

# **SILVER SCREAMS FILM FESTIVAL**

## **Media Release**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Houston, Texas

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## **Film Festival Resurrects Beloved Monsters And Movies That Thrill To Chill**

The first annual **Silver Screams Film Festival** jumpstarts the Halloween season in Houston with films screening Friday, October 7<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup> at the Angelika Film Center, 510 Texas Avenue. This nonprofit showcase of treasured horror films will return grand old gems to full, big screen glory for the enjoyment of fans who love them and new generations that surely will. More recent thrillers with Houston ties will also be screened, as well as the winner of the Festival's "Little Shorts of Horror" film competition.

To further enhance the festival spirit, horror film actors, historians, directors, screenwriters, art, memorabilia and exhibits will be featured. Films will run from 5:30 PM through a midnight screening of *Texas Chain Saw Massacre* Friday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, and from 11:00 AM through the midnight closing feature *Dark Night of the Scarecrow* on Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup>. Tickets may be purchased online at [www.silverscreams.org](http://www.silverscreams.org); \$13 for adults, \$7 for children 12 and under. An All-Festival Pass is \$125. Tickets sold at the door, based on availability, will be first come, first served.

The new festival is made possible in part through the support of the national Women In Film/General Motors Alliance. The Houston chapter of Women In Film & Television, an international nonprofit organization for professionals who work in the media, will benefit from a portion of festival proceeds. For schedule and details go to [www.silverscreams.org](http://www.silverscreams.org), [info@silverscreams.org](mailto:info@silverscreams.org), or (713) 647-7709.

Festival co-directors **Cynthia Neely** and **Jolene McMaster** are the president and vice president, respectively, of Women In Film & Television/Houston. Neely, a writer and former television producer, and McMaster, a writer and film producer, have many things in common, however one thing—a love for the old, beautifully crafted and delightfully frightful horror films—led to producing a festival that resurrects and celebrates them.

## **THE FILMS**

### **Thomas Edison's Frankenstein (1910)**

Free lobby screening, silent. Edison's adaptation of Mary Shelley's 1818 novel was the first "Creation" film. In subsequent Frankenstein films, the Monster was made from cadaver parts. After its release, the film was publicly banned because it was considered ungodly and blasphemous to show "man creating man." The film was thought to be lost forever until the 1950's when film collector and archivist Alois F. Dettlaff discovered a 35mm theatrical Edison print, considered to be the only print in existence.

### **Nosferatu (1922)**

Free lobby screening. F.W. Murnau's creepy, rat-fanged Count Orlock was the first ever vampire Count and introduced several myths, such as death by sunlight, that are synonymous with Dracula in films today.

### **Three Universal Monster Films (1931, 1941, 1954)**

With special guest Frank J. Dello Stritto, writer/historian on "B" horror movies, and known as one of the most eloquent and accomplished chroniclers of horror films. His last project, "Vampire Over London: Bela Lugosi in Britain," written in collaboration with Andi Brooks, was met with critical acclaim. (*Note to the press: due to contractual obligations, the titles of these three films cannot be mentioned.*)

### **Roman Polanski Film (1968)**

Polanski's adaptation of an Ira Levin novel skillfully blends suspicion, conspiracy, and the supernatural. The actress portraying a nosey neighbor who couldn't wait to rock the cradle, won an Oscar® for her supporting role. (*Note to the press: due to contractual obligations, the title of this film cannot be mentioned.*)

### **Texas Chainsaw Massacre, The Original (1974)**

With special guest actor Edwin Neal, the film's "hitchhiker." Also a versatile voice-over talent, Neal is currently voicing 103 episodes of a new ADV Films anime series, playing the lead villain plus 14 other character voices. He has a cameo role in another festival film, *Mr. Hell. Texas Chainsaw Massacre*, declared by critic Rex Reed as "one of the most frightening movies ever made," is in the permanent collection of the Museum of Modern Art in New York; was honored at the Cannes Film Festival; was the London Film Festival's "Outstanding Film of the Year" in 1974; and is perhaps one of the most profitable independent films in movie history.

### **Ghostbusters (1984)**

Who Ya Gonna Call? The film was nominated for Oscars® in both Best Special Visual Effects and Best Song. As the Festival's Family Matinee feature it will include an appearance by the "Fat Rat" art car, a live "Ghostbuster" character, and Trick-or-Treat activities for kids.

### **A Stanley Kubrick/Stephen King Thriller (1980)**

Eerie and bloodcurdling, this film's snow-covered haunted hotel houses one of the most memorable scenes in cinema history. (*Note to the press: due to contractual obligations, the title of this film cannot be mentioned.*)

### **Dark Night Of The Scarecrow (1981)**

#### **Festival Closing Selection – Saturday, October 8, Midnight**

A very rare screening, with screenwriter/filmmaker/producer, Beaumont native, and former Houstonian, J.D. Feigelsen, who has lived and worked in film and television in Los Angeles since the making of this successful 1981 television network movie, his first.

### **Dark Water, The Original Japanese Version (2002)**

Exclusive U.S. screening of the original Japanese version (English subtitles) by director Hideo Nakata (*Ringu, The Ring 2*) and renowned novelist Kôji Suzuki (*The Ring*). Houston-based ADV Films owns the U.S. rights.

### **Unspeakable (2002)**

#### **Festival Opening Selection – Friday, October 7 at 5:30 PM**

With special guest, actor/writer/producer Pavan Grover. His film also stars Dennis Hopper, Dina Meyer, Lance Henriksen and Jeff Fahey and has become a cult blockbuster worldwide, translated into 20 languages. A practicing surgeon in Houston, Dr. Grover has a starring role in *Mr. Hell* and is a medical correspondent for KPRC-TV, Ch. 2.

### **Mr. Hell (2005)**

With special guest, director Rob McKinnon who is also CEO of the Houston-based production company Pure Horror Films. *Mr. Hell* was filmed entirely in Houston with Texas cast and crew, many of whom will be in attendance. Co-Writer of *Mr. Hell*, David B. Carren and Composer Brian Satterwhite will also be available for the Q&A following the screening.

## **MOVIE TIMES**

For schedule and details go to [www.silverscreams.org](http://www.silverscreams.org), or email us at [info@silverscreams.org](mailto:info@silverscreams.org), or you may call (713) 647-7709.

## FESTIVAL ACTIVITIES, Lobby, Angelika Film Center

- **“The Art of HR Giger,”** presented by Houston collector Ron Bertram, will be on display with selected pieces for sale. Giger is world famous as the Oscar®-winning artist who created the *Alien* monster.
- **Free screenings of two silent horror films;** *Nosferatu* (1922), Edison’s *Frankenstein* (1910).
- **Horror movie memorabilia and posters** from Cinema Images, for exhibit and sale.
- **A “haunted” Hummer** with ghastly hologram driver.
- **The Vampmobile,** a 1982 Cadillac hearse that had literally been put out to pasture in Nacogdoches, Texas, and now impeccably restored by BevCo International (distributors of Vampire Wine and Vampyre Vodka) will be exhibited with its working red and black coffin. Test ride anyone?
- **Performances by New Orleans musicians** at the Angelika bar.
- **Strolling magicians and give-aways** from Magic Island.
- **The Screamintini,** the official festival drink (made with red Vampyre Vodka), plus Vampire Wines, direct from Transylvania, will be featured at the Angelika bar and may be enjoyed inside the auditorium.

## SHORT FILM AND SHORT SCREENPLAY COMPETITION

Winners of the Festival’s “Little Shorts of Horror” Film and Screenplay competitions will be recognized at the Festival. Grand prize-winning short film will receive the festival’s first Stephen King Award, named after the Master of Horror himself and will be screened at the Festival. Short screenplay winner will receive the Debra Hill Award, named in memory of Women In Film/Los Angeles member Debra Hill, who co-wrote and produced the horror classic “Halloween” and became a trailblazing producer in the genre. Ms. Hill died this spring from cancer. Both film and screenplay award winners will be presented stone gargoyles statuettes.

## HONORARY SPIRIT (Providing Monstrous Support)

### Honorary Chair 2005 Carolyn Farb

Houston’s premier volunteer fundraiser and event creator, Carolyn Farb, exemplifies the essence of public service and philanthropy. She is a native Texan whose passion shines not only throughout the Lone Star State, but internationally as well. No one can equal her passion for embracing a cause, living it, breathing it, nurturing it and championing it until others become true believers as well. Carolyn Farb personifies the perfect volunteer and the meaning of a true philanthropist. She is a 2005 Texas Cadillac Legend.

## FESTIVAL SPONSORS

- Women In Film/General Motors Alliance
- David Taylor Cadillac-Buick-Pontiac-GMC
- Lawrence Marshall Buick-Pontiac-GMC
- McGinnis Hummer
- Houston Chronicle
- Women In Film And Television/Houston
- Houston Film Commission
- 002+ Magazine
- Frankel’s Costume Company, Inc.
- BevCo International, Distributors of Vampire Wines/Vampyre Vodka
- Saks Fifth Avenue
- The Magnolia Hotel
- Magic Island
- Magic Schwarz and Yvonne Melcher
- CinemaImages.Com
- Texas Accountants & Lawyers For The Arts
- ADV Films
- Pure Horror Films
- Photographic Design Lab
- Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center

## TICKETS

Tickets, available online at [www.silverscreams.org](http://www.silverscreams.org), are \$13 for adults, \$7 for kids 12 and under. An All Festival Pass is \$125. Tickets will be sold at the door, based on availability, on the day of screenings and will be first come, first served.

## SPECIAL GUESTS

### **J.D. FEIGELSON**, Screenwriter/Director/Producer

Feigelson is a Beaumont native, who spent his early years heading up a Houston production studio. He wrote the original script for “Red Water” and served as executive producer on the project, starring Lou Diamond Phillips. The shark saga, set along the Louisiana/Texas Gulf Coast, was actually shot in South Africa.

Feigelson produced a Civil War drama entitled *One of the Missing*. A mutual friend had introduced Feigelson to author Ray Bradbury who saw the film. He was impressed by the work and offered to mentor Feigelson in screenwriting. The relationship exists to this day. Bradbury later hosted the premiere of *One of the Missing* when it appeared on PBS.

The success of this film led Feigelson to Los Angeles in 1981 and the production of *Dark Night of the Scarecrow*, his first commercial television network movie. It has since become a cult classic and is screening this year at Silver Screams Film Festival. Feigelson continues to work in Los Angeles.

His list of motion picture and television credits includes *The Lake* - NBC movie, 1998 (writer/executive producer); *Nightmare on the 13th Floor* - USA cable movie, 1990 (writer); *Houston: The Legend of Texas aka Gone to Texas* - CBS special three hour movie, 1986 (executive producer); *Chiller* - CBS movie 1985 (writer/producer); “*The Twilight Zone*” - CBS series, 1985 (director/writer of two episodes); *The Covenant* - NBC movie/pilot, 1985 (writer/supervising producer); *Cry for the Strangers* - CBS movies, 1982 (adaptation writer); *Dark Night of the Scarecrow* - CBS movie, 1981 (writer/2<sup>nd</sup> unit director). *One of the Missing* - PBS special, 1979 (writer/producer/director); *The Windsplitter* - independent feature, 1971 (writer/director).

### **ROB MCKINNON**, Screenwriter/Director/Producer

McKinnon has worked in the business of film as an award-winning writer, director, composer in Houston since coming here in the 1970s. He’s a graduate of Boston University with a degree in Film & Broadcasting. As CEO of Pure Horror Films, Inc., his film production company in Houston will produce dramatic horror for adult audiences. His debut feature, *Mr. Hell*, for Austin’s Jack Rhodes Productions, screened at the Museum of Fine Arts-Houston in May, and will be among the newer films to be presented at Silver Screams Film Festival.

### **PAVAN GROVER**, Screenwriter/Producer/Actor

Grover is a successful pain management specialist, with a successful medical practice in southwest Houston, and is known as “Dr. G” to his audiences from his Channel 2’s 5:00 PM news segment. Grover also starred in both *Unspeakable* (2002), with Dennis Hopper and Lance Henriksen, and *Mr. Hell* (2005) with Tracy Scoggins and Danny Kamin.

### **EDWIN NEAL**, Actor/Voice Talent/Entrepreneur

Ed Neal was “the Hitchhiker” in the original *Texas Chain Saw Massacre*. He has acted in numerous horror films, and his versatile voice-over talents can be heard in the new ADV Films anime *Gatchaman*, currently on video shelves everywhere. Neal is doing 103 episodes for the *Battle of the Planets* series from the ‘70’s. It’s being completely re-dubbed, with new music added. And it’s the first unedited edition ever done of the Japanese original. Neal plays the lead villain “Berg Katse” as well as 14 additional voices. Now that’s talent!

### **DAVID B. CARREN**, Screenwriter/Producer

David Bennett Carren, a native of Dallas and a graduate of the University of Texas, has been a professional screenwriter for three decades. He has written and/or produced more than 200 TV shows, and his credits include such definitive series as *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, *Stargate SG-1*, *Buck Rogers*, *TekWar*, *Battlestar Galactica*, *Knightrider*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Diagnosis Murder*, *Murder She Wrote*, and *Walker, Texas Ranger*. His work on the CBS series *Capitol* earned him a Writer’s Guild Award nomination. He also co-wrote and co-produced *Mr. Hell*, starring Tracy Scoggins (*Babylon 5*), Danny Kamin (*The Rookie*), and Pavan Grover (*Unspeakable*).

### **BRIAN SATTERWHITE**, Film Composer

Earlier this year, Brian Satterwhite was recognized with two Gold Medals For Excellence/Director’s Choice Awards at the *only* film festival in America showcasing films *for their music*, the Park City Film Music Festival in Utah. A graduate of the

prestigious Berklee College of Music in Boston, Brian has written scores for a variety of short and feature films including *Twinkle, Twinkle* (1999), *American Generator* (2002), *Making the Modern* (2003), *Comfort* (2003), *Down the Road* (2003); and *Blind* (2003). During the summer of 2001, he was selected as a finalist in the Young Film Composers Competition sponsored by Turner Classic Movies. Through his film music production company, Nuance Music in Austin, Brian has scored features, shorts, cartoons and documentaries. Most recently, his most ambitious project, he scored the Houston-based film *Mr. Hell*.

#### **FRANK DELLO STRITTO**, Writer/Historian on “B” Horror Movies

Frank J. Dello Stritto is one of the most eloquent and accomplished chroniclers of horror films on the scene. His last project, “Vampire Over London: Bela Lugosi in Britain,” written in collaboration with Andi Brooks, was met with critical acclaim. Dello Stritto presents a fascinating contention: That the monsters of the movies are preparing kids for the dark and scary adult world they soon inhabit. “From Darwinism vs. Creationism to the 1930s’ rise of fascism--from secular vs. spiritual to class and racial tensions to anxieties over gender and aging.” A frequent contributor and regular columnist to “Cult Movies Magazine,” Frank was born in Hoboken, New Jersey, and now lives with his wife Linda in Houston.

#### **About the Women In Film & General Motors Alliance:**

The **Women In Film/General Motors Alliance** was created to expand programs supporting women in the entertainment industry. The initiative was announced in January 2005 by Iris Grossman, President, WIF; Judith R. James, WIF/GM national committee chair; and Gary Cowger, GM group vice president.

Founded in 1973 in Los Angeles, Women In Film ([www.wif.org](http://www.wif.org)) is the leading non-profit organization dedicated to women in the global entertainment industry. Its purpose is to empower, promote, nurture and mentor women in the industry through a network of valuable contacts, events, programs, workshops, finishing funds and scholarships. In the U.S., there are chapters in Arizona, Atlanta, Dallas, Florida, Houston, Kansas City, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Maryland, New England, New York, Palm Springs, Salt Lake City, San Francisco, Seattle and Washington, D.C. The international network, Women In Film And Television International ([www.wifti.org](http://www.wifti.org)), of which WIF-Los Angeles is a founding member, boasts 35 chapters on six continents. Member chapters range from developing nations to countries with established industries, including the U.S., Mexico, Jamaica, Australia, Ireland, South Africa, Canada, France, United Kingdom, India and New Zealand to name a few.

**General Motors Corp.** (NYSE: GM), the world’s largest automaker, has been the global industry sales leader since 1931. Founded in 1908, GM today employs about 321,000 people around the world. It has manufacturing operations in 32 countries and its vehicles are sold in 200 countries. In 2004, GM sold nearly 9 million cars and trucks globally, up 4 percent and the second-highest total in the company’s history. GM’s global headquarters are at the GM Renaissance Center in Detroit. More information on GM can be found at [www.gm.com](http://www.gm.com).

#### **About Women In Film & Television/Houston**

Women In Film & Television is a 501(c)(3) non-profit dedicated to the advancement of women in the arts, sciences and technologies of film, television and digital media. It is a regional affiliate of Women In Film & Television International, but operates independently and without fiscal support from the international organization. Members are industry professionals, including men, as well as college students and those who aspire to careers in the industry. For more information about WIFT/Houston visit [www.wift-houston.org](http://www.wift-houston.org) or you may call 713-788-8075.

#### **About Silver Screams Film Festival:**

Silver Screams Film Festival is a 501(c)(3) Texas corporation organized to bring classic horror films of the past back to their original big screen glory for the entertainment of those who have grown up watching and loving them *and* to introduce vintage films of this genre to the generations who have not yet experienced them; and to discover new filmmakers and writers of classics of the future through the festival’s “Little Shorts of Horror Competition.” A portion of the proceeds will provide educational and scholarship funding for the Houston Chapter of Women In Film & Television, celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> year as a local chapter of the preeminent international organization of Women In Film. For more information about Silver Screams Film Festival visit [www.silverscreams.org](http://www.silverscreams.org) or you may call 713-647-7709.

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