

Lincroft-Holmdel Science Fiction Club  
Club Notice - 7/19/83 -- Vol. 2, No. 3

MEETINGS UPCOMING:

Unless otherwise stated, all Lincroft meetings are on Wednesdays  
in LZ 3A-206 (HO meetings in HO 3N-418) at noon.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>
8/10	Hugo nominees, prose and film
8/10	HO: TALES FROM THE WHITE HART by A. C. Clarke
8/30 (tue)	Video meeting: ??? pt. 1
8/31	Video meeting: ??? pt. 2

LZ's library and librarian Lance Larsen (576-2668) are in LZ 3C-219.  
Mark Leeper (576-2571) is chairperson. HO's library and librarian  
Mike Lukacs (949-4043) are in HO 4B-510. John Jetzt (834-3332) is  
HO-chairperson.

I think that anyone who is really into films has thought from time to time about what films would be really good for a film festival (or science fiction convention film program). I know I have. Of late I was watching George Pal's production of THE POWER and I was reminded once again of what I said when I reviewed SCANNERS. The supermen in each film are very similar concepts and the two films would be quite good as companion films in the science fiction convention film program I was putting together in the back of my mind for some possible future convention that will probably never be. Then it occurred to me that I actually had access to both films and we could show the films for the club during our usual video meeting. That, unfortunately would mean that we were showing the films six weeks apart to what would likely be different audiences. The obvious answer is to show them at my home on pretty much the same basis as we are showing some of the Hugo nominees. I went through lists of films I could borrow or own and put together a whole film program. I have pretty much arranged the films in a four evening cycle: science fiction, fantasy, science fiction, horror.

1. The Superman as Threat -- Thursday, August 4, 7:00PM

THE POWER (1968) dir. by Byron Haskin  
SCANNERS (1981) dir. by David Cronenberg

These are two different films in which supermen with superior mental powers are seen as a threat to humanity. One interesting contrast, Adam Hart of THE POWER is loved and envied by all he meets; SCANNERS with pretty much the same mental powers are social outcasts.

\*\*\*\*\*Presorted\*\*\*\*\*  
\* Leeper, Evelyn C. \*  
\* LZ 1D-216 \*  
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2. Classic Harryhausen Fantasy -- Thursday, August 18, 7:00PM

SEVENTH VOYAGE OF SINBAD (1958) dir. by Nathan Juran  
JASON AND THE ARGONAUTS (1963) dir. by Don Chaffey

Ray Harryhausen is Hollywood's master of stop motion animation. His fans usually consider these two films to be his best.

3. Just Two of Those Things

THE THING FROM ANOTHER WORLD (1951) dir. by Christian Nyby  
THE THING (1982) dir. by John Carpenter

These are two different adaptations of John W. Campbell's great science fiction horror mystery "Who Goes There?", one of the most popular stories in science fiction.

4. Ghost Story

LEGEND OF HELL HOUSE (1972) dir. by John Hough  
POLTERGEIST (1982) dir. by Tobe Hooper

Here are two different approaches to the ghost story, but each goes beyond most ghost stories in that it goes into the metaphysics of hauntings. Richard Matheson, who wrote the first film based on his own novel, also wrote a non-ghost story called "Little Girl Lost" (adapted for the TWILIGHT ZONE) which was acknowledged by Spielberg as much of the inspiration for POLTERGEIST.

5. Through Time with Wells

TIME MACHINE (1960) dir. by George Pal  
TIME AFTER TIME (1979) dir. by Nicholas Meyer

Two time travellers (both named H. G. Wells, though you have to look quick to see it in the Pal film) take their respective time machines into different futures.

6. Prehistoric Follies

QUEST FOR FIRE (1982) dir. by Jean-Jacques Annaud  
CAVEMAN (1981) dir. by Carl Gottlieb

We have all seen caveman films of the ONE MILLION YEARS B.C. ilk. Here are two reactions to that sort of film. The first is an attempt to do a realistic prehistoric man film. The second is a much funnier than it has a right to be satire on caveman films, including intentionally the silliest looking stop motion dinosaurs ever put on film.

#### 7. Shapeless Terrors

X THE UNKNOWN (1956) dir. by Leslie Norman  
THE BLOB (1958) dir. by Irvin S. Yeaworth Jr.

The inner earth and outer space are the origins of amorphous giant deadly organisms. Both are definitely fun films.

#### 8. Hammer's Vampires

HORROR OF DRACULA (1958) dir. by Terence Fisher  
BRIDES OF DRACULA (1960) dir. by Terence Fisher

Two of the best from the early days of Hammer Film's gothic cycle. The character in common is NOT Dracula but Peter Cushing as Van Helsing. Both are critically respected vampire films.

#### 9. Earth in Upheaval

DAY THE EARTH CAUGHT FIRE (1962) dir. by Val Guest  
CRACK IN THE WORLD (1965) dir. by Andrew Marton

For the misanthropic among us we can see the earth falling into the sun, then splitting open. Again, both films are well above average in the science fiction genre.

#### 10. Disaster Film Satires

BIG BUS (1976) dir. by James Frawley  
AIRPLANE (1980) dir. by Abrahams, Zucker, and Zucker

Paramount made two similar wild satires of the disaster film. This is the theatrical version of BIG BUS (not the disastrously reedited tv version, incidently). The plot concerns the transcontinental odyssey of the first nuclear powered luxury bus. Even more anarchic is AIRPLANE which manages to average a joke every 15 seconds or so. About one in four is really funny, so that makes this a laugh-a-minute film.



11. Dinosaurs in Modern Cities

BEAST FROM 20,000 FATHOMS (1953) dir. by Eugene Lourie  
GIANT BEHEMOTH (1959) dir. by Eugene Lourie  
GORG0 (1961) dir. by Eugene Lourie

I can think of four English language films that show dinosaurs attacking major cities. Three are directed by the same man, oddly enough. [Trivia: what is the fourth, are there others? I will publish the name of the first person to name a fourth].

12. Werewolves of London

WEREWOLF OF LONDON (1935) dir. by Stuart Walker  
AMERICAN WEREWOLF IN LONDON (1981) dir. by John Landis

Forty-six years apart two different reluctant werewolves prowl the same city. Henry Hull's makeup was the most demonic and frightening done in film until the Eighties. AMERICAN WEREWOLF's makeup is not quite up to that in THE HOWLING, but it still has its points.

13. Moon Expeditions -- 1950

ROCKETSHIP X-M (1950) dir. by Kurt Neumann  
DESTINATION MOON (1950) dir. by Irving Pichel

The film that started the 50's science fiction cycle was George Pal's production DESTINATION MOON. However it got too much publicity and another film on the same theme beat it to the boxoffice, ROCKETSHIP X-M. Pal remained bitter about it until the end of his days. Sorry, George, I'm putting them together on a double bill.

14. Man of Steel

SUPERMAN (1978) dir. by Richard Donner  
SUPERMAN II (1980) dir. by Richard Lester

I am not a great fan of the Chris Reeve SUPERMAN films, but they do go nicely together and they are miles above the third film. Here the first two are, on one double bill.

15. Karloff's Frankensteins

FRANKENSTEIN (1931) dir. by James Whale  
BRIDE OF FRANKENSTEIN (1935) dir. by James Whale  
SON OF FRANKENSTEIN (1939) dir. by Rowland V. Lee

The first three Frankenstein films, those in which Karloff played the monster, are the best of the Universal horror cycle of the Thirties (and Forties). They form a natural trilogy and belong together.

16. Flash!!

FLASH GORDON (1980) dir. by Mike Hodges  
FLESH GORDON (1972) dir. by Mike Benveniste

Two recent films based on the old Flash Gordon comic strips and serials. FLASH GORDON is quite a decent adaptation, actually that seems to have a core of loyal fans in spite of generally poor reviews. FLESH GORDON is an irreverant, often hilarious, X-rated satire on the comic hero. Warning: nudity and strong language may attract the wrong element.

17. Demonology in a Modern Vein

CURSE OF THE DEMON (1957) dir. by Jacques Tournier  
SPECTRE (1977) dir. by Gene Roddenberry

CURSE OF THE DEMON (a.k.a. NIGHT OF THE DEMON) is one of the best horror films of the fifties, an understated but very good little horror film with an intelligent script based on M. R. James' CASTING OF THE RUNES. I am told this guy Roddenberry is known for doing other television stuff. SPECTRE is a very good pilot for what would have been a great tv-series involving a modern-day psychic detective. Robert Culp, Gig Young, and John Hurt star.

18. Rather Novel Adaptations

BURN, WITCH, BURN (1962) dir. by Sidney Hayers  
LAST MAN ON EARTH (1964) dir. by Sidney Salkow

Two good horror novels adapted into good films by Richard Matheson. Charles Beaumont co-wrote BURN, WITCH, BURN (a.k.a. NIGHT OF THE EAGLE) with Matheson basing it on CONJURE WIFE by Fritz Leiber. LAST MAN ON EARTH is the better of two films based on Matheson's own I AM LEGEND.

19. Hokey Religions and the Law

LAST WAVE (1977) dir. by Peter Weir  
WICKER MAN (1973) dir. by Robin Hardy

Two unusual foreign films involving threats by odd cults. LAST WAVE is your standard horror, court room drama, disaster film concerning the Aborigine Dreamtime. A remarkable and completely unique Australian film. WICKER MAN is an excellent murder mystery involving an island that has returned to pagan worship.

20. Latter-day Hammer Films

CAPTAIN KRONOS -- VAMPIRE HUNTER (1972) dir. by Brian Clemens  
TO THE DEVIL A DAUGHTER (1976) dir. by Peter Sykes

Towards the end of Hammer's reign as the masters of film horror they experimented and made some of their most interesting films. CAPTAIN KRONOS (a.k.a. KRONOS) is a sort of a cross between a vampire film and a swashbuckler. The swordplay was directed by the same man who directed the swordplay for the THREE and FOUR MUSKETEERS. TO THE DEVIL A DAUGHTER stars Richard Widmark and Christopher Lee. Widmark is a writer of exploitation books about devil worship who runs afoul of a priest, excommunicated for heresy, trying to save the world by the creation of an Avatar to lead the world.

Mark Leeper  
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