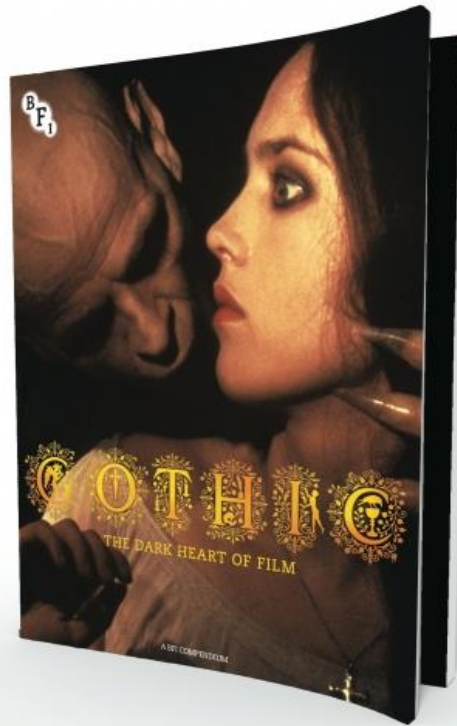


**BFI ANNOUNCES NEW PUBLICATION
'GOTHIC: THE DARK HEART OF FILM'
A BFI COMPENDIUM**



INTRODUCED BY SIR CHRISTOPHER FRAYLING

**CONTRIBUTORS INCLUDE MARK GATISS, GUILLERMO DEL TORO, MARINA WARNER,
CHARLIE HIGSON, MARK KERMODE, ANNE BILLSON AND REECE SHEARSMITH**

September 17, 2013 – Just in time for Hallowe'en, the BFI announces its new publication **Gothic: The Dark Heart of Film (A BFI Compendium)**. A daring companion to the BFI's new blockbuster GOTHIC project this autumn, **the book** charts the story of how Gothic found its dark heart in Britain, and came to life on film across the world, from its origins in the silent era, through the Universal horrors of the 1930s, the rise of Hammer in the 1950s, and many other twilight stops on its path to the present. Introduced by GOTHIC project ambassador Sir Christopher Frayling, GOTHIC experts including Mark Gatiss, Charlie Higson, Mark Kermode,

Marina Warner, Reece Shearsmith, Matthew Sweet and Guillermo del Toro, share their dark, yet enlightening, discoveries across a range of essays under titles such as *Black Magic*, *Waking Nightmares*, *Gothic Slashers*, *In Silent Film No One Can Hear You Scream*, *Mad Science*, *Queer Gothic* and *Tainted Love*.

Further contributions come from Matthew Sweet, Jonathan Rigby, Roger Luckhurst, Richard T. Kelly, Ramsey Campbell, Glen Duncan, David Pirie, Roger Clarke, Kim Newman, Victoria Nelson, Helen Oyeyemi, Stephen Volk, Catherine Spooner, Rob Young, Geoffrey O'Brien, Rob Young, Jasper Sharp and more. **Many of the contributors are available for interview on request.**

From Sir Christopher Frayling's introduction: *"This BFI Compendium – the second, after 39 Steps to the Genius of Hitchcock – traces the story [of the Gothic]. Starting with 'Monstrous', the beast at the window and the beast within, moving on to 'The Dark Arts' of the occult, cursing and bad science, and then to 'Haunted' houses and possessed people of various descriptions, the book concludes with 'Love is a Devil', where homage to satanic majesties can lead to all manner of delightful transgressions. In the course of this Grand Tour of the Gothic, we learn many things: that vampires – no longer aristocrats – can now have a psychology and a beautiful body, that the gender balance among monsters is at last being redressed, that the British have had a decisive influence on horror films as well as books, and that Grand Guignol films started a lot earlier than many of us supposed; we learn about waking nightmares as well as the more conventional kinds, about Italian, Eastern European and Japanese horrors, about the curious ability of the horror film to seem old-fashioned and transgressive both at the same time; and about how saintly Gothic architecture managed to seem malign; finally, we discover how the frustrated love that dare not speak its name sometimes finds space to shout its name in Gothic film, and how the traditional put-upon heroine is now turning the tables. Curator Martin Myrone, in a stimulating essay on the visual art of horror, refers to the Gothic as a notoriously "trans-medial, genre-defying, migrating and polluting phenomenon. Children's stories at one end of the spectrum and postmodern slasher movies at the other. One central theme of Gothic: The Dark Heart of Film is how the core elements of the Gothic have changed and mutated over time – but somehow they have endured as well."*

The BFI's new blockbuster GOTHIC project is already taking the nation to the darkest recesses of their nightmares this autumn until February 2014, through four compelling themes: **Monstrous**, **The Dark Arts**, **Haunted** and **Love is the Devil** with events, screenings and programmes at BFI Southbank and venues the length and breadth of the UK.

To launch this Compendium, **BFI Southbank** will present **Welcome to the Dark Side: A Panel Discussion** on **Wednesday 23 October**, when a panel of esteemed experts – including Sir Christopher Frayling, Marina Warner, Roger Luckhurst and Kim Newman – will introduce our season with an inspiring discussion of all things Gothic. As well as offering their own personal highlights from the breadth of the Gothic programme, panellists will aim to stoke the fires of audience imagination.

In addition to the Compendium, a number of BFI Film Classics will be either newly released or re-printed – including work from some of the contributors. These titles are published by Palgrave MacMillan in time for Hallowe'en bedtime reading, and will feature as special collector's editions. New classics are: **The Shining** by Roger Luckhurst, **Pan's Labyrinth** by Mar Diestro-Dópido, **Nosferatu – Eine Symphonie des Grauens** (1922) by Kevin Jackson and **The Innocents** by Christopher Frayling. Back by demand in second editions are: **Vampyr** by David Rudkin and **Das Cabinet des Dr. Caligari** by David Robinson- each featuring a new foreword - **Nosferatu – Phantom der Nacht (1979)** by S.S. Prawer, with a new foreword by Brad Prager, and **Cat People** by Kim Newman, including a new postscript exploring the film's sequel, *The Curse of the Cat People*.

GOTHIC: THE DARK HEART OF FILM ed. James Bell, £15, BFI. 160 pp large format paperback. For sale via BFI Filmstore and Amazon.

Contents:

Stacey Abbott	TV Vampires
Michael Atkinson	Southern Gothic
James Bell	Haunted Landscapes
Anne Billson	The Vampire
James Blackford	Gore and the Gothic
Josephine Botting	Scream Queens & Vampire Lovers
Michael Brooke	Central and Eastern Europe Gothic
Ramsey Campbell	Waking Nightmares
Roger Clarke	Spectres of the Past
Bryony Dixon	In Silent Film No One Can Hear You Scream
Glen Duncan	The Werewolf
Barry Forshaw	The British Influence
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Mark Gatiss	The Gothic Anthology Film
Charlie Higson	Children and the Gothic
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Mark Kermode	Mad Science (with Sir Christopher Frayling)
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Tim Lucas	Mario Bava and the Italian Gothic
Roger Luckhurst	The Living Dead
Simon McCallum	A Message from the Other Side
Martin Myrone	Gothic Art's Cinematic Legacies
Victoria Nelson	Daughters of Darkness
Kim Newman	The Old Dark House; The Female Vampire
Geoffrey O'Brien	Family Gothic
Helen Oyeyemi	Tainted Love
Nick Pinkerton	Gothic Slashers
David Pirie	Princes of Darkness
Vic Pratt	Kings of Horror
David Punter	The Original Gothics
Jonathan Rigby	The Tormented
Brian Robinson	Queer Gothic
Jasper Sharp	Japanese Gothic
Reece Shearsmith	The Gothic and Comedy
Claire Smith	The Architecture of Gothic Cinema
Catherine Spooner	Costuming Vampires
Matthew Sweet	Theatres of War
Guillermo del Toro	Children of the Night
Stephen Volk	Villa Diodati
Marina Warner	La Belle et la Bête
Helen Wheatley	Children's Gothic Television
Rob Young	British Folk Gothic

Review copies available on request or pdf.

Some authors may be available for interview.

Pictures for use in connection with reviews www.image.net/BFI/Gothic

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

GOTHIC: The Dark Heart of Film is a nationwide BFI project (21 October 2013 – 31 January 2014)

The BFI will take Britain back to darker times and thrill the nation by uncovering as never before the dark heart of film. With over 150 titles and around 1000 screenings GOTHIC features spectacularly terrifying special events to thrill every corner of the UK. The project also incorporates the longest BFI Southbank season yet (4 months), UK wide theatrical and DVD releases, an education programme and a range of exciting partnerships, special guests and commentators, including project ambassador Sir Christopher Fraying. GOTHIC will explore film's most popular theme, spawning some of the medium's most iconic, powerful and terrifying scenes and characters whose lasting popularity just refuses to die.

www.bfi.org.uk/gothic

About the BFI

The BFI is the lead body for film in the UK with the ambition to create a flourishing film environment in which innovation, opportunity and creativity can thrive by:

- Connecting audiences to the widest choice of British and World cinema
- Preserving and restoring the most significant film collection in the world for today and future generations
- Championing emerging and world class film makers in the UK
- Investing in creative, distinctive and entertaining work
- Promoting British film and talent to the world
- Growing the next generation of film makers and audiences

The BFI Southbank is open to all. BFI members are entitled to a discount on all tickets. BFI Southbank Box Office tel: 020 7928 3232. Unless otherwise stated tickets are £11.00, concs £8.50 Members pay £1.50 less on any ticket. Website www.bfi.org.uk/southbank

BFI Shop

The BFI Shop is stocked and staffed by BFI experts with over 1,200 book titles and 1,000 DVDs to choose from, including hundreds of acclaimed books and DVDs produced by the BFI.

The benugo bar & kitchen

Eat, drink and be merry in panoramic daylight. benugo's décor is contemporary, brightly lit and playful with a lounge space, bar and dining area. The place to network, hang out, unpack a film, savour the best of Modern British or sip on a cocktail.

There's more to discover about film and television through the BFI. Our world-renowned archival collections, cinemas, festivals, films, publications and learning resources are here to inspire you.

***** PICTURE DESK *****

A selection of images for journalistic use in promoting BFI Southbank screenings can be found at www.image.net under BFI / BFI Southbank / Gothic