

Jay of the Dead's Horror Movie Recommendations for Halloween Viewing

for the Geek Cast Live Podcast and Listeners

Note: For easy reference, each film's listed year matches the year shown on that film's main IMDb.com page.

2026

Jay of the Dead's 2026 Recommendations

Gateway Horror for Younger Horror Fans

Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids (2000–2011, TV series) — Animated cautionary tales about badly behaved children.

Godzilla Minus One (2023) — “The Jaws of Kaiju Movies.”

The End of Oak Street (2026) — “Essentially the Jurassic Park Jay of the Dead has always wanted”: wall-to-wall dinosaur-eating-people action

Sputnik (2020)

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Awkwardly Funny Horror

Creep (2014) — Imagine if Michael Scott were a Horror character; “Awkward and uncomfortable, but kind of funny — until it's not.”

The Wicker Man (1973) — Bizarre folk-Horror with an incredible payoff. (Also, sort of a musical!)

The Wicker Man (2006) — The funny one: Be sure to watch the unrated / director's cut

What You Wish For (2023) — “A Geek Cast Live movie”; a memorable, surprise-driven, Horror-adjacent thriller.

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Arty Horror

The Orphanage (2007) — A beautiful, sad, tragic Horror film

Crimson Peak (2015) — A stunningly beautiful Victorian haunted-house movie

Possum (2018) — For GCL. Mysterious, deeply uncomfortable, troubling

del Toro's **Frankenstein** (2025) — Guillermo del Toro's version; "great cinema," streaming on Netflix

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Social Horror

Soft and Quiet (2022) — Go in completely blind and buckle up

Speak No Evil (2022) — The original Danish film; an extremely uncomfortable cautionary tale about the perils of being too politely passive

Speak No Evil (2024) — American remake with James McAvoy; an effective variation on a theme, but watch the original first.

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Notable Horror (So Far) in 2026

Hope (2026) — Especially for GCL. A South Korean Creature Feature that becomes something more

Obsession (2025)

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Jay of the Dead's *Special Sauce* Picks

The Last Exorcism (2010) — Jay of the Dead's all-time favorite exorcism film; a surprising PG-13 movie that "packs a punch."

Chained (2012) — An unsung gem for Vincent D'Onofrio fans; disturbing captivity Horror

The Corpse of Anna Fritz (2015) — Dedicated to Nic; taboo, upsetting Spanish Horror with surprises

The Devil's Candy (2015)

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Coming Soon: October 2026 Theatrical Previews

Other Mommy (2026) — Releasing Oct. 9, "Coraline for grown-ups"; Jay of the Dead had already bought his ticket (and had a blast seeing the movie); finally, a Horror movie with a **BOLD** monster!

Whalefall (2026) — Releasing Oct. 16, Survival Horror; a modern-day Jonah-and-the-whale premise; Jay of the Dead predicts this will be a Top 10 Horror-of-the-year contender

Pretty Damn Hardcore Horror (aka “Don’t Watch With Grandma”)

Gun Woman (2014) — Extreme, gore-heavy revenge Action / Horror

Captifs / Caged (2010) — An upsetting, scary foreign Horror film involving kidnapped humanitarian workers

Real-life Horror (!)

Maternal Instinct (2026) — Netflix true-crime documentary; go in blind, but avoid it if childbirth/baby trauma is personally sensitive

FORENSIC FILES (1996–2011, **TV series**) — Your major real-life-Horror recommendation, especially these very upsetting episodes:

“Skin of Her Teeth” (2001)

“Dirty Little Secret” (2010)

- - - These bottom three, Jay of the Dead turns off at night when trying to sleep:

“Family Ties” (2009)

“Last Will” (2003)

“Invisible Intruder” (1999)

Absolutely *Terrifying* Non-Horror Movies

Touching the Void (2003) — A must-see survival documentary; “mind-blowing”

The Last Descent (2016) — Claustrophobic Utah cave-disaster, true story; Rated PG but probably the scariest movie Jay of the Dead has ever seen!

Dear Zachary: A Letter to a Son About His Father (2008) — Jay of the Dead’s strongest pick but beware: emotionally devastating true-crime documentary

Other Films Mentioned During This Episode:

Godzilla (1954)

Alien (1979)
Life (2017)
The Astronaut's Wife (1999)
Creep 2 (2017)
Midsommar (2019)
The Exorcist (1973)
The Cell (2000)
Coraline (2009)
Resident Evil (2026)
Oldboy (2003)
Planet Terror (2007)
Breakdown (1997)

2025

Geek Cast Live 12.553: “A Cautious Single Mom” — October 12, 2025

https://violentpress.com/geek-cast-live-12-553-a-cautious-single-mom/?utm_source=chatgpt.com

Drop (2025) — for a relatively mild, Hitchcockian thriller and a date night with your sweetheart; mostly suitable for a more sensitive viewer

The Rule of Jenny Pen (2024) — when you want something troubling, unusual, and fresh: a disturbing cinematic oddity about elder bullying

Errementari: The Blacksmith and the Devil (2017) — for an artistically beautiful, conceptually classic-but-creative monster tale; specifically selected for Cartoon Joe

Splinter (2008) — when you want a straightforward “working man’s” Horror movie: a fun beastly-freak / creature-feature siege narrative

Good Boy (2022) — when you want a bizarre Norwegian Horror movie that starts benignly and becomes increasingly disturbing. Go in blind!

Frailty (2001) — for a discussion-worthy, award-worthy Horror film with great writing and performances; a must-see film to show friends

Bring Her Back (2025) — when you want to become truly invested in vulnerable protagonists in danger; Jay’s No. 2 Horror film of 2025!

Weapons (2025) — Jay's No. 1 Horror film of 2025, hands down; see it without spoilers!

Warfare (2025) — Technically a War film but recommended as terrifying real-life Horror; ideal with a strong home-theater/surround-sound setup

The Poughkeepsie Tapes (2007) — for a genuinely scary, disturbing, hardcore found-footage Horror movie; perhaps a date-night choice for you and your Horror-fan sweetheart

Cruel Summer (2016) — if you want severe, realistic bullying Horror that is emotionally upsetting and cautionary. Beware!

Incident in a Ghostland (2018) — *Previously* Jay's personal No. 1 Horror film of the 2010s (until he revised it to "Midsommar" in 2026); an emotionally intense, scary, twisty, hard-hitting home-invasion nightmare. Buckle up!

The Sadness (2021) — for infected-zombie Horror at its most extreme. Not for Grandma or unprepared youths; the disturbing content is off the charts

Kidnapped (2010) — when you want something utterly soul-crushing: a Spanish home-invasion Horror film Jay of the Dead calls "the strongest and most effective of its kind."

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Additional Jay of the Dead Endorsements:

Good Boy (2025) — the separate, new dog-perspective Horror film; Jay of the Dead calls it "decent" and says to stay through the credits for a short, 10-minute, making-of documentary afterward by the director

No Escape (2015) — Jay of the Dead says 10 out of 10!

The Ritual (2017)

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Other Films Mentioned During This Episode:

Trick 'r Treat (2007)

Longlegs (2024)

Barbarian (2022)

Heretic (2024)

The Ugly Stepsister (2025)

I Spit on Your Grave (1978)

Eden Lake (2008)

V/H/S (2012) — mentioned as the start of the V/H/S film series.

2024

Geek Cast Live 11.513: “Horror Movie Sadist” — October 22, 2024

https://violentpress.com/geek-cast-live-11-513-horror-movie-sadist/?utm_source=chatgpt.com

Gateway Horror / Family Viewing

Monster House (2006) — for younger viewers or families; a PG, animated movie that is still “a legit horror story”

Fall (2022) — a tense, PG-13 survival thriller with light horror elements; especially effective if you are afraid of heights

Burning Bright (2010) — a suspenseful, more accessible horror-thriller about a woman and her autistic younger brother trapped in a house with a tiger during a hurricane

No One Will Save You (2023) — a PG-13 alien home-invasion horror movie

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Dark Comedy / Comedy Horror

Rent-A-Pal (2020) — especially poignant if you are close to your mother; Jay of the Dead says it grows increasingly upsetting and disturbing

Black Sheep (2006) — if you want something wacky: genetically altered, bloodthirsty killer sheep! Yes!

Benny Loves You (2019) — Especially for the Geek Cast Live Podcast hosts and audience: a dark, outrageous teddy-bear Horror Comedy

Butt Boy (2019) — a dead-serious absurdist dark comedy; perhaps one to watch with your significant other, just for kicks

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“Lesser Seen by the Average Person” Horror *Classics*

Motel Hell (1980) — Jay’s dependable “bring this party together” selection; pulpy Pig-Headed Horror

Maniac (1980) — for fans of grimy, disturbing, ultra-violent ‘80s Slashers, one of the best

Pumpkinhead (1988) — particularly recommended for Dads; a revenge story with real emotional weight

Black Christmas (1974) — for Christmas-Horror viewing; be sure to choose the original 1974 version, not the 2006 remake (which is still watchable) or the 2019 remake (which is unwatchable)

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Jay of the Dead's Horror Gems

Dream Home (2010) — for gore hounds and Slasher fans; Jay praises its shockingly convincing practical kill effects!

Jackals (2017) — if you want a creepy cult / siege Horror movie with family members trapped inside and cultists outside

Belief: The Possession of Janet Moses (2015) — especially for faith-minded viewers; a disturbing true-story documentary about a real-life exorcism!

Inside (2007) — for extreme, realistic-feeling French Horror; choose the 2007 French original — *not* the 2016 English-language remake

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“Actually Scary” Horror

Two Witches (2021) — a creepy, disturbing witch movie; “buckle up because it is scary”

Oddity (2024) — Jay’s top Horror film of 2024; a particularly strong “date-night” scary movie

The Dark and the Wicked (2020) — for someone who wants a genuinely scary Halloween movie; Jay of the Dead said it may make Ryan sleep with the light on.

Terrified (2017) — an Argentine Horror film that Jay of the Dead says will give you cold chills; do not confuse it with “Terrifier”

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Additional Jay of the Dead Endorsements During This Episode

When Evil Lurks (2023) — Jay’s follow-up recommendation if you like Terrified; he calls it strong and visceral

Let the Right One In (2008) — Better than the still-decent “Let Me In” (2010) remake

Funny Games (1997) — Jay of the Dead recommends the original German version

The Village (2004) — Jay of the Dead's all-time favorite film, and one he recommends to certain people who normally avoid Horror

The Thing (1982) — A Masterpiece. A 10.

The Witch (2015)

The Wretched (2019)

Train to Busan (2016)

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Other Films Mentioned During This Episode:

Hellraiser (1987)

Free Solo (2018)

127 Hours (2010)

Uncut Gems (2019)

Gravity (2013)

Thanksgiving (2023)

Hobo with a Shotgun (2011)

Bubba Ho-Tep (2002)

Maniac remake (2012)

Black Christmas (2006)

Krampus (2015)

Silent Night, Deadly Night (1984)

Peninsula (2020)

Day of the Dead (1985)

The Blair Witch Project (1999)

Caveat (2020)

The Strangers (2008)

The Strangers: Prey at Night (2018)

The Evil Dead (1981)

The Cabin in the Woods (2011)

The Vanishing / *Spoorloos* (1988) and its remake (1993)

The Hills Have Eyes (1977) and its remake (2006)

Knock at the Cabin (2023)

Terrifier (2016)