

## *Carrie* Trailer Promises Faster Pace, Fantastic Performances

By Shea Leading

A remake of the popular horror film *Carrie*, now starring Chloë Grace Moretz and Julianne Moore, arrives in theaters October 18th. A recently released trailer for the upcoming movie prompted a trip back in time, to 1976, and the high grossing film based on Stephen King's acclaimed first novel that was also adapted for television and a musical. If you've never seen the film, I highly suggest you turn back now and go rent it. Spoilers suck.

Originally starring Sissy Spacek, *Carrie* tells the story of a teenage outcast. Carrie White is an unpopular girl, raised by a religious fanatic mother, and tormented by students and teachers alike at her school.

Some readers might be thinking, "Oh, great, another teenage-reject movie. That's original." But what really sets Carrie apart are her telekinetic powers.

Screenwriter Lawrence D. Cohen and director Brian De Palma paint Carrie's various misfortunes; she's mocked in the women's locker room, berated by her mother, and in the end, she snaps and kills anyone can get a hold on. *With her mind.*

When King wrote the book, he wanted to take the traditional Cinderella story—where a girl with a rough life gets rescued from her misery and lives happily ever after—and turn it absolutely upside down. The resulting story has the same arching theme, but ends in mayhem, which is a delight for anyone who loves a good suspenseful horror movie.

In comparison with the novel, the original screenplay really kept Carrie's powers under wraps during most of the film. Stephen King told readers very quickly that Carrie had abilities; the movie let that possibility slowly dawn on viewers. When Carrie would become emotionally distressed, a lightbulb would shatter, an ashtray would fly off a desk, or a mirror would fracture. Boorrrriinnnggg. By the time you get to the end of the movie, yes, telekinesis makes sense, but it's a such a slow trip getting there.

In this new rendition of *Carrie*, CGI has allowed some of the finer details of Carrie's telekinetic development to come out. The audience gets to see Carrie practice her skills, which was part of the book but left out of the 1976 film. When I watched the movie, I would lose



Film poster from the Internet Movie Database

interest between dramatic moments. The intense new trailer promises a faster pace which is much more suited for today's audience, and will capture even my gnat-sized attention span.

Plus, everything in the movie has been modernized. The clothing, the high school, and of course the prom dresses will match today's styles, even if the story is technically set in the 1970s.

What's most exciting about this new film, however, is the cast. Sixteen-year-old Chloë Grace Moretz, made famous for her role as Chelsea Lutz in the 2005 remake of *The Amityville Horror*, takes the next big step in her career playing Carrie White. Moretz has been cast for over 40 roles during the roughly 10 years she's been acting, the majority of which have been supporting roles in horror films. Carrie marks one of her first lead roles, as well as being in a genre right up her alley.

Moretz drew the majority of her fans for her role as Hit-Girl in *Kick-Ass*, working alongside Nicolas Cage and Christopher Mintz-Plasse. She's also played Joseph Gordon-Levitt's little sister in *(500) Days of Summer* and worked with Johnny Depp while playing Carolyn Stoddard in the big-screen reboot of *Dark Shadows*. Even as she works beside these well-known actors, Moretz has made a name for herself. I've been greatly impressed by her acting skills, especially considering she's only 15-years-old.



Film photo from the Internet Movie Database

More exciting than Moretz's casting is that of Julianne Moore playing Margaret White, Carrie's overly religious mother. When watching the trailer, anyone who has any familiarity with Moore's 30+ years of acting will immediately do a double take and mutter to themselves in wonder, "Oh, this is going to be good." I found myself attempting to find a bag of popcorn to eat while staring, wide-eyed, at the commercial which runs a mere two minutes and thirty-two seconds.

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Moore's incredible character diversity, from Clarice Starling (*Hannibal*) to Amber Waves (*Boogie Nights*) to Sarah Palin (*Game Change*),

promises an intense and thrilling performance as Margaret White. There's just something about Julianne Moore that says she can pull this off, with style. Now, all that's left to do is impatiently wait out the next six months until the new movie actually premieres.

If you're as impatient as I am, the Kindle edition of Stephen King's *Carrie* can be purchased for around \$10.