "Evil Dead 2: Dead By Dawn" (1987): Let's begin with the obvious. Forget "Citizen Kane." This is the greatest movie ever made. It is the perfect blend of buckets of blood and slapstick comedy. Actor Bruce Campbell's chin deserves an Oscar. I watch it every Halloween.
- "Henry: Portrait of a Serial Killer" (1986): This docudrama-like movie sparked huge controversy when it came out. Roger Ebert wrote, "a chilling film that — fair warning — will horrify many viewers and is intended to illuminate, not entertain." Do not allow your wife or girlfriend to see this unless you want to cope with a jumpy, wild-eyed wreck for weeks.
- "Event Horizon" (1997): No, it's not totally original; it's a deep-space horror flick. But it has enough gore to make you forget the silly moments. More important, this underrated movie — starring Sam Neill and Laurence Fishburne — screws with your head about death and reality. A disturbing, laying-awake-in-bed film that still haunts me years later.
- "Re-Animator" (1985): Forget hair bands. The '80s was the golden era of cheesy, low-budget horror. This splatter-comedy classic, inspired by an H.P. Lovecraft story about a scientist who develops a serum to revive dead body parts, is sick, campy, sleazy and over-the-top funny. Only skip it if some dude's decapitated head talking throughout a movie doesn't sound hilarious to you.

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- "Dead Ringers" (1988): A psychological horror film about identical twin gynecologists. Need I really say more? This freaky film, directed by David Cronenberg and starring Jeremy Irons, is a truly unsettling experience.
- "Hated: GG Allin and the Murder Junkies" (1994): Re-issued in August as a special-edition DVD, this offensive, unrated documentary is *worse* than a horror flick. It has blood (Allin's), a corpse (Allin's) and, ugh, so much more. Until he died of an overdose, this punk-rock idiot performed naked and committed shockingly vile acts on stage. (Someone should have followed him around with doggie-walk bags.) Avoid this beyond-disgusting film, even if The Washington Post once called it "funnier than 'Spinal Tap.'" I just didn't want to owe any Bloody Marys.
- Honorable mentions: "Cube" (1997, bad acting, way-cool idea), "Suspiria" (1977, dreamy Italian horror), "Ginger Snaps" (2000, horrifying werewolf girl.)

Entertainment notes

From the I'm Not Making This Up Category: The Big Easy will present "Half-Pint Brawlers: A Night of Midget Wrestling" on Jan. 26, 2008. Boring! Give me midget MMA. ... Ex-Byrds frontman Roger McGuinn will perform Jan. 25, 2008, at the Egyptian Theatre. ... Speaking of the Egyptian, if that venue plans to continue reserved seating, security may need to address folks who walk up front and stand or dance. Increasingly, a few seated fans appeared irked at recent shows (The Shins, Josh Ritter). Tasers, anyone?

Michael Deeds co-hosts "The Other Studio" at 9 p.m. Sundays on 94.9 FM "The River." This week: Gothic Halloween.

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