

## 10 Films Perfect for Halloween

by Dominique Zurbano

October 31 to November 2 is the period of time we Filipinos usually associate with the “Undas”. In this period, we go back to the province, visit the cemetery, and pray for the souls of those reposed; and in our downtime, catch up with our extended families. However, one doesn’t simply spend “Undas” without watching a horror film or two! So down below are 10 horror films (in no particular order) that will spice up your spooky holidays this year.

1. *The Road* (2011) – A local film featuring a stellar cast that includes Alden Richards, Barbie Forteza, and Rhian Ramos. In it, a detective (TJ Trinidad) investigates a decade-old cold case that occurred in a particular road. This underrated psychological horror film delivers a different flavor compared to most local films.
2. *The Witch* (2015) – A period film directed and written by Robert Eggers, where a New England family in the 1600s battle panic and despair after the youngest member of their family disappears, with suspicion and blame resting on their eldest daughter, Thomasine (Anya Taylor-Joy). The cinematography and the imagery will blow you away. *The Witch* also has a feminist perspective due to the pivotal arc given to Thomasine, who ultimately decides the outcome of the film.
3. *The Shining* (1980) – There’s no better author than Stephen King, who delivers some of the best plots for horror and suspense stories. Directed by one of the best directors of all time, Stanley Kubrick, *The Shining* is about a writer (Jack Nicholson) who tries to cure his writer’s block in a deserted hotel – and gets more than what he bargains for. The ending scene for this film will leave one realizing how messy the predicament of the film has become compared to the start. And as a bonus: there is so much symbolism in each scene.

4. *Death Becomes Her* (1992) – While lauded as campy by others, *Death Becomes Her* is one of the most iconic American films. Award-winning actress Meryl Streep, Goldie Hawn, and Bruce Willis star in this black comedy fantasy feature. In the film, two vain women compete for the adoration of a doctor – only to stumble on an immortality elixir that turns them into living corpses. This film won an Academy award for its visual effects.

5. *Feng Shui* (2004) – This Chito Rono-directed film features the original horror movie queen, Kris Aquino. If any of you have lived through the 2000s, then you would know how iconic *Lotus Feet* is. If anything, Kris Aquino as the horror queen is so extra, especially when added with the haunting song “*Si Nanay, si Nanay*” as well as the tap of the footsteps of *Lotus Feet*.

6. *How To Disappear Completely* (2013) – A young girl struggles to find a way to leave her drunken parents (Nonie and Shamaine Buencamino) in this Raya Martin-helmed horror film. The treatment is horror, addled with a *Nine Inch Nails*-inspired score. The cinematography is effective, and the script is haunting. This film also reflects the toxic side of Filipino culture, particularly with how parents raise their children.

7. *The Badabook* (2014) – A mother (Essie Davis) tries to raise her young son alone. The monster in the film is a representation of grief, made deeply haunting by the beautiful color-grading and its script; which discusses grief and loss.

8. *La Jetee* (1962) – A weird film for a late October -- early November night. *La Jetee* talks about the aftermath of World War III in Paris. This movie inspired the 1995 American science-fiction film *12 Monkeys*. Its story is haunting, and a must-watch for those into the strange and the supernatural.

9. *Mama* (2013) – After two years, two missing girls are found by their uncle. Best known for playing Jaime Lannister in HBO’s *Game of Thrones*, Nikolaj Coster-Waldau graces this film directed by Guillermo Del Toro. The plot twist will leave one grasping at straws trying to make sense of it.

10. The Company of Wolves (1984) – This film features many narratives, all that feature wolves. The main story is about a young woman and her grandmother she's staying with, due to her parents passing away. The film also tackles the mythos underneath the story of Little Red Riding Hood.

Now that you have your list of films to watch for the late October to early November period, know that there are lots of other choices to choose from. So pick one, and have fun binge-watching this Halloween!