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Hallowe'en movies

Frightening films a Halloween tradition

Movies are one of the many traditions associated with Halloween. What would Halloween be without some scary classics? To many, horror movies are part of what makes Halloween so great. This Halloween, turn the lights off, pop some popcorn and then cuddle up with these frightening classics.

 Carrie: A 1976 classic based on a bestseller from noted horror author Stephen King, this film focuses on Carrie White, a social outcast at her high school who harbours a secret her cruel classmates aren't aware of ... until it's too late.

· Halloween: No Hallowe'en would be complete without this 1978 film named after the holiday itself. Mike Myers escapes from a mental institution and quickly sets out to terrorize his hometown. Young Laurie Strode, played by Jamie Lee Curtis in one of her earliest roles on the big screen, is among those targeted by Myers.

• Friday the 13th: A summer camp that was the

scene of a child's drowning is the setting for this 1980 horror classic. As a group of young counsellors work to ready the camp for its reopening, a murderous man lets the counsellors know he has other ideas.

· Dawn of the Dead: George Romero's sequel to "Night of the Living Dead," this gory 1978 classic follows a growing group of zombies and a frightened group of non-zombies as they seek refuge in a shopping mall.

• The Ring: Fans of this 2002 chiller likely never looked at their televisions in quite the same way after seeing the film. Naomi Watts must get to the bottom of a mysterious videotape that seems to leave no survivors in its wake.

· The Thing: Like cold weather? Like shapeshifting aliens? Like being scared beyond belief? Then cue up this 1982 remake that utilizes special effects to provide some truly hair-raising and scary scenes no sci-fi fan should miss.

Trunk or Treat

Trunk-or-treat is a new community tradition

What parent doesn't worry about the safety of Hallowe'en? Children going door-to-door asking for candy and other trinkets carries a certain measure of danger. Hosting candy swaps and other activities tailgate-style removes much of the danger. It's called trunk-or-treating and is often a community- or churchsponsored event.

In a trunk-or-treating scenario, families and other participants park in a large parking lot with deckedout car costumes. Or they open their trunks to reveal a decorated Hallowe'en wonderland inside. Participants hang out by their decorated vehicles and then visit others within the safety of the parking lot, sharing treats and stories. The event resembles tailgating at a sporting event - without the sporting event.

Depending on the budget and number of families involved, the trunk-or-treat can turn into a big event that lasts into the night. Participants can hire a DJ or other entertainment. There are other ways to make the event fun for all.

- · Establish a theme and all people attending have to dress up in accordance to that theme.
- Put someone in charge of music, whether a band or DJ is hired or an Mp3 playlist is kept on rotation.
- · Enlist an impartial judge to vote on the best individual costume and best decorated car.
- Plan events for the kids so they are kept occupied. Scavenger hunts, craft contests (decorating a pumpkin) and other such ideas can be considered.
- · Be sure to solicit candy donations so there is enough to go around.
- · Food and other refreshments may be needed. Participants can bring table-top grills or sandwiches and make it a true tailgating event.
- · Use the trunk-or-treat time to really mingle and get to know new participants. This is a much more social way to celebrate Hallowe'en than simply going door-to-door.

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