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Holy Halloween! 12-hour 'Horror Movie Marathon' set for Saturday at Cleveland's Capitol Theatre

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Clint O'Connor, The Plain Dealer

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Midnight Syndicate Films

Zombies and vampires, oh my! "The Dead Matter" is one of seven films in the marathon.

PREVIEW

Horror Movie Marathon

What: Melt Bar & Grilled Late Shift presents "12 Hours of Terror," a seven-movie marathon.

Where: Capitol Theatre, 1390 West 65th St., Cleveland.

When: 10 p.m. Saturday through 10 a.m. Sunday.

Restrictions: No one under 18 admitted. **Tickets:** \$25 in advance; \$30 on Saturday. Available at any Cleveland Cinemas theater.

We're talented sitters. We sit through those dopey ads and endless trailers at movie theaters. All summer, we sit at Progressive Field and watch the Indians lose. In the fall, we sit on our couches to watch the Browns lose.

But here's the Halloween-season question: Can you sit still and be scared for 12 hours straight? It will be fun to see how many survive Saturday night. **Cleveland Cinemas** is hosting "12 Hours of Terror," a horror movie marathon that kicks off at 10 p.m. Saturday at the **Capitol Theatre** and runs through 10 a.m. Sunday. It's seven movies for \$30 (\$25 if you buy your ticket today).

"If it goes well, hopefully this will be the first annual of many," said David Huffman, Cleveland Cinemas' director of marketing. "Or maybe we'll try for 16 hours next year."

Huffman cooked up the idea after attending a Bad Movie festival in Chicago last winter. "I was so underwhelmed," he said. "There was bad projection, cacophonous noise, people talking the whole time. I just thought, 'Oh, we could do this so much better.'"

He wants the audience to have fun, but constant chatter will be discouraged. "This isn't 'Mystery Science Theater 3000,'" he said.

The Capitol's main theater holds 422. There will be a 10-minute break between films. RJ the Movie Critic, from **WKNR AM/850's "Really Big Show,"** will be hosting and awarding door prizes including haunted house passes and movie tickets. Much to the delight of the surrounding **Gordon Square Arts District** neighborhood, there will also be a "Loudest Scream Contest."

What are the scariest movies of all time? Write in your all-time favorite or vote for one of these classics customer surveys

If the blood and gore proves too much for some folks, one of the Capitol's upstairs theaters will serve as a "Coward's Corner," showing cartoons and goofy TV shows. Before the last film screens, they'll serve a free continental breakfast. The one restriction is that you must be 18 or older to

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Here's the fright festival lineup (times approximate):

- 10 p.m. : **"A Nightmare on Elm Street."** Wes Craven's 1984 original introduced the world to Freddy Krueger (Robert Englund), the slash-meister who gets you in your dreams.
- 11:40: **"The Dead Matter."** Shot in Ohio in 2008 by director Edward Douglas, who decided to balance his blood-sucking vampires with a bunch of zombies.
- 1:20 a.m.: **Mystery Movie.** No one will know which scary film it is until the opening sequence flashes by. The horror!
- 3:00: **"Night of the Creeps."** At this point in the evening (morning?) you'll appreciate Fred Dekker's sense of humor with his 1986 flick that includes alien creepy crawlers, frat boys, sorority girls, and, of course, zombies.
- 4:40: **"The Devil's Rejects."** Speaking of zombies, Rob Zombie wrote and directed this hard-core 2005 sequel to his "House of 1000 Corpses," so we could learn about the unique crime-fighting methods of Sheriff Wydell (William Forsythe).
- 6:00: **"Splinter."** One of the better porcupine-zombie-torn-flesh movies, from director Toby Wilkins in 2008. Two couples get trapped in a gas-station quickie mart with spiky things. Note the superb dialogue: "I'm nothing like your white-trash, drugged-out girlfriend!" and "It's OK, we'll cut off your arm!" Followed by the breakfast break.
- 8:00: **"Child's Play."** Before Jon Gruden, before "Bride of Chucky," there was Tom Holland's decidedly non-children's movie, from 1988, about a doll with crazed eyes and a menacing mind of his own. And sharp objects.

"The marathon sounds extremely cool," said "Dead Matter" director Douglas.

"It will appeal to people who like the old style of horror movies, the newer style, and we even have ours in there, which is an independent film. I just haven't seen a lot of these kinds of things. I love the concept."

Douglas is also one half (with Gavin Goszka) of the Chardon-based band **Midnight Syndicate**. The band is famous for Halloween instrumentals such as "Haunted Nursery" and "Grisly Reminder."

The **three-disc deluxe edition of "The Dead Matter"** (\$19.99), released earlier this year, includes making-of extras, music videos, the original motion picture soundtrack, and a Midnight Syndicate greatest hits collection, "Halloween Music."


The mass appeal of the genre, said Douglas, comes down to escapism, "and for some of the horror films, maybe it's a little therapeutic, to see those fears that you have up on the screen. But it's not you, so it's something you can walk away from."

Douglas said he really wanted to be at the Capitol to introduce his film, but was already booked this weekend in Morgantown, W.Va.

His previous engagement: a Zombie Walk.

To get you in proper Halloween-scream mode, here are five favorites for your renting and viewing pleasure. Don't watch them alone!

- **"Night of the Living Dead"** (1968). George A. Romero's wonder of independent filmmaking was a cult classic that became a much-imitated standard-bearer of scares. Not just zombies, but flesh-eating zombies. A new twist at the time.
- **"Psycho"** (1960). Alfred Hitchcock brilliantly broke his own rules of suspense, inserting totally random violence into a motel bathroom. "Mother" Bates still creeps me out.
- **"Halloween"** (1978). John Carpenter made life hell for babysitters, especially ones who think they've already killed the bad guy. You'd think Laurie (Jamie Lee Curtis) sticking a bent clothes hanger into Michael Myers' eye would surely do the trick. Think again.
- **"The Exorcist"** (1973). Twelve-year-old girls can act rather devilish, but Linda Blair takes the concept to new lows in William Friedkin's nightmare-provoking shocker. To paraphrase Roy Scheider in "Jaws," "Father, you're

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gonna need a bigger cross."

- **"The Shining"** (1980). What's creepier, the hatcheted twins or the old lady in the bathtub? Stanley Kubrick's take on Stephen King not only features rivers of blood and an ax-wielding Jack Nicholson, it's an elaborate psychological study of what it means to lose one's mind.

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