



Canadian Horror Film

This guide is designed to assist our patrons in understanding the horror genre in Canadian cinema by providing key resources to use as a starting point in their research. Use this information to refine your search, and contact library staff with any follow-up questions or for further research assistance.

Subject Headings

A subject heading can help you refine your search, making it easier to find exactly what you are looking for.

To find books on horror that are available at the Film Reference Library, use subject headings such as the following:

HORROR FILMS - BIOGRAPHY
HORROR FILMS - CANADA
HORROR FILMS - CANADA - HISTORY AND CRITICISM
HORROR FILMS - CATALOGS
HORROR FILMS - CRITICISM AND INTERPRETATION
HORROR FILMS - DICTIONARIES
HORROR FILMS - ENCYCLOPEDIAS
HORROR FILMS - EUROPE - HISTORY AND CRITICISM
HORROR FILMS - EUROPE - REVIEWS
HORROR FILMS - GREAT BRITAIN
HORROR FILMS - GREAT BRITAIN - HISTORY AND CRITICISM
HORROR FILMS - HISTORY
HORROR FILMS - HISTORY AND CRITICISM

Examples of subject headings related to Canadian Horror:

- [HORROR FILMS - BIBLIOGRAPHY](#)
- [HORROR FILMS - CANADA](#)
- [HORROR FILMS - CANADA - HISTORY AND CRITICISM](#)
- [HORROR FILMS - CRITICISM AND APPRECIATION](#)
- [HORROR FILMS - ENCYCLOPEDIAS](#)
- [HORROR FILMS - HISTORY AND CRITICISM](#)
- [HORROR FILMS - PRODUCTION AND DIRECTION](#)

**Note: The Film Reference Library uses Library of Congress Subject terms, some of which may use nomenclature that is outdated.

Recommended Books

Books provide a comprehensive overview of a larger topic, making them an excellent resource to start your research with. This list covers books to get started with Canadian horror, in addition to resources on Canada's film history and the horror genre as a whole.

[*They Came From Within: A History of Canadian Horror Cinema*](#) by Caelum Vatnsdal.
Publisher: ARP Books, 2014

[*The Canadian Horror Film: Terror of the Soul*](#) edited by André Loiselle & Gina Freitag.
Publisher: University of Toronto Press, 2015

[*Shocking Representation: Historical Trauma, National Cinema, and the Modern Horror Film*](#) by Adam Lowenstein.
Publisher: Columbia University Press, 2005

[*Horror International*](#) edited by Steven J. Schneider & Tony Williams.
Publisher: Wayne State University Press, 2005

[*Horror film: A Critical Introduction*](#) by Murray Leeder.
Publisher: Bloomsbury, 2018

[*Canadian Cinema in the New Millennium*](#) by Charles Tepperman.
Publisher: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2023

[*Hollywood North: Creating the Canadian Motion Picture Industry*](#) by Michael Spencer with Suzan Ayscough.
Publisher: Cantos International, 2003

[*Weird Sex & Snowshoes: And Other Canadian Film Phenomena*](#) by Katherine Monk
Publisher: Raincoast Books, 2001

[*Canadian Cinema Since the 1980s: At the Heart of the World*](#) by David L. Pike.
Publisher: University of Toronto Press, 2012

[*Cronenberg on Cronenberg*](#) edited by Chris Rodley.
Publisher: Faber and Faber, 1997

Articles

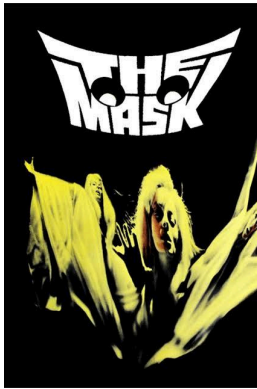
Articles are usually shorter in length and focus on a unique argument.

Note: All articles listed can be found from the Film Reference Library's print and/or electronic periodical collection. These articles are available open access where possible, and through JSTOR which offers independent researchers 100 free articles per month.

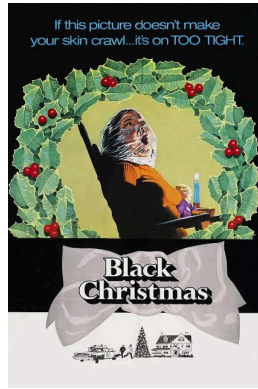
- [Guzman, Taylor Sanchez \(2018\). "Moving with the Dead' in Rhymes for Young Ghouls." *cléo*, vol. 6, no. 2.](#)
- [Wallin, Jason J. and Jennifer Sandlin. \(2021\). "No Man's Land: Mutant Natures in Canadian Eco-Horror Film." *Cultural Studies ↔ Critical Methodologies* vol. 22, no. 2, pp. 173-183.](#)
- [McGregor, Gaile. \(1992\). "Grounding the Countertext: David Cronenberg and the Ethnospecificity of Horror." *Canadian Journal of Film Studies*, vol. 2, no. 1, pp. 43-62.](#)
- [Delaney, Marshall. \(September 1975\). "You should know how bad this film is. After all, you paid for it." *Saturday Night*, pp. 83-89.](#)
- [Vanderburgh, Jennifer. \(2003\). "GHOSTBUSTED! Popular Perceptions of English-Canadian Cinema." *Canadian Journal of Film Studies*, vol. 12, no. 2, pp. 81-98.](#)
- [Paul Corupe. \(2005\). "Sin and sovereignty: the curious rise of Cinepix Inc." *Take One*, vol.13, no. 49. \(via Cinepix archive, also available in print at the Film Reference Library.\)](#)
- [Deshane, Evelyn and Travis R. Morton. \(2018\). "The Words Change Everything: Haunting, Contagion and The Stranger in Tony Burgess's Pontypool." *The London Journal of Canadian Studies*, Vol. 33, no. 1.](#)
- [Corriveau, Arielle. \(2019\). "A Spectacle of Modified Bodies: The Contemporary Grand-Guignolesque as a Feminist Challenge to Somatophobia in American Mary." *Monstrum*, vol. 2, pp. 167-179.](#)
- [La France, Samuel. \(2015\). "Canadiana: Put the Mask on Now!." *Cinema Scope*, vol. 64.](#)

Films

A collection of films representing different forms and stages of Horror Film in Canada



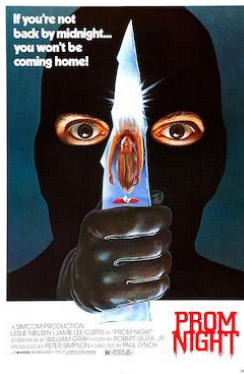
The Mask (1961),
dir. Julian Roffman
[\[AV\]](#) [\[Film File\]](#)



Black Christmas (1974),
dir. Bob Clark
[\[AV\]](#) [\[Film File\]](#)



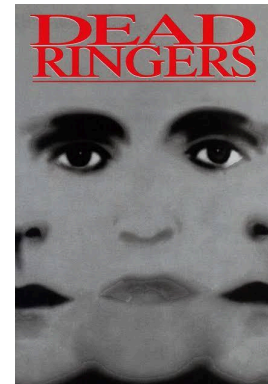
Shivers (1975),
dir. David Cronenberg
[\[AV\]](#) [\[Film File\]](#)



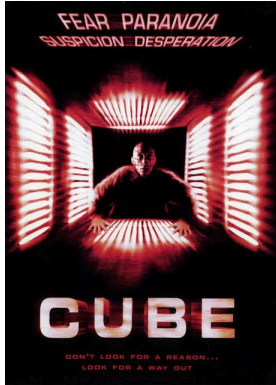
Prom Night (1980),
dir. Paul Lynch
[\[Film File\]](#)



My Bloody Valentine (1981),
dir. George Mihalka
[\[AV\]](#) [\[Film File\]](#)



Dead Ringers (1988),
dir. David Cronenberg
[\[AV\]](#) [\[Film File\]](#)



Cube (1999),
dir. Vincenzo Natali
[\[AV\]](#) [\[Film File\]](#)



Ginger Snaps (2000),
dir. John Fawcett
[\[AV\]](#) [\[Film File\]](#)



Pontypool (2008),
dir. Bruce McDonald
[\[AV\]](#) [\[Film File\]](#)



Splice (2009),
dir. Vincenzo Natali
[\[AV\]](#) [\[Film File\]](#)



Les affamés (Ravenous) (2017),
dir. Robin Aubert
[\[AV\]](#) [\[Film File\]](#)



Blood Quantum (2019),
dir. Jeff Barnaby
[\[AV\]](#) [\[Film File\]](#)

External Sources

Links to resources and institutions that have more information on Canadian Horror.

- [Rue Morgue](#)
 - o Canada-based horror film magazine.
- [Cinépix](#)
 - o Canada's first commercial film studio responsible for many early exploitation films, hosts a comprehensive archive on their website.
- [Reel Canada Canadian Film Collection](#)
 - o Curated list of Canadian films, capable of filtering to the horror genre.
- [Blood in the Snow Film Festival](#)
 - o Toronto horror film festival that also hosts the Deadly Exposure Industry Conference for Canadian genre filmmakers.
- [Toronto After Dark Film Festival](#)
 - o Toronto film festival showcasing a variety of Horror, Thriller and Sci-Fi genre films.
- [Sleepless Cinema](#)
 - o Toronto film club with a focus on horror, organizes frequent screenings and discussions.
- [CAFTCAD](#)
 - o The Canadian Alliance of Film & Television Costume Arts & Design's timeline of Canadian horror from a costuming perspective.
- [Shudder](#)
 - o Horror film specialty streaming service, distributes a number of independent Canadian horror films.