

STEPHEN KING ON SCREEN SEASON LISTINGS:

Preview: It

USA 2017. Dir Andrés Muschietti. With Bill Skarsgård, Finn Wolfhard, Jaeden Lieberher, Sophia Lillis. 130min. Digital. Cert TBC. Courtesy of Warner Bros.

When the sleepy town of Derry, Maine, becomes plagued with unsolved child disappearances, a group of misfit kids band together to take down the inhuman force that's wreaking havoc on their hometown. 'The Losers' Club' must face their own demons as well as the grinning, shape-shifting clown Pennywise (Skarsgård). One of Stephen King's most terrifying creations gets a modern update in what's bound to be the horror spectacle of the year.

Tickets £15, concs £12 (Members pay £2 less)

MON 4 SEP 20:40 NFT1

Nightmares and Dreamscapes: Stephen King on Screen

TRT 90min

To launch our Stephen King season, join BFI Cult programmer Michael Blyth for an entertaining, breakneck romp through the innumerable adaptations of King's work. We'll cover the good, the bad, and the downright bizarre, and you can expect plenty of clips, a host of anecdotes and a fair share of (potentially) controversial opinions. Come prepared to defend your favourites!

FRI 1 SEP 18:15 NFT3

Carrie

USA 1976. Dir Brian De Palma, 1976. With Sissy Spacek, Piper Laurie, Amy Irving, John Travolta. 98min. Digital. 15

The first King novel to receive the big-screen treatment established both the young author and emerging director Brian De Palma as significant Hollywood players. De Palma's trademark baroque visuals lend an almost operatic extravagance to King's tragic tale of a telekinetic teen who plots revenge on her taunting classmates, buoyed by a truly heartbreaking turn from Sissy Spacek as the ill-fated prom queen.

FRI 1 SEP 20:45 NFT1 / MON 11 SEP 18:25 BFI IMAX / TUE 26 SEP 20:50 STUDIO / FRI 29 SEP 18:20 STUDIO

Salem's Lot + intro by Stacey Abbott, University of Roehampton*

USA 1979. Dir Tobe Hooper. With James Mason, David Soul, Bonnie Bedelia, Reggie Nalder. 176min. 35mm. 15

The small screen proved the perfect vessel for King's story of a sleepy Maine town infiltrated by vampires (humorously described by King himself as 'Peyton Place meets Dracula'), with the mini-series format allowing ample space for multiple narratives to develop. A heavily edited two-hour cut was released theatrically in Europe, but the full-length version most effectively captures the spirit of the original text.

SAT 2 SEP 19:30 NFT2* / SUN 10 SEP 16:45 NFT1

The Shining

USA 1980. Dir Stanley Kubrick. With Jack Nicholson, Shelley Duvall, Scatman Crothers, Danny Lloyd. 146min. Digital. 15

Publically denounced by King, who likened Kubrick's take on his bestseller to a 'big, beautiful Cadillac with no engine inside,' this tale of a writer's breakdown in the vast expanse of a haunted hotel is nonetheless widely regarded as a genre masterpiece. Taking many liberties with the source novel – perhaps explaining the author's displeasure – the result is most certainly Stanley Kubrick's *The Shining*, and not King's.

SUN 3 SEP 17:15 NFT2 / SAT 9 SEP 20:20 NFT1 / MON 11 SEP 20:30 BFI IMAX

Creepshow + discussion hosted by MCM Comic Con*

USA 1982. Dir George A Romero. With Hal Holbrook, Adrienne Barbeau, Stephen King, Leslie Nielsen. 120min. 15

United by their shared love of vintage horror comics, King joined forces with George A Romero for a nostalgic love letter to their favourite genre. Comprising five deliciously dark morality tales (and a cute wraparound story starring King's son Joe), this ghoulish explosion of colour and creativity is arguably the definitive horror anthology. As the tagline promised, it is 'the most fun you'll ever have... being scared.'

WED 6 SEP 20:30 NFT1* / SUN 17 SEP 20:00 NFT2

The Dead Zone

USA 1983. Dir David Cronenberg. With Christopher Walken, Brooke Adams, Tom Skerritt, Martin Sheen. 104min. 18

Despite a significant streamlining of the narrative (King's more faithful treatment was in fact rejected), this portentous adaptation remains an incredibly effective one. After waking from a coma, Johnny Smith discovers he has psychic powers – powers which come with devastating consequences. Cronenberg's first literary adaptation marked a surprising shift to the mainstream for the director, although his chilly, brooding aesthetic is still palpable.

TUE 5 SEP 18:20 NFT2 / SUN 10 SEP 20:15 NFT1

Christine + intro by Simon Brown, Kingston University*

USA 1983. Dir John Carpenter. Keith Gordon, John Stockwell, Alexandra Paul, Harry Dean Stanton. 110min. Digital. 18

It's boy-meets-car in John Carpenter's darkly unconventional love story. When affable nerd Arnie buys a 1958 Plymouth Fury he gains a new found confidence, but it soon becomes clear his mystery machine is really the one in control. Shot with cool precision, Carpenter's prowling camera lingers over his chrome-plated leading lady with fetishistic longing, effectively bringing to life one of King's most idiosyncratic villains.

THU 7 SEP 20:40 NFT1* / WED 13 SEP 20:45 BFI IMAX / TUE 3 OCT 20:50 STUDIO

Children of the Corn

USA 1984. Dir Fritz Kiersch. With Peter Horton, Linda Hamilton, John Franklin. 92min. Digital. 18

Driving across the American Midwest, a couple stumble upon an isolated town populated only by children. Finding themselves trapped, the doomed pair soon understand the horrific fate met by the absent adults. The first feature-length production based solely one of King's short stories, this low-budget shocker generated seven sequels (and a television remake), making it the most enduring of all King-related film franchises.

FRI 8 SEP 18:20 NFT3 / FRI 15 SEP 20:40 NFT3

Firestarter

USA 1984. Dir Mark L Lester. With Drew Barrymore, David Keith, Martin Sheen, George C Scott. 114min. 35mm. 15

Stephen King returned to one of his favourite themes – a child with special powers – in his tale of a young girl with pyrokinetic abilities, the result of shady government experiments once performed on her parents. Originally offered to John Carpenter, who dropped out due to unexpected budget cuts, the resulting adaptation may well be a work of compromise, but still contains a wealth of iconic images.

FRI 8 SEP 20:30 NFT3 / FRI 15 SEP 18:20 NFT3

Maximum Overdrive

USA 1986. Dir Stephen King. With Emilio Estevez, Pat Hingle, Laura Harrington, Christopher Murney. 97min. 35mm. 18

Stephen King's only stint in the director's chair was deemed an unqualified disaster by many, not least the man himself, who flippantly described it as a 'moron movie.' Looking back now, King's unruly adaptation of his short story *Trucks*, about an army of homicidal lorries, is a hell of a lot of fun. Wickedly amusing, unapologetically campy, and with a killer AC/DC soundtrack, this is a true cult classic.

SAT 9 SEP 18:10 NFT3 / TUE 12 SEP 18:20 NFT3

Stand by Me

USA 1986. Dir Rob Reiner. With Wil Wheaton, River Phoenix, Corey Feldman, Jerry O'Connell. 89min. Digital. 15

The first non-horror King adaptation, Rob Reiner's wistful coming-of-age movie came as a surprise to many expecting another tale of terror. Yet this much-loved account of four young boys on a journey to locate the dead body of a missing local still displays many recognisable King tropes – the small-town setting, a writer protagonist, and a fascination with mortality, to name but a few.

SAT 16 SEP 20:45 NFT1 / FRI 22 SEP 18:15 NFT2 / SAT 30 SEP 15:45 NFT2

Pet Sematary

USA 1989. Dir Mary Lambert. With Dale Midkiff, Fred Gwynne, Denise Crosby, Miko Hughes. 103min. Digital. 18

The author initially feared his tale of a doctor turning to the supernatural in the wake of a devastating family tragedy was too upsetting to be published – *Pet Sematary* indeed stands as one of King's bleakest novels, and

in turn, one of the most unsettling film adaptations. The author's own screenplay effectively balances the aching sadness of the original text with a generous measure of nasty scares.

SUN 3 SEP 20:35 NFT1 / WED 13 SEP 18:30 BFI IMAX / SAT 23 SEP 21:00 NFT2

Misery + intro by Anna Bogutskaya, BFI Events Programmer*

USA 1990. Dir Rob Reiner. With James Caan, Kathy Bates, Richard Farnsworth, Lauren Bacall. 107min. 35mm. 18

Having embraced King's softer side with *Stand by Me*, Rob Reiner's second adaptation of the author's work saw him plunge headlong into much darker territory. After a near fatal car crash, a bestselling novelist finds himself at the mercy of his 'number one fan.' Expertly blending agonising tension with jet-black humour, it remains one of the most successful cinematic distillations of King's writing.

SAT 16 SEP 18:20 NFT1 / MON 25 SEP 20:30 NFT1*

Sleepwalkers

USA 1992. Dir Mick Garris. With Brian Krause, Mädchen Amick, Alice Krige. 89min. 35mm. 18

The only feature based on an original Stephen King screenplay, this loopy tale of a shapeshifting mother and son looking to feed on the life force of young virgins is preposterous stuff perhaps, but boy is it fun. Marking King's first partnership with frequent future collaborator Mick Garris, the film is also notable for cameos from several horror legends including Tobe Hooper, Clive Barker and Joe Dante.

WED 20 SEP 20:30 NFT3 / SUN 24 SEP 17:30 NFT3

The Dark Half + intro by Michael Blyth, season curator*

USA 1993. Dir George A Romero. With Timothy Hutton, Amy Madigan, Julie Harris, Michael Rooker. 121min. 35mm. 18

Following his unsuccessful attempts to bring both *The Stand* and *Pet Semetary* to the screen, George A Romero turned instead to King's novel about a writer pursued by the pseudonym he had recently laid to rest. The book was originally published after the author's own *nom de plume*, Richard Bachman, became public knowledge, and this classy adaptation continues to explore King's obsession with the writing process and the transformative powers of literature.

THU 14 SEP 18:10 NFT3* / FRI 29 SEP 20:30 NFT2

The Shawshank Redemption

USA 1994. Dir Frank Darabont. With Tim Robbins, Morgan Freeman, Bob Gunton, William Sadler. 142min. Digital. 15

Convicted of the double murder of his wife and her lover, Andy Dufresne is sentenced to life at Shawshank State Penitentiary. Frank Darabont's masterful prison drama was something of a box-office failure, but the film grew steadily in popularity over the years and now serves as a staple on most 'greatest film' lists – a fitting testament to the enduring impact of King's non-horror output.

SUN 17 SEP 15:10 NFT1 / THU 21 SEP 18:05 NFT1 / SUN 1 OCT 17:20 STUDIO

Dolores Claiborne

USA 1995. Dir Taylor Hackford. With Kathy Bates, Jennifer Jason Leigh, Judy Parfitt, Christopher Plummer. 131min. 35mm. 18

Often overlooked in the vast pantheons of King adaptations, Taylor Hackford's richly rendered psychological melodrama is a fascinating and rewarding piece of work with compelling feminist credentials. It's the story of a housekeeper accused of murdering her employer, and the strained relationship she shares with her grown-up daughter; a labyrinthine mystery featuring what Kathy Bates claims to be the best of all her performances.

SUN 24 SEP 19:40 NFT3 / SAT 30 SEP 18:00 NFT3

Stephen King's The Night Flier

USA 1997. Dir Mark Pavia. With Miguel Ferrer, Julie Entwisle, Dan Monahan, Michael H. Moss. 94min. Digital. 18

Quite possibly the best Stephen King adaptation you've never seen, this little-known gem bypassed many horror fans when it debuted direct to DVD in the late 1990s. But far more than a run-of-the-mill genre cheapie, this curious yarn about a frequent-flying vampire who prowls for victims in deserted airports is a smart and insidious treat ripe for reevaluation.

FRI 22 SEP 20:30 NFT3 / SUN 1 OCT 20:10 NFT3

The Green Mile

USA 1999. Dir Frank Darabont. With Tom Hanks, Michael Clarke Duncan, David Morse, Sam Rockwell. 188min. 35mm. 18

Frank Darabont's second King adaptation saw him once again venture behind bars (Cold Mountain Penitentiary this time, as opposed to Shawshank) to tell the story of a gentle giant on death row in possession of an extraordinary gift. But while the prison setting may be familiar, this emotional juggernaut of a film combines brooding melodrama with a healthy dose of magical realism, to offer up something very unique indeed.

SAT 23 SEP 17:25 NFT2 / SUN 1 OCT 14:00 NFT2

1408

USA 2007. Dir Mikael Häfström. With John Cusack, Samuel L Jackson, Mary McCormack, Tony Shalhoub. 104min. 18

If you think The Overlook Hotel is the scariest guesthouse in horror movie history, why not check into The Dolphin? Set almost entirely in one room, this taut psychological chiller follows a writer who's known for his books debunking reports of paranormal activity. Ignoring the warnings he's given, he agrees to spend a night in the reportedly haunted suite 1408 – a decision he may come to regret...

WED 27 SEP 20:50 NFT2 / MON 2 OCT 20:55 NFT3

The Mist (B&W version)

USA 2007. Dir Frank Darabont. With Thomas Jane, Marcia Gay Harden, Laurie Holden, Toby Jones. 126min

After the sweeping drama of *The Shawshank Redemption* and *The Green Mile*, Frank Darabont opted for a good old-fashioned monster movie for his next King adaptation, with unforgettable results. In this deft blend of heady Lovecraftian horrors and biting social commentary, an inexplicable fog brings forth an army of deadly creatures, leaving a disparate gang seeking refuge in a grocery store. We're thrilled to be screening the film in Darabont's preferred black and white version, as was the director's original intention.

THU 21 SEP 20:50 NFT1 / MON 2 OCT 18:20 NFT2

Stephen King: From Story to Script

What is it about Stephen King's stories that make such iconic movies? And how does the process of adaptation work? Screenwriters are invited to participate in an intensive day of talks, workshopping and discussion that will lay the foundations for new screenplays inspired by *The Master of Horror*. Screenwriter and tutor Gabriella Apicella leads the day, which will also include a contribution from Stephen King's publisher about the process of securing the adaptation rights.

Course fee £40, concs £30

SAT 9 SEP 10:00-17:00 STUDIO

STEPHEN KING WEEKENDER

We celebrate King's 70th birthday with screenings, discussions & events

Join us for a mini festival of horrid delights as we celebrate Stephen King's 70th birthday. Come along to special events in our #KingForADay fan space across the weekend (check bfi.org.uk for details), enjoy a rare screening of *The Mist* in black and white, test your mettle at our quiz, and delve deep into King's work at our summit. All hail the King!

In partnership with



Stephen King Film Quiz

Test your knowledge on all things Stephen King for a chance to claim glory and goodies in this devilishly entertaining quiz, designed to entertain both the casual and most hardcore of King fans. Come as a ready-formed team of four, or buy an individual ticket and be grouped together with some fellow King buffs.

£5 per person

FRI 22 SEP 19:00-22:00 BLUE ROOM

The Stephen King Summit

Fans, critics, and experts converge for this landmark event delving into the rich web of interactions between Stephen King, film and TV. What exactly is 'a Stephen King film'? What are the best and worst adaptations? How has the author influenced screen culture? And how has it, in turn, inspired him? Join us in NFT3 and our #KingForADay fan space for richly illustrated presentations, lively discussions and debate, and the opportunity to pitch your own fantasy adaptation.

SAT 23 SEP 11:30-17:00 NFT3

STEPHEN KING'S PICKS

The author himself curates the films that he loves

The Changeling

USA 1980. Dir Peter Medak. With George C Scott, Trish Van Devere, Melvyn Douglas. 107min. Digital. 15

One of the best supernatural thrillers ever made stars George C Scott, in perhaps his last great screen role, as a widowed man attempting to deal with his grief in a secluded house. There are no monsters bursting from chests; just a child's ball bouncing down a flight of stairs was enough to scare the daylight out of me.

TUE 5 SEP 20:45 NFT2 / MON 11 SEP 20:30 NFT3

Night of the Demon

UK 1957. Dir Jacques Tourneur. With Dana Andrews, Peggy Cummins, Niall MacGinnis. 95min. Digital. PG

An American professor in London becomes embroiled with devil worshippers when he tries to uncover the mysterious death of his colleague. Although it's old school, Jacques Tourneur's film is a pretty wonderful adaptation of M R James's story *Casting the Runes*. Tourneur was a disciple of Val Lewton, which means the horror here is pretty understated, until the very end.

SUN 3 SEP 16:30 NFT1 / THU 7 SEP 18:30 NFT2

Village of the Damned

UK 1960. Dir Wolf Rilla. With George Sanders, Barbara Shelley, Michael Gwynn, Laurence Naismith. 87min. Digital. 12A

On the subject of British horror (wrapped in a sci-fi bow), you can't do much better than *Village of the Damned* – like *Night of the Demon* – shot in beautiful black and white. Adapted from *The Midwich Cuckoos* by John Wyndham, the film stars George Sanders, who does a stellar job as the schoolmaster tasked with teaching some very strange pupils.

SUN 10 SEP 15:50 NFT3 / WED 13 SEP 20:40 NFT3

The Hitcher

USA 1986. Dir Robert Harmon. With Rutger Hauer, C Thomas Howell, Jennifer Jason Leigh. 97min. Digital. 18

A terrifying road movie stripped to its very basics. What sets this apart, other than some spectacular stunts, is the amazing performance by Rutger Hauer as the mysterious and homicidal John Ryder. 'Where did you come from?' asks the terrified kid Ryder is chasing. 'Disneyland,' Ryder whispers back...

SAT 30 SEP 20:45 NFT3 / SUN 1 OCT 18:00 NFT3

The Stepfather

USA-UK-Canada 1987. Dir Joseph Ruben. With Terry O'Quinn, Jill Schoelen, Shelley Hack. 89min. Digital. 18

While we're talking about terrifying men who come from nowhere, there's Terry O'Quinn as the murderous (but charming) psycho looking for a family to love him. There's that classic moment when he goes blank and says, 'Saaay, who am I this time?' before bludgeoning his wife with a telephone.

MON 25 SEP 18:40 NFT2 / SUN 1 OCT 19:50 NFT2

– ENDS –

NOTES TO EDITORS:

Press Contacts:

Liz Parkinson – Press Officer, BFI Southbank

liz.parkinson@bfi.org.uk / 020 7957 8918

Elizabeth Dunk – Press Office Assistant

elizabeth.dunk@bfi.org.uk / 020 7957 8986

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 is a Government arm's-length body and distributor of Lottery funds for film. The BFI serves a public role which covers the cultural, creative and economic aspects of film in the UK. It delivers this role:

- As the UK-wide organisation for film, a charity core funded by Government
- By providing Lottery and Government funds for film across the UK
- By working with partners to advance the position of film in the UK.

Founded in 1933, the BFI is a registered charity governed by Royal Charter.

The BFI Board of Governors is chaired by Josh Berger CBE.

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Young people aged 25 and under can buy last minute tickets for just £3, 45 minutes before the start of screenings and events, subject to availability - <http://www.bfi.org.uk/25-and-under>.

Tickets for FREE screenings and events must be booked in advance by calling the Box Office to avoid disappointment

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 / 2017 / September / Stephen King