

THE FESTIVAL of FANTASTIC FILMS

26th October to 28th October 2018

Welcome to this progress report for the Festival. 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, from the feedback we have received so far, you are all looking forward to it.

We are very pleased to be able to add some more great guests to the festival



David Weston



Dawn Lyn



Fred Williams



Luigi Cozzi

The above will join the guests below, who have already confirmed their intention to attend, promising to make this year's festival another truly unforgettable weekend.



Michael Craig



Simon Andreu



Aldo Lado



Dez Skinn



Ray Brady

Please Note: All guests are subject to work commitments

A message from the Festival's Chairman



Forward to the Festival

I think that the guests attending this year's event must be just about the most numerous we have had at any event over the last 29 years. David Weston was first invited in 1993 but was unable to make it because of commitments, however we didn't give up and it is a real pleasure to have him come along this year. We have also tried to have Luigi Cozzi attend the festival before but he too has had the same difficulties with business commitments, so it's also great to have him confirm his attendance.

Michael Craig has always been one of my favourite actors and I have fond memories of ***Sea of Sand***, ***Campbell's Kingdom*** and many other excellent movies he has appeared in over the years, so it is a great personal pleasure to have him accept our invitation.

As next year will be our 30th anniversary, I wonder if we can persuade some of those who for one reason or another have ceased to attend over the years, or have been somehow unable to attend, to return to the fold. Please have a think and if you know any of those people, do try to see if they can be persuaded to return for the historic event.

I am open to suggestions for the 30th (I can't promise to make any commitments) but I will certainly be grateful for any suggestions.

Thanks to all those who have helped this year – it couldn't have been done without you.

I just wish everyone great time at this year's festival.

Gil

Retrospective Programme.

Presented by Stuart Scott

What do you want to see?



Really?

Welcome to the Retrospective Room at the 29th Festival of Fantastic Films - wow, that's nearly as old as me! Old age, or age old, is what we are about here, films you may have missed, wish to revisit, never heard of or never thought you'd track down on a large screen. Fans old and new congregate to view the obscurities, the rightly and wrongly forgotten and the classics of the genre.

So this year we fluctuate between 1944 and 1977, with works from Universal, A.I.P., Toho and numerous other studios and independents. Karloff, Carradine, Lee along with Cameron Mitchell, William Marshall and Dennis Hopper all feature in a range of roles, not all familiar. America, Britain, Japan and Hong Kong all appear in the line up, with favourite monsters, giant animals and insects, babies and buildings competing to give you thrills and nightmares, all designed to send you away with a better appreciation of how much is scary out there.

Fans of men in furry monster suits are also well served, with CGI and motion capture left to other new-fangled offerings elsewhere; we prefer things that way in the Room. Keep an eye out for the notice board outside the room for all films and times, there may also be a couple of short films as supporting features if they are brought along. As previously films will not be shown during guest appearances in the main theatre, allowing time to attend the interviews and get the backgrounds to favourite films (and backstage shenanigans with any luck).

Fingers crossed, we can proceed without any technical difficulties — and everything possible will be prepared to ensure the films are screened in their allotted time slot.

Definitely worth leaving the bar for. Review notes should be in the Programme but any queries just ask, there will be the usual mixed bodybag of thrills for your delectation and delight. Tell your friends and enjoy!

Cheers -

Stuart

Meet the Guests

Luigi Cozzi

The noted Italian writer-director is a very busy man, but will be making a rare appearance at this year's festival.

A science fiction enthusiast from a very early age, young Luigi began by making 8mm films, then properly kick-started his media career as a foreign correspondent for such legendary mags as *Famous Monsters of Filmland*, edited by our former guest Forrest J Ackerman.

Luigi's first feature film, made in 1969 was a version of Frederik Pohl's sci-fi story *The Tunnel Under the World*, which despite its low budget, brought 21-year-old Luigi to the attention of top director Dario Argento.

This led to work on the scripts of Argento's films *Four Flies on Grey Velvet* and *The Five Days*, before Luigi's return to directing with his Argento-influenced giallo, *The Killer Must Kill Again*, in 1973.

His big budget sci-fi break came in the wake of the worldwide success of *Star Wars*, when, in 1977, Luigi found investors for his screenplay of an intergalactic tale originally entitled *The Adventures of Stella Star*.

Released as *Star Crash*, the film featured our frequent festival favourite guest Caroline Monro, in the role of Stella Star, alongside America's former child evangelist Marjoe Gortner. The film also starred that renowned fugitive from *The Sound of Music* Christopher Plummer and future beach-running lifeguard David Hasselhoff.

Stories abound about the movie's making, from food poisoning on set to the reels of finished film being kidnapped by political activists, so it will be highly interesting to hear Sr Cozzi's confirmation or denial of the legion of legends. For example - did Christopher Plummer complete all his scenes in just one day?

A sequel was planned but finally didn't materialise, however Luigi went on to write and direct another sci-fi feature, *Contamination*, (aka *Alien Contamination*) in 1980, again using the pseudonym of Lewis Coates.

Reputedly shot in just eight weeks, it's an appetising tale of alien pod spores eager to devour humans using flesh-eating acid, and starred another of our festival alumni, Ian McCulloch.

Between writing novels, Luigi was given the opportunity to make a version of the story of *Hercules*, on the proviso that he could come up with a screenplay in just a few weeks. True to form, he managed that, writing then directing the film in 1983, with TV's *Incredible Hulk*, Lou Ferrigno, in the title role.

The picture was so successful that it spawned a sequel, *The Adventures of Hercules*, again written and directed by "Lewis Coates".

Work with Dario Argento and Lamberto Bava followed, along with TV projects and then writing and directing the feature *Paganini Horror*, starring Donald Pleasance in 1989, which referred to the legend that the illustrious violinist had sold his soul to Satan.



Luigi again teamed up with Caroline Monro to make *The Black Cat* (aka *Demons 6: De Profundis*) and has since made a couple of documentaries on Dario Argento, as well as running Profondo Rosso, the Argento movie memorabilia shop and museum in Rome.

Since it opened in 1989, Profondo Rosso has become a truly international success, a meeting place for fans and horror aficionados from all over the world, including Tim Burton, Alice Cooper, Rob Zombie and many more.

Luigi will be taking a weekend off to attend our festival and bringing along his latest film, *Blood on Melies Moon*, a fusion of sci-fi, horror, giallo and adventure, featuring performances by Luigi himself, Lamberto Bava and Dario Argento.

This will be its northern premiere.

Fred Williams

Bavarian-born actor Fred Williams (Freidrich Wilhelm Locherer) has featured in over 40 films since the early 1960s.

His appearance in Federico Fellini's 1965 film *Juliet of the Spirits* led to roles in *Agelique and the King* and in the two-part full colour remake of Fritz Lang's *Die Nibelungen* made in 1966.

Many starring roles followed, but he is probably best remembered by horror enthusiasts for his role as Jonathan Harker in Jess Franco's 1970 epic *Count Dracula* in which Christopher Lee again fanged-up as the noble blood-sucker, this time sporting a Zapata moustache.

It had been reported at the time that Mr Lee was bored of being constantly cast as the great vampire, but was lured into making this one with assurances that it would be truer to Bram Stoker's novel than any previous version.

But in the end, this being a Jess Franco movie, produced by the amazingly successful international wheeler-dealer producer Harry Alan Towers, ("Towers of London"), certain liberties were taken vis-a-vis the original novel...

Jess later claimed that Klaus Kinski, who played Renfield (without lines, just making guttural noises), actually ate real flies, rather than the prop ones made of chocolate.

It's also said that the scenes featuring Christopher Lee and Herbert Lom (as Dr Van Helsing) were shot without the two actors ever being on the same set at the same time.

Hopefully Fred Williams will be able to shed true light on some of these stories.



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Meet the Guests

David Weston

London-born David Weston became a founder member of the National Youth Theatre, in which he was a regular performer, landing such meaty roles as Mark Antony and Falstaff in productions ranging from the West End, to Edinburgh, Rome, Paris and Berlin.

His contemporaries were Derek Jacobi, Martin Jarvis and Ian McShane.

Following National Service, David was awarded the King George VI Scholarship to RADA, where he won the Silver Medal in 1961.

Much of his subsequent career has been in the theatre, appearing in no fewer than 29 Shakespeare plays, eight of them directed by Sir Trevor Nunn.

A memorable 1962 TV performance of *Romeo and Juliet*, in which he played Romeo opposite Jane Asher's Juliet, led to a series of films during the 1960s.

These include *Doctor in Distress* with Dirk Bogarde, *Becket* alongside Richard Burton and Peter O'Toole, *Witchcraft*, with Lon Chaney Jr., Roger Corman's *Masque of the Red Death*, with Vincent Price, Hazel Court and Jane Asher and many more.

His many television appearances include *UFO*, *The Tomorrow People* and in two *Dr Who* series - *The Massacre*, opposite William Hartnell in 1966 and *Warrior's Gate* with Tom Baker in 1981.

More recently, David appeared in Sir Trevor Nunn's TV production of *King Lear* with Ian McKellan in the title role.

David spent a year in Trevor Nunn's Royal Shakespeare Company tour of the play, as Ian McKellan's understudy, which led to him writing the award-winning *Covering McKellen: An Understudy's Tale*, in 2011.

He has since written another highly acclaimed book on his work with the Bard: *Covering Shakespeare: An Actor's Saga of Near Misses and Dogged Endurance*.

His two novels featuring the further adventures of Charles Dickens's great character from *Oliver Twist*, The Artful Dodger: *Dodger - Down Under* and *Dodger Treads the Boards*, have also met with great acclaim.

His most recent novel *Luciano's War* concerns the Mafia Don and his contribution to WWII.



Meet the Guests

Dawn Lyn

Born in Los Angeles in 1963, Dawn's parents were both actors and her first film appearance was at the age of four in the western ***Cry Blood, Apache***.

Co-directed by the actor-stuntman Robert Tessier (who appears in Luigi Cozzi's ***Star Crash*** as Chief Thor), ***Cry Blood, Apache*** featured Lyn's mum and dad, Carolyn Stellar and Rik Nervik. In fact, the character played by her father, Billy Dawson, kills the character played by her mum, Cochalla.

At the age of seven, Dawn was cast in the long-running American TV series ***My Three Sons*** and went on to make appearances in ***Emergency!***, ***Gunsmoke***, ***Marcus Welby M.D.***, ***Adam 12***, ***Harry O***, ***Mannix***, ***Wonder Woman*** and many more.

Her first major feature film role was playing Gregory Peck's daughter in the 1971 western ***Shoot Out***, directed by Henry Hathaway and produced by Hal Wallis, the team behind John Wayne's Oscar-winning ***True Grit*** just a couple of years before.

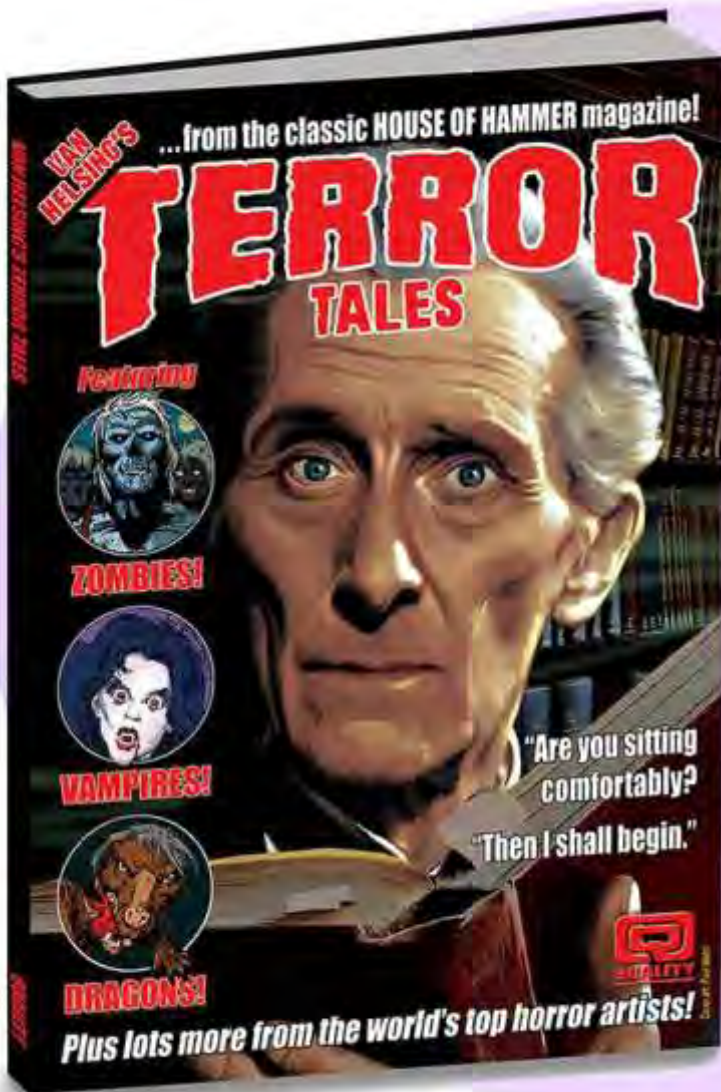
Dawn auditioned for the lead in ***The Exorcist***, but aged just ten, was considered too young, so the part went to 14-year-old Linda Blair.

Dawn went on to feature as the daughter of real-life lawman Bufford Pusser, played by Joe Don Baker in the 1973 film ***Walking Tall***. She really made the role her own, appearing as Dwana Pusser again in the two film follow ups, ***Walking Tall Part II*** (1975) and ***Final Chapter: Walking Tall*** (1977), in both of which Bo Svenson took over the role of the super sheriff.

In 1974, Dawn appeared in cult-horror film ***Devil Times Five*** (aka ***Tantrums***, ***Peopletoy***s and ***Horrible House on the Hill***), alongside her brother Leif Garrett and her mum.

In fact, one of the highlights of this tale of torturing teens is when Dawn's character Moe empties a pail of piranhas into a bath to see off the character played by Dawn's real-life mum, Carolyn Stellar...





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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.

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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 PayPal payment form for the Festival of Fantastic Films 2018. The form includes fields for Name, Address, and Email, and a section for membership details. The header features the festival logo and the text 'The Festival of Fantastic Films 2018'.

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A screenshot of a BACS payment form for the Festival of Fantastic Films 2018. The form includes fields for Name, Address, and Bank details, and a section for membership details. The header features the festival logo and the text 'The Festival of Fantastic Films 2018'.

Hotel Rooms

Please Note:

Virtually all the rooms in the Manchester Conference Centre have been booked over the Festival weekend. Therefore if you were looking to book a hotel room we would recommend booking at alternative hotels.

[The Ibis Hotel](#) is just around the corner and many Festival members have stayed there over past Festivals