

Professor shares her top horror films



HEATHER MEDINA
hmedina@foghornnews.com

perience teaching this class goes back 17 years to when she taught at Chandler-Gilbert Community College in Arizona. This class examines the foundational texts that have inspired countless years of film adaptations.

With Halloween right around the corner, I decided to reach out to Pantoja to ask about some of her favorite films that were adapted from the novels she covered in class. This list includes her top choices for each work, but be sure to check out FoghornNews.com for a list of honorable mentions.

DRACULA (1897, BY BRAM STOKER)

This turn-of-the-century novel is the first work covered in class and examines cultural fears of the time. Here are some depictions of the infamous vampire dating back to the 1930s to present day:

■ The Universal Pictures classic, "Dracula" (1931), directed by Tod Browning and starring the inimitable Bela Lugosi as the title character and Dwight Frye, who plays the perfect Renfield. It doesn't really follow the novel, and some parts are inspired by the plagiarized "Nosferatu" (1922), directed by F. W. Murnau, but it sets the tone for all future films inspired by "Dracula."

■ Francis Ford Coppola's "Bram Stoker's Dracula" (1992). Again, despite not really following the novel, the film includes Gary Oldman's impressive portrayal of Count Dracula, and the set design and musical score are beautiful.

■ 2023's "Last Voyage of the Demeter" has been on my wish list for more than a decade; André Øvre-

dal's finally brought it to life, and while it captures only a small part of the novel, the film's depiction of Dracula's journey to London is harrowing, dark, and bloody!

FRANKENSTEIN (1818, MARY SHELLEY)

This novel is my personal favorite of the three. It brings about timeless questions about faith and mankind's existence. Here you'll find some diverse takes on this classic tale:

■ The Universal Pictures film "Frankenstein" (1931), directed by James Whale, includes Boris Karloff as the lumbering created life with bolts in his neck, Colin Clive as Henry Frankenstein, and once again, Dwight Frye, playing a demented assistant Fritz. Though it doesn't follow the novel very closely, it's an inspired depiction of a mad scientist attempting to recreate life.

■ 1994's "Mary Shelley's Frankenstein," directed by Kenneth Branagh, who also plays the mad scientist, Victor Frankenstein. Though perhaps a bit tacky, the film is an overenthusiastic but tone-accurate celebration of the overwrought emotion in the source material.

■ 2023's "The Angry Black Girl and Her Monster" thoughtfully brings the novel to the 20th century with modern takes on the Monster's birth and the "mad scientist's" rationale for recreating life. It's written, directed, and produced by Bomani J. Story.

STRANGE CASE OF DR. JEKYLL AND MR. HYDE (1886, ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON)

This is the shortest novel of the three but is the one most often open to interpretation. Here are some films that you may not have realized tackle the themes of duality first explored in this story:

■ 1931's pre-code "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde," directed by Rouben Ma-

moulian, includes an amazing Oscar-winning performance by Fredric March whose transformation is made possible by spectacular special effects for the time period.

■ "Fight Club," directed by David Fincher and released in 1999, is a modern-day Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde story with a stunning twist that I did not see coming when I watched it in the theater. Based on a novel by Chuck Palahniuk, it explores violence, masculinity, reality, and the effects of consumer culture.

■ 2019's "Us," written and directed by Jordan Peele, explores the ideas of the "other" and of duality with Lupita Nyong'o, Winston Duke and others in dual roles to explore the darkness of American life.

Veronica Pantoja has been teaching at Del Mar College since 2009 and has offered what I consider to be one of the most enjoyable classes on campus. A lifelong horror movie enthusiast, her passion for the genre is shared with students in her English 1302 class-Vampires, Monsters and Madmen. Her ex-



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY HEATHER MEDINA | FOGHORN NEWS

Club plans haunted courtroom fundraiser for Oct. 23

YOLANDA GARCIA | REPORTER
ygarcia@foghornnews.com

Halloween is fast approaching, but for the Legal Professions Association Club, it's not the only special day this month.

According to LPA Vice President Rebecca Farias, the club is celebrating Texas Paralegal Day by hosting a haunted courtroom fundraiser Oct. 23rd.

"We're going to be doing a haunted courtroom and a cotton candy fundraiser in the Harvin Center," Farias said.

First known as Texas Legal Assistants Day in 1993, as declared by the 73rd Legislature, it was later declared as Paralegal

Day in 2005 by the Texas House of Representatives.

However, Paralegal Day was set in stone on Jan. 22, 2009, by the Texas Senate in Proclamation No. 1144.

Farias said the club was started back in 1973, which marks their 50th anniversary this year. It is also another reason the club is hosting the haunted courtroom.

"This is our club's 50th anniversary ... so that's a part of why we wanted to do something so big for Paralegal Day," Farias said.

LPA Treasurer Cassidy Bass said the haunted courtroom will be open to students, faculty and staff.

"I would love to see truly anyone," Bass

aid.

The haunted courtroom is on the second floor of the Venters Business Building in Room 240 on the Heritage Campus.

The haunted courtroom fundraiser will be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Oct. 23 and donations are welcome. Cotton candy will also be sold as part of the fundraiser but in the Harvin Center.

With the fundraiser students can expect to see Del Mar's courtroom through a spookier lens.

"We'll have all different people set up ready to scare

you and then you'll also get to come through and see what the courtroom is like," Farias said. "It's mainly just a fun little way to get scared."

For more information about the fundraiser or the LPA club, students can stop by Room 337 in the Venters Business Building between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday or between 8 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. on Friday to speak with Bass.

IF YOU GO

WHAT: Haunted courtroom fundraiser for LPA Club

WHEN: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Oct. 23

WHERE: Venters Room 240

COST: Donations welcome

Plenty to see, do for Halloween in and around Corpus Christi

MACKINNON LOVE | REPORTER
mlove@foghornnews.com

The Corpus Christi area has several activities for locals to feel the Halloween spirit. From Haunted Houses to pumpkin patches, there is something for everyone this year.

For those looking for a good scare, there are a few haunted houses to choose from.

The Lexington Museum on the Bay will be hosting its "Haunting of the Blue Ghost" again this year. Guests enter the ship's depths and make their way through two decks of narrow corridors and dark hallways. The attraction is open every weekend during October and on Halloween and tickets are on sale for \$30 to \$40.

For more information and to buy tickets, visit <https://usslexington.com/haunted-house/>.

Locals can also visit Fright Night Haunted House located on Mesquite Street.

Appearing on MTV, USA Today and the Travel Channel, this haunted house has been open for 40 years and is still going strong. This haunted house is for those who are looking for more of a thrill and a good scare. The haunt is open every weekend in October and on Halloween and tickets are on sale for \$20 to \$40.

For more information and to buy tickets, visit www.mesquitestreet.com/fright-night-haunted-house.

If you are not looking for anything scary, there are plenty of fun options for the family to do.

Families can visit Rockin' K Farms for their 10-year anniversary and enjoy a wide variety of activities meant for everyone. Guests can have fun exploring the corn maze or relaxing with a beverage around the pumpkin barn. There are plenty of choices for friends and family to enjoy their visit. Tickets are on sale for \$22 to \$28 for every weekends until Nov. 5 and include access to most attractions.

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.rockinkmaze.com.

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