

# THE FESTIVAL of FANTASTIC FILMS

26th October to 28th October 2018

Welcome to this progress report for the Festival. Every year we start with a big task... be better than before. With 28 years of festivals under our belts it's a big ask, but from the feedback we receive expectations are usually exceeded. The biggest source of disappointment from attendees is that they didn't hear about the festival earlier and missed out on some fantastic weekends.

The upcoming 29th Festival of Fantastic Films will be held over the weekend of October 26–28 in the Manchester Conference Centre (The Pendulum Hotel) and looks set to be another cracker.

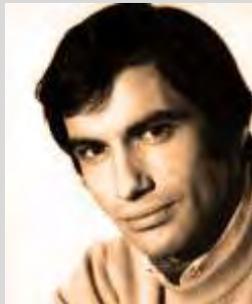
So do everyone a favour and spread the word.

## Guests

We are pleased to announce that the following guests have confirmed that they can attend



Michael Craig



Simon Andreu



Aldo Lado



Dez Skinn



Ray Brady



## A message from the Festival's Chairman



### Forward to the Festival

And so we approach the 29th Festival - a position that none of us who began it all could ever have envisioned. We thought that if it went on for about five years, we would be happy.

My biggest regret is that I am the only one of that original formation group who is still actively involved in the organisation. I'm not sure if that's because I am a real survivor or if I just don't like quitting.

Each year as we look at putting on another Festival, I think of those people who were there at the outset - Harry Nadler, Dave Trengove, and Tony Edwards, without whom the event wouldn't be what it is. Tony, of course, like me, has survived this long, although he has decided to cut down his involvement. But it's great to see him still come along, just to enjoy the proceedings.

Several regular attendees have joined in with great gusto, but in some cases have left over the years for whatever reason - but it would be remiss of me not to say that we miss them all.

After what was a highly successful event last year, we move on to plan this year's.

I do take notice of all requested guests and try to invite them, but this can meet with varying degrees of success, as some celebrities are unable to attend because of previous commitments, or just don't want to travel - we are all getting older.

As well as planning this year's event I am already looking ahead to the following year, which will be our 30th Festival - so tell me anything you would like and if it is possible and within our budget, we will see what we can do.

Have a great time at this year's 29th bash, it really wouldn't be the same without you.

Gil

# Meet the Guests



This year's guest line up for 2018 already includes that great icon of British and Australian cinema and television, actor-writer Michael Craig,

Michael won a BAFTA Best Actor nomination for his performance in 1958's great desert war movie ***Sea of Sand***.

His many memorable roles include appearances such classic films as ***Campbell's Kingdom***, ***Saphire***, festival favourite Ray Harryhausen's ***Mysterious Island***, Joseph Losey's film version of the strip cartoon ***Modesty Blaise*** and he played opposite Peter Ustinov's Hercule Poirot in ***Appointment with Death***.

Michael's 1960 screenplay for ***The Angry Silence*** won him, his brother Richard Gregson and their co-writer Bryan Forbes, Oscar nominations for Best Screenplay.

During the 1970s, he appeared in films such as Amicus's ***Vault of Horror***, and regularly featured in TV series ranging from ***The Professionals*** to ***Shoestring*** then in the 1980s, ***Triangle***, ***Tales of the Unexpected***, ***Robin of Sherwood***, the 1986 ***Dr Who*** serial ***The Trial of a Time Lord*** and many more.

He also worked extensively in Australia, appearing in such television series as ***G.P.*** for which he also wrote episodes, ***Always Greener*** and ***Grass Roots***.

He wrote and appeared in the 1976 Australian movie ***The Fourth Wish***, which starred the award-winning John Meillon.

More recently he has featured in the BBC TV series ***Doctors***.

Top Spanish actor Simon Andreu, is probably now best remembered for his villainous role opposite Piers Brosnan in his final Bond film, ***Die Another Day***. With appearances ranging from Spaghetti Westerns such as ***I Do Not Forgive - I Kill*** in 1968, to thrillers like ***Forbidden Princess***, ***Photos of a Lady Above Suspicion*** opposite one of our previous guests Dagmar Lassander, ***The Great Swindle*** with Stephen Boyd, and ***Bad Man's River*** alongside Lee Van Cleef, James Mason and Gina Lollobrigida, in 1971.

The following year, he starred in ***The Blood Spattered Bride***, a unique version of Sheridan Le Fanu's classic vampire novel ***Carmilla***.

In the last few years he has appeared in ***The Way***, opposite Martin Sheen, ***Wild Oats***, with Demi Moore, Jessica Lange and Billy Connolly and in that fine Bryan Cranston movie ***The Infiltrator***.



Italian director and screenwriter Aldo Lado has written no fewer than 26 movies between 1968 and the present.

His directorial debut in 1971 was the great giallo film ***Silent Night of Glass Dolls***, which he also wrote and which starred Ingrid Thulin and Barbara Bach. The following year he directed and co-wrote ***Who Saw Her Die***, which starred former James Bond, George Lazenby.

Sr Lado has an extensive list of 22 credits as director, ranging from thrillers to science-fiction such as ***Humanoid***, which starred ex-Bond girl Barbara Bach and one of the all-time great Bond villains, Richard Kiel, who played the steel-toothed giant nicknamed "Jaws" in two of Roger Moore's 007 films.

His 1994 film ***Power and Lovers*** starred another of our former guests Julian Glover.



Dez Skinn promises to be a very interesting guest. Nicknamed "The British Stan Lee", he became head of Marvel Comics' UK operations in the late 1970s and is a truly monumental figure in the world of graphic storytelling.

Beginning his career at IPC where he was a sub-editor on *Buster*, he left to join the comics arm of Warner Brothers where he edited *Tarzan*, *MAD UK*, and started up *House of Hammer*, which went on to win the Eagle Award of 1976.

Two years later, Dez created *Starburst*, which won him another Eagle Award, leading to American comic great Stan Lee making him Editorial Director of Marvel UK. He had even won over the BBC, gaining the licence to produce *Doctor Who Weekly*, of which he was the founding editor.

In 2010, he won yet another of his many awards, this time from Guinness for the World Record of being the man behind the longest running TV tie-in publication, *Doctor Who Weekly*. He will certainly have a lot to talk about.

If anyone deserves to be to be described as a polymath, it is Ray Brady, director, actor, producer, writer, cinematographer, composer, production designer and more...

An old friend of our festival, he came along in 1994 to show his first feature film, ***Boy Meets Girl*** and the story of its making has become the stuff of British cinema legend.

Ray was still in the first year of his degree course in film at the London College of Printing when he decided to sell his flat -and its contents - to make his film.

Shot on 16mm then blown up to 35mm, it was shown to great acclaim at film ferivals around the world before its general release, when it created a deal of controversy, not least with the then chief film censor James Ferman.

By the time Ray began the second year of his degree course, he was being employed to give lectures on how he managed to make his film and about his trials and tribulations with the BBFC. In his third year of study, he was being paid to lecture to the first year students.

Ray has since made 12 features and eght short films and will be showing his latest film, ***Psychomanteum***.



# The Festival Experience: 2017



Ruggiero Deodato



Carlotta Morelli

Many of those who attended our 2017 festival proclaimed it to be one of the best ever. It was certainly an eventful jamboree with a great list of guests and a few surprises.

Unfortunately, Peter Wynegarde had to cancel his scheduled appearance at the last moment due to ill health and sadly died just a couple of months later.

The legendary Italian director of ***Cannibal Holocaust***, Ruggiero Deodato, flew in to show his latest film, his first in English, ***Ballad in Blood***, marking its British premiere at our festival.

Ruggiero was delighted to be reunited with the young star of that film, Carlotta Morelli, another of our guests, who is rapidly making a name for herself in the likes of the BBC comedy-drama ***3 Cousins*** and in the short ***Dead Bood***, an interesting tale of the rivalry between vampires and zombies, which is planned to be expanded into a full-length feature film.

Her appearance in Ruggiero's ***Ballad in Blood***, is her first starring role in a feature film and her on-stage interview alongside Ruggiero was another highlight of the weekend.

George Hilton, star of many spaghetti westerns, Italian Giallo crime and action movies also had to cancel late in the day, so Gil was left with his return airline ticket from Rome with no chance of a refund.

Asking Ruggiero if he knew of anybody who would like to use the ticket and attend the festival, Ruggiero responded immediately:

"Yes, my brother!"

So Ruggiero flew in with his sibling, Francesco, a charming chap who brightened up proceedings throughout the weekend, as did Ruggiero, who in the middle of a sudden downpour of rain just outside the bar, launched into a full-throttle rendition of the old Harold Arlen song ***Stormy Weather***, accompanied with enthusiasm by someone who will remain nameless - to protect the guilty.

We were able to show a remarkable new British Film, ***Borley Rectory***, starring Jonathan Rigby as the legendary real-life ghost hunter Harry Price.

Following the film, Jonathan spoke entertainingly of Harry Price and of his own career as actor, historian, film researcher, critic and author of such books as ***English Gothic: A Century of Horror Cinema***, ***American Gothic*** and ***Studies in Terror: Landmarks of Horror Cinema***.



Renee Glynn



Jonathan Rigby



Lone Fleming



Camille Keating



Jenny Hanley

Film veteran Renee Glynn, a sprightly 91, recounted highlights from her remarkable continuity career, spanning over 70 years and 150 films, ranging from ***Brief Encounter*** to many early Hammer films, the Beatles' psychedelic animated feature ***Yellow Submarine***, the spaghetti western ***A Man Called Sledge*** and a host of other amazing movies.

Since her previous appearance at the festival some years ago, Renee has become a much

# The Festival Experience: 2017

sought-after celebrity and is universally regarded as one of British cinema's great national treasures.

Lone Fleming was a wonderful guest who joined wholeheartedly in the spirit of the festival, as did all of last year's guests. She really was the life and soul of the party.

Born in Denmark, Lone spoke of how she began her acting career in the somewhat warmer climes of sunny Spain, appearing in many classic genre movies, from horror to Westerns such as *Bad Man's River*, then of her recent return to her native land to make her 47th film *Escaping the Dead*

Actress Camille Keating, although born in Arkansas, is another actress who began her career far from home, in Italy, where she debuted in the title role of *What Have You Done to Solange?* She recounted how that relatively minor role led to bigger roles in the likes of *Tragic Ceremony*, *Mafia Junction* and many more before she returned to America.

That's when she found truly international fame starring as Jennifer Hills in the highly controversial revenge movie *I Spit on Your Grave*.

Her performance won her the Best Actress Award at the 1979 Sitges Film Festival, and she has just completed filming her return as Jennifer Hills in the follow-up *I Spit on Your Grave: Deja Vu*.

Another tremendous was Jenny Hanley. Daughter of actor Jimmy Hanley and actress Dinah Sheridan, Jenny followed in her parents' footsteps, winning roles in the 1969 George Lazenby Bond movie, *On Her Majesty's Secret Service* and the following year in Hammer's *The Scars of Dracula* opposite the screen's most memorable interpreter of the fanged-one, Christopher Lee.

The man who thought himself the unluckiest person to attend had an unexpected reversal of fortune.

Having travelled over to Manchester from Yorkshire specially to see Jenny Hanley's on-stage interview on Sunday afternoon, he was devastated to find that it had to be rescheduled and had already taken place earlier in the day, so he had missed it.

But when we mentioned this to Jenny, she sat down with her up-until-then disappointed fan and delighted him with a one-to-one chat for about an hour before she had to rush off for her train back to London.

Another fan who had travelled to Manchester from the south coast discovered that Jenny in fact lived just around the corner from him.



Guests: **Ruggiero Deodato, Carlotta Morelli, Camille Keaton, Lone Fleming, Renee Glynne, Jenny Hanley and Jonathan Rigby**

# The Festival Experience: 2017



So many great interviews, but the Festival is much more than just interviews....



# What you thought of the 2017 Festival

We are always happy to receive feedback and comments on the festival. Here are some comments we received:

"It was a most wondrous time for me. Thank you for making it so. And for looking after me so thoughtfully."  
Renee Glynne.

"I so enjoyed being there. Thank you Gil, you worked so hard, the festival was fun and I met some wonderful people there." Camille Keaton.

"Thoroughly enjoyed the weekend and the entertaining, lovely guests. Great to have next year's dates in my diary already!!!" Julia Kruk.

"A brilliant weekend, A perfect mix of guests." Jason Brookes.

"What a splendid event it was! Greatly enjoyed it! And it's always great to meet friends again. It would be too much to list all the Manchester regulars (Round up the usual suspects...) but you know who you are."  
Uwe Sommerlad.

"Another great weekend catching up with old friends and taking about films. Well done to all involved in organising and running another successful festival." Stuart Scott.

"A fantastic weekend of guests, films and friends." George Gaddi.

"It was so fantastic, such a great festival. Had a wonderful time. It was like meeting up with old friends. Thank you so much for everything. I had such a great time with all of you. I will come back. Big Hugs."  
Lone Fleming.



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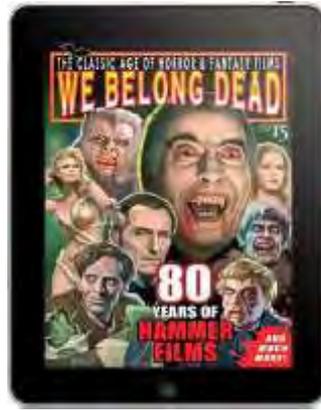
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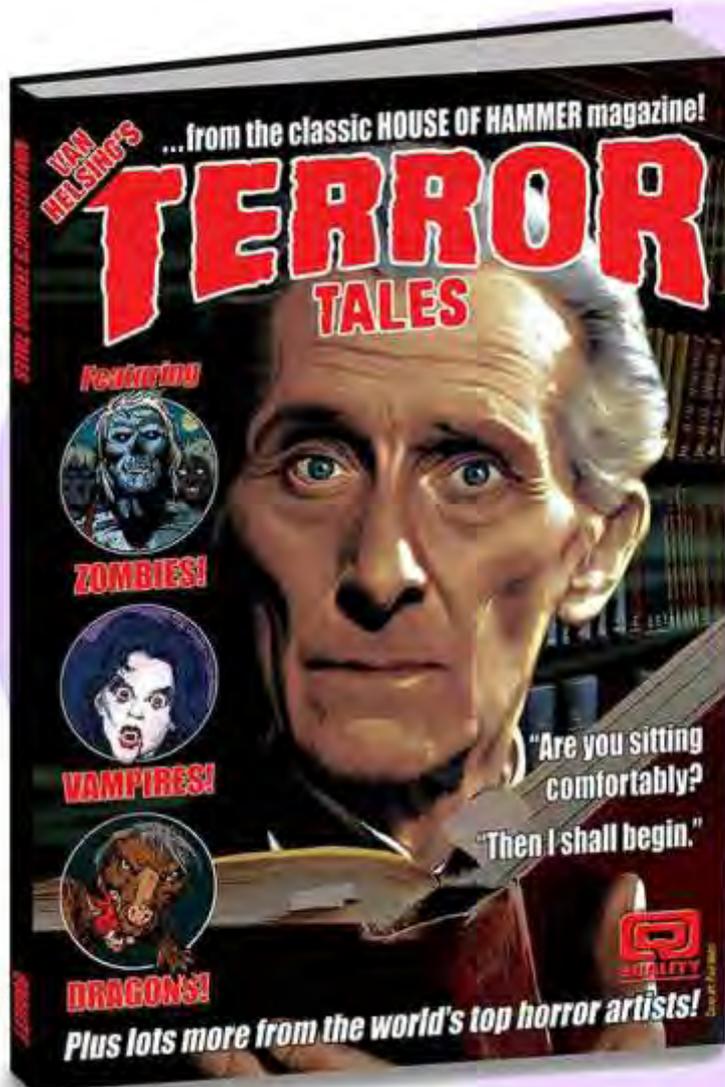
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# Membership

Rates are £85 for the full weekend of the 2018 Festival.

Day membership is: Friday £30, Saturday £40, Sunday £30.

**Child Coming With A Full Paying Adult For The Weekend Rates are:**

**Child Under 7 years - Free**

**Child 8 Years - 11 years £10**

**Child 12 years - 16 years £15**

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A screenshot of a payment form titled 'The Festival of Fantastic Films 2018'. The form includes fields for Name, Address, and Email, and a section for 'PayPal' with a 'Pay Now' button. The form is presented as a document to be scanned or emailed.

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A screenshot of a payment form titled 'The Festival of Fantastic Films 2018'. The form includes fields for Name, Address, and Bank details (Account Name, Sort Code, Account Number). It also has a section for 'Cheque' with a 'Pay Now' button. The form is presented as a document to be scanned or posted.

### **Please Note:**

Any accommodation not booked before 31st August will be charged at the regular Hotel rate. No payment is required at this point just a booking. So book please before the end of August.—preferably book earlier as the hotel may review these dates if another event occurs during the same weekend and they are offered firm bookings.

## **The Venue**

The Festival returns to the Manchester Conference Centre on Sackville Street in Manchester, a purpose-built conference centre and hotel.



The Hotel has 117 bedrooms

The hotel has offered the following prices:

**£80 B&B per room, per night.**

**If staying for 3 nights the third night is £60**

For more details check out the Centre's [website](#)

## **Help Wanted**

We have a great line-up of guests, and there will be plenty of movies to keep you all entertained. However this festival is about you, the people. So it would be good to feature some 'tales of past festivals'. Please send in some memories and photographs so that we can capture what this has meant for all of us.

We are also looking for some help during the festival, on the front desk, helping guests, gophers, etc. So please spare some time and volunteer.

Contact Gil on [gil@manchesterfantasticfilms.co.uk](mailto:gil@manchesterfantasticfilms.co.uk)