

# Television Fright Films of the 1970s: A History and Analysis

The 1970s was a decade of great change and upheaval in the United States. The Vietnam War, the Watergate scandal, and the energy crisis all contributed to a sense of unease and uncertainty. This atmosphere was reflected in the popular culture of the time, which included a number of horror films and television shows that explored the darker side of human nature.

One of the most popular genres of horror films in the 1970s was the television fright film. These films were typically made for television and aired during prime time. They often featured a group of young people who are terrorized by a killer or other supernatural force.



## Television Fright Films of the 1970s by David Deal

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

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Some of the most famous television fright films of the 1970s include: - Night of the Living Dead (1968) - The Exorcist (1973) - The Omen (1976) - The Amityville Horror (1979)

These films were all critical and commercial successes, and they helped to define the genre of the television fright film. They also had a significant impact on popular culture, and they continue to be watched and enjoyed by fans of horror films today.

## **The History of Television Fright Films**

The history of television fright films can be traced back to the early days of television. In the 1950s, there were a number of horror-themed anthology series that aired on television. These series typically featured a different story each week, and they often included stories that were adapted from classic horror literature.

In the 1960s, the television fright film began to come into its own. One of the most important early examples of the genre is the 1963 film *The Twilight Zone*. This film was an anthology series that featured a different story each week, and many of the stories were horror-themed. *The Twilight Zone* was a critical and commercial success, and it helped to pave the way for other television fright films.

In the 1970s, the television fright film became even more popular. A number of factors contributed to this popularity, including the rise of the slasher film genre and the increasing popularity of horror films in general. Some of the most popular television fright films of the 1970s include: - *Night of the Living Dead* (1968) - *The Exorcist* (1973) - *The Omen* (1976) - *The Amityville Horror* (1979)

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## **The Analysis of Television Fright Films**

Television fright films are a complex and fascinating genre. They can be seen as a reflection of the fears and anxieties of the time, and they can also be seen as a form of entertainment. Television fright films often

explore dark and disturbing themes, but they can also be cathartic and even empowering.

One of the most common themes in television fright films is the theme of isolation. The protagonists of these films are often isolated from their friends, family, and community. This isolation can make them more vulnerable to attack, and it can also lead to feelings of paranoia and fear. Isolation can also be seen as a metaphor for the alienation and loneliness that many people felt during the 1970s.



The 1975 film Jaws, starring Roy Scheider, Robert Shaw, and Richard Dreyfuss, is considered to be one of the greatest horror films of all time.

Another common theme in television fright films is the theme of violence. These films often feature graphic and disturbing violence, which can be shocking and upsetting. However, the violence in these films can also be seen as a cathartic release for the audience. By watching these films, the audience can experience the violence and fear in a safe and controlled environment.

Television fright films can also be seen as a form of social commentary. These films often explore the dark side of human nature, and they can be seen as a warning about the dangers of violence, prejudice, and other social ills. For example, the 1973 film *The Exorcist* is a chilling exploration of the power of evil, and it can be seen as a warning about the dangers of religious fundamentalism.

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## The

Television fright films of the 1970s are a significant part of horror film history. These films explored the darker side of human nature, and they often reflected the fears and anxieties of the time. Television fright films can be seen as a reflection of the 1970s, and they continue to be watched and enjoyed by fans of horror films today.

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