

THE MACABRE MASTERPIECE OF TERROR!



STARRING: HAZEL COURT - OLIVE STURGESS - JACK NICHOLSON Produced and Directed by ROGER CORMAN  
 Screenplay by RICHARD MATHESON Executive Producer JAMES H. NICHOLSON SAMUEL Z. ARKOFF Music by LES BAXTER - AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL PICTURES

Edgar Allan Poe provided subjects for the most popular horror movies

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**Budd Watson seminar**

Noted Midland photographer Budd Watson will be the guest of the Toronto Camera Club April 3, when he delivers a day long seminar and slide presentation at the Eaton Auditorium on pictorial photography.

Watson, who sells and displays photographs from his gallery in Wyebridge, will discuss technical aspects of photography in the morning and afternoon. He will show a series of slides taken in the Midland area in the afternoon and plans another show of slides from across Canada in the evening.



Westerns remained popular throughout the 1960s

by Terry Dupuis  
**Westerns**

Throughout the 1960's westerns remained as popular as they had been in previous decades. But they tended now towards bigger budgets and all-star casts. One of the biggest and best of these Sixties westerns was *How The West Was Won*, a three hour film which was first shown in the Cinerama process in 1963. How The West Was Won covered a period of 50 years, relating five episodes of 19th century American history. It employed the talents of three directors and a huge cast which included James Stewart, Henry Fonda, John Wayne, Richard Widmark, Gregory Peck, and Debbie Reynolds among others.

Randolph Scott and Joel McCrea, two leading cowboy heroes of the previous decade, both hung up their spurs in the Sixties after appearing in a fine nostalgic Sam Peckinpah film called *Ride The High Country* (1962). But John Wayne carried on stalwartly with such western entertainments as *The Comancheros* (1961), *The Sons Of Katie Elder* (1965), *El Dorado* (1967) and *The War Wagon* (1967), culminating in an Academy Award winning performance as the fat drunken one-eyed marshal Rooster Cogburn in 1969's *True Grit*.

Many of the older stars carried on in westerns during the 1960's. James Stewart made *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance* (1961), *Shenandoah* (1965) and *Bandolero* (1968), as well as quite a few others.

Richard Widmark was seen in *Alvarez Kelly* (1966), *Two Rode Together* (1961) and *Cheyenne Autumn* (1964). Kirk Douglas was in *The Last Sunset* (1960) and *Lonely Are The Brave* (1962). Henry Fonda starred in *Welcome To Hard Times* (1967) and *Firecreek* (1968). Gregory Peck made *The Stalking Moon* ('68) and *MacKenna's Gold* ('69). Robert Mitchum co-starred in *El Dorado* ('67) with John Wayne and in *Five Card Stud* ('68) opposite Dean Martin.

New elements became noticeable in Sixties westerns. One such change was a humorous gently mocking satirical approach to the Old West. This attitude was reflected in such films as *Cat Ballou*, *The Hallelujah Trail*, *The Rounders* and *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*. On the other hand, an increasingly graphic portrayal of violence and bloodshed was discernible in westerns such as Sam Peckinpah's *"The Wild Bunch"* and the 'spaghetti' westerns of Sergio Leone. These latter films made a star out of Clint Eastwood, an American actor who for years had played in bit parts in movies and as a regular on a television series called *Rawhide*. Eastwood portrayed "the man with no name" in Leone's westerns *A Fistful of Dollars*, *For A Few Dollars More*, and *The Good The Bad And The Ugly*. In 1969 Leone created his best tribute to the Hollywood western in a three-hour picture called *Once Upon A Time In The West*. The most interesting aspect of this sprawling high budget western was the way it cast against type: Charles Bronson was the western hero and Henry Fonda was the despicable villain.

**Mystery and Crime Films**

Alfred Hitchcock began the decade in top form with *Psycho* (1960) and *The Birds* (1963), did fair with *Marnie* (1964), and then struck out with two tedious thrillers called *Torn Curtain* (1966) and *Topaz* (1969). Another director named Robert Aldrich achieved fine results by teaming Bette Davis with Joan Crawford for the shocker *What Ever Happened To Baby Jane?* (1962), and then casting Miss Davis opposite Olivia deHavilland for *Hush* (1964).

Producer-director William Castle turned out a number of low-budget and gimmicky (but successful) mysteries and thrillers such as *Homicidal* (1960), *Mr. Sardonicus* (1961), *Three Frightened Girls* (1963) and a lukewarm remake of *The Old Dark House*. Castle scored his greatest success in 1968 when he hired Polish director Roman Polanski to direct the film adaptation of Ira Levin's novel, *Rosemary's Baby*.

Crime films in the Sixties included some vivid recreations of past eras - the Twenties in *"The St. Valentine's Day Massacre"* (1967) and the Depression Thirties in *Bonnie And Clyde* (1967). Norman Jewison's Oscar winning *"In The Heat Of The Night"* combined a

crime drama with an examination of racial tensions. Hard violent action characterized the Lee Marvin feature *"Point Blank"* (1968). The hard-boiled private eye and tough cop yarns made a comeback in the Sixties: Paul Newman as "Harper" (1966), James Garner as "Marlowe" (1968), Frank Sinatra as "Tony Rome" (1967) and "The Detective" (1968).

**Espionage**

The 1960's was the decade which became caught up in the spy movie craze. The main impetus for this movement was the phenomenal success of the James Bond movies, which starred Sean Connery as Secret Agent 007. There was *Doctor No* (1962), *From Russia With Love*, *Goldfinger*, *Thunderball*, and *You Only Live Twice*. Dean Martin launched a series in which he played a secret agent named Matt Helm, a sort of an American equivalent to James

Hammer. The best of these were *The Gorgon*, *Scream of Fear*, *Curse of the Werewolf*, *The Skull*, and *The Devil's Bride*.

Science Fiction movies continued to be made throughout the Sixties, not in as great an abundance, but generally with better production values. Among the best ones were *The Time Machine*, *First Men In The Moon*, *Planet of the Apes*, and *2001: A Space Odyssey*.

Pure fantasy films of the 1960's included *The Magic Sword*, *Jack The Giant Killer*, *Seven Faces of Dr. Laos*, *The Mysterious Island* and *The Wonderful World of the Brothers Grimm*.

(Next installment - the final chapter of our movie history as we move into the present decade of the 1970's)

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