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Recently, Fango staffers were polled to come up with a list of the best horror films ever made. That is the hardest of jobs….impossible really. How can you judge? By craft alone? By the manner in which critics and crowds have responded? To me, horror is personal. A horror film affects me for different reasons, subjective reasons. If the lights are down just so, if the time of night is after twelve, if I'm sad, happy, alone, with company…

But most importantly, a horror film – well, any film for that matter – gets on my personal best list if I can watch and re-watch it and always discover something new, always get sucked into the sound, the story, the sights and the style.

So here's a list of 20 horror films that mean something to me….

1. DAWN OF THE DEAD (1978) - Epic, scrappy, sad and sickening...the best zombie film ever made, ripe with Romero's trademark eccentricities and Savini's gushy melted crayon gore.

2. NIGHT OF THE HUNTER (1955) - Charles Laughton's gorgeous and strange expressionist morality tale pitches Robert Mitchum's nutso false prophet Harry Powell against two innocent children during the great depression. Dark, dreamy and nail biting thriller that was Laughton's first and last kick at directing.

3. THE TENANT (1976) - No one makes movies like Roman Polanski and this nightmarish psychological thriller is proof. Polanksi casts himself as a foreigner in Paris who is getting increasingly paranoid. Abstract and hypnotic with a great supporting turn from Isabelle Adjani.

4. NOSFERATU: PHANTOM DER NACHT (1979)- Werner Herzog's art house revisit of the landmark 1922 German horror classic casts Klaus Kinski as the melancholy, hideous Count Dracula, drifting across the land looking for love...or death. Isabelle Adjani once more lends her impossible beauty to dazzle the eye and lift the, um, soul.

5. ANGEL HEART (1987) - Alan Parker directs Mickey Rourke as down and out gumshoe Harry Angel, running afoul of the mysterious Louis Cyphre (Robert DeNiro) in 1950's New York and, later, in New Orleans. Horror and film noir have never been better matched.

6. THE DEVILS (1971) - maybe not a horror film by definition, Ken Russell's sensationalistic approach pushes this unhinged based-on-fact melodrama into genre territory. The most delirious, blasphemous (an uncut version is still elusive and the film itself languishes in Warner's vaults) and beautiful film ever made about the hypocrisy of faith.

7. THE RETURN OF THE LIVING DEAD (1985) - Punk rock, new wave and talking, brain eating ghouls collide in this breakneck, breathless horror comedy that amuses while never, ever sacrificing the deep, dark chills. James Karen, Don Calfa and Clu Gulager add class and laughs and the blood and brains splat with bravado.

8. AN AMERICAN WEREWOLF IN LONDON (1981) - John Landis's werewolf fable is a perfect film. Not just a perfect horror film, but a perfect film period. Every inch of it works even after dozens of viewings.

9. ANTICHRIST (2009) - Ultra disturbing and confrontational avant-garde horror from Danish bad boy Lars Von Trier. Full of weird stuff (talking dead animals), surreal imagery, sickening violence and explicit sex, this is also the single most powerful primal scream I've seen and is a serious examination of loss.

10. BRIDES OF DRACULA (1961) - Christopher Lee-less sequel to Hammer's HORROR OF DRACULA is even better, with David Peel prancing about as the dashing and decadent brat, Meinster and Peter Cushing in top physical form as Van Helsing. Wicked climax and thrilling James Bernard music.

11. CURSE OF THE WEREWOLF (1963) - Hammer's answer to THE WOLF MAN rocks in every way imaginable. As a period piece, a character study, a love story, a tale of father and son and a monster mash. Oliver Reed's first film. He's magnificent.

12. SUSPIRIA (1977) - Italian maverick Dario Argento has always excelled when forgoing narrative and making rock videos and SUSPIRIA is nothing else if not the greatest longform rock video ever made. Stylish gore, prowling cameras, fetishized femininity and blaring Goblin music rule the day here. There’s nothing else like it.

13. CITY OF THE LIVING DEAD (1980) - Lucio Fulci certainly borrowed from Argento's arty approach to the genre but his more spaghetti western aesthetic always left his work a bit more unpredictable and frightening. This towering metaphysical gorefest is his masterpiece.