The Golden Age of Horror and Science Fiction Double Features

From the mid-1950s to the early 1970s, double features were a staple of moviegoing. And no two genres were more popular for double features than horror and science fiction. These films offered audiences a chance to escape from their everyday lives and experience the thrills and chills of the unknown.



"Twice the Thrills! Twice the Chills!": Horror and Science Fiction Double Features, 1955-1974

by Yamamoto Yasuhiro

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 4.6 out of 5
Language : English
Hardcover : 186 pages
Item Weight : 15.5 ounces

Dimensions : 6.25 x 0.8 x 9.25 inches

File size : 42654 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 433 pages



The Golden Age of horror and science fiction double features began in the mid-1950s with the release of films like *Invasion of the Body Snatchers* (1956) and *The Blob* (1958). These films were both critical and commercial successes, and they helped to revive interest in the horror and science fiction genres.

The popularity of double features continued to grow throughout the 1960s and early 1970s. During this period, some of the most iconic horror and science fiction films of all time were released, including *Psycho* (1960), *The Birds* (1963), *Night of the Living Dead* (1968), and *2001: A Space Odyssey* (1968).

Double features were also a great way for studios to experiment with new and innovative ideas. For example, the 1962 film *Carnival of Souls* was one of the first films to use a first-person perspective. And the 1968 film *Rosemary's Baby* was one of the first films to deal with the occult.

The Golden Age of horror and science fiction double features came to an end in the mid-1970s. The rise of the blockbuster film and the decline of the drive-in theater led to a decrease in the popularity of double features. However, the legacy of these films lives on. Many of the films from this era are still considered to be classics, and they continue to be enjoyed by audiences of all ages.

Top 10 Horror and Science Fiction Double Features

- 1. Invasion of the Body Snatchers (1956) and The Blob (1958)
- 2. *Psycho* (1960) and *The Birds* (1963)
- 3. Night of the Living Dead (1968) and Dawn of the Dead (1978)
- 4. 2001: A Space Odyssey (1968) and Forbidden Planet (1956)
- 5. Rosemary's Baby (1968) and The Exorcist (1973)
- 6. *Jaws* (1975) and *Alien* (1979)
- 7. The Texas Chain Saw Massacre (1974) and Halloween (1978)

- 8. *Carrie* (1976) and *The Shining* (1980)
- 9. *The Thing* (1982) and *The Fly* (1986)
- 10. Scream (1996) and I Know What You Did Last Summer (1997)

Why Horror and Science Fiction Double Features Are So Popular

There are a number of reasons why horror and science fiction double features are so popular with audiences. First, these films offer a chance to escape from the everyday world and experience the thrills and chills of the unknown. Second, horror and science fiction films often explore our deepest fears and anxieties, which can be both cathartic and entertaining. Third, these films can be very visually



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