



# ARTS & CULTURE

# THE HISTORY OF HALLOWEEN

**May 13, 609 A.D.** – Pope Boniface establishes All Saints Day, a day to honor saints, which was moved to Nov. 1 by Pope Gregory III years later.

Samhainophobia is the fear of Halloween. Terrifyingly ironic.

**9th Century** – Samhain is celebrated, a Celtic festival marking the end of the harvest season. Beginning from the night of October 31st. Bonfires were used in divination with feasts, and games were held, such as apple bobbing.

**1030 A.D.** – Saint Odilo of Cluny established All Souls Day on Nov. 2, now widely known as the Day of the Dead.

**16th Century** – During Samhain, in some areas of Scotland, mummie and guising are practiced, where people wear costumes and go house-to-house singing songs in exchange for food.

**1837** – The term Jack-o-Lanterns is officially applied to pumpkin carving in American English, based on an Irish folk tale of a blacksmith, "Stingy Jack," who was barred from Hell and Heaven and would roam the earth for a resting place with carved-out turnips with burning coal.

**Jan. 1, 1815** – "Frankenstein," written by Mary Shelley, was published and is a cornerstone of the horror genre, and is, to some experts, the first true sci-fi story ever written.

**1800s** – Immigrants pour into North America, especially those escaping the Irish Potato Famine. The traditions of Samhain then help popularize the celebration of Halloween.

**1866** – The carved pumpkin lantern's association with Halloween was recorded.

**Oct. 24, 1978** – John Carpenter's "Halloween" debuts. Michael Myers' iconic mask is fashioned from a "Star Trek" James Kirk mask painted white with the eyes hole cut out.

**Dec. 2, 1983** – Michael Jackson's "Thriller" music video is released, becoming the front song of Halloween, and is credited as the "greatest video" of all time.

**1915** – The first recorded haunted attraction, Orton and Spooner Ghost House, is built in Liphook, England – the first inspiration for modern-day haunted houses.

**1920-30s** – Candy would come into "trick-or-treating" and began to popularize into a staple of the holiday by the 50s.

**Salem, Massachusetts** – The Salem Haunted Happenings is one of the largest Halloween gatherings in the world. The town's history is tied to the very same Salem Witch Trials.

## BINGE WATCH THIS

By Ashley Padron, John Read, and Gordon Sam  
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### "Psycho"

Alfred Hitchcock's "Psycho" remains a beautiful Halloween classic in my eyes. Released in 1960, the film is an adaptation of Robert Bloch's novel of the same name. The film features evocative music by Bernard Herrmann, brilliant script writing by Joseph William Stefano, and impressive acting by cast members. All these factors and more have rightfully cemented "Psycho" as a classic film. From the beginning of the film, viewers are immersed in a world not very different from reality. A world full of lies, stealing and facades. It makes Hitchcock's characters feel so "human", it's almost hard not to feel an ounce of empathy for them amid all their negative character traits.

Anthony Perkins, who plays

the infamous Norman Bates, gives my favorite performance. Many people praise the iconic shower scene, and understandably so. Still, I genuinely believe the parlor conversation scene between Norman and Marion Crane, played by Janet Leigh, is severely underrated. As Marion indulges in a dinner made by Norman, the two spill their guts to each other, giving viewers a look at the characters' inner workings. The alluring writing, paired with the standout acting provided by both actors, is phenomenal and unnerving.

I highly recommend everyone to watch or rewatch Psycho this fall season. The editing is a bit outdated and silly, but the film still features terrific shots, great character arcs, and a killer plot twist.

### "The Town That Dredded Sundown"

"The Town That Dredded Sundown" is based on true events that happened during the early spring and summer of 1946 in a small Eastern Texas town called Texarkana. A mysterious man terrorized and put fear in the community of Texarkana. He murdered several people and badly injured others. Young couples who would go parking on Lover's Lane were his targets. To this day, this killer has never been caught. He was labeled the Phantom Killer by police officers who investigated the case, due to the

white hood he would wear. During the time of the murders, no one in Texarkana wanted to go out after sundown, hence the name of the film. Directed and produced by Charles B. Pierce in 1976, the film was released 30 years after the real life incidents occurred. It will keep you on the edge of your seat: with exciting scenes, nostalgic clothing and souped-up cars that make you feel like you are right there in the '40s.

The rest of the cast includes the immaculate Jamie

### "Halloween"

Lee Curtis, in her breakout role as well as the late great, Donald Pleasence, playing the no-nonsense Dr. Loomis. The score, composed by Carpenter himself, is as iconic as the mask its villain wears, and fully engrosses viewers in a beautifully terrifying way from start to finish. This movie holds up when compared to what its contemporaries or even the best modern horror has to offer in both scares and story. If you have never seen it; even if you don't consider yourself a fan of horror, treat yourself to one of the greats and give "Halloween" a piece of your free time this season.



Illustrations by Tania Kaufmann

## Find your way through the maze!



Illustration by Linley Nyirenda