

## Top 25 Horror Films of All Time

1. Ringu – Traditional *Kwaidan* up-dated for the modern age. An horrific game-changer.
2. Don't Look Now – Beautiful, horrid improvement of du Maurier's essay on guilt and loss.
3. The Shining – Kubrick turns King's claustrophobic tale into a nightmare epic.
4. 28 Days/Weeks Later – Who knew zombies were scarier in London? Or that they could run?
5. The Blair Witch Project – Classic & influential found-footage horror. Obeys all of the rules.
6. Rosemary's Baby – Polanski made a masterpiece, then the Manson family killed his pregnant wife.
7. The Exorcist – Puberty as Satanic possession. The Assyrian sub-plot doesn't really make sense.
8. The Antichrist – Controversial for its clitoridectomy, etc. But Nature IS Satan's church.
9. Suspiria – Pick of the Euro-trash horrors. Argento's use of sound and music is pure genius.
10. Eraserhead – Of all the Lynch films, perhaps the most disturbing. Will put you right off babies.
11. The Wicker Man – The best of the British Hammer Horror-style films: beware hippies!
12. Jacob's Ladder – A horror about Vietnam and PTSD. Nasty Francis Bacon-esq special effects.
13. The Vanishing – Dutch premature burial film. Never stop in a Dutch motorway service station.
14. The Innocents – The best version of The Turn of the Screw. They couldn't do that kiss nowadays.
15. The Descent – Horrid version of Doyle's 'Terror of Blue John Gap'. A strong feminist sub-text.
16. The Orphanage – Would be higher up the list without the last 3 mins: turn off when she finds him.
17. The Hunger – Sexy vampire film. Deneuve, Bowie, the Barbican, lesbianism: it's all in there.
18. Shivers – This Sexual Revolution allegory is probably the best of Cronenberg's body-horrors.
19. Death Line – Donald Pleasance finds out why you should avoid Holborn tube. 'Mind the Gap!'
20. Freaks – Thirties body horror, banned for its use of real circus 'freaks'. The last shot lingers.
21. Nosferatu – Dracula adaptation. German Expressionism's greatest expression: highly expressive.
22. Les Diaboliques – Awesome supernatural murder mystery (or is it?). More twists than a fusilli.
23. Cannibal Holocaust – Banned for seeming real; un-PC but then cannibals did exist: ask Cpn Cook
24. Troll Hunter / Dog Soldiers – Joint honours for the best monster & were-wolf movies. "Troll!!!"
25. Sound of Music – Better viewed as horror: emetic kitsch provokes self-harm, existential despair.