

Now in it's 30th Year

THE FESTIVAL OF
FANTASTIC
FILMS

25th - 27th October 2019

Welcome to the second progress report for the thirtieth festival. A milestone number and we have been working hard to ensure that this year's festival exceeds your expectations. Many of you have been with us from the start, others have joined more recently and keep telling us that they wish they had come earlier.

Help us celebrate the past thirty years by sharing your memories of festivals past. Send us your photographs and tell us what you remember. We hope to include some of these in the festival programme book.



NEW GUEST:

Writer/Director/Special Effects and Make-up Design supremo Giannetto De Rossi will attend the Festival

It's great to be able to announce that two phenomenal festival favourites have also now confirmed that they will attend this year's event:



Actress Janina Faye, star of Hammer's 1958 *Dracula*, *Never Take Sweets from a Stranger*, *The Hands of Orlac*, *The Day of the Triffids*, and many more.



And cult director Norman J. Warren, the man who re-invented the modern horror film with the likes of *Terror*, *Prey*, *Satan's Slave*, *Bloody New Year* and *Inseminoid*.

Guests

The following guests have confirmed that they can attend (subject to work commitments).



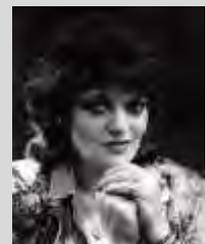
Deirdre Costello



Pauline Peart



Lawrence Gordon Clark



Dana Gillespie

A message from the Festival's Chairman

As some of you may have read on Facebook – I plan to continue the festival beyond this year so it will be great to continue seeing you. Next year's dates will be from Oct 30 - Nov 1, 2020 (Hallowe'en)

This year's event is a real milestone, being our 30th. It begins on Friday October 25th and it is with the greatest pleasure and gratitude that I say thanks to all of you who have kept us going this long - and especially to those who have been around for quite a while.

I would also like to say thank-you to the people, too numerous to mention, who have helped us to run and keep running the event. Sadly some are no longer with us but it is fair to say that they will continue to be remembered fondly.

After a couple of years when the main guests have been men, it is great to have a fine selection of the fairer sex attending this year to entertain and enthral us by recalling their own experiences on film and television.

I look forward to seeing you all again this year and hope that you enjoy yourselves.

All the best

Gil

Editor's Note: Gil seems to have spent 2003 avoiding all cameras, so please let us know if you have any pictures of him taken that year.



2000



2001



2002



2003



2004



2005



2006



2007



2008



2009

The banner features a green background with several items: on the left, a book cover for 'She' with a woman's face; next to it, a book cover for 'The World's Best of Summer's Best Series'; in the center, the Peveril Publishing logo which includes a silhouette of an elephant and the text 'PEVERIL publishing'; on the right, two DVD covers for 'FANTASTIC FILMS THE OSCARs VOLUME 2: THE 30s'.

peverilpublishing.co

Meet the Guests

The latest guest to confirm his attendance at this year's Festival is Italian director, writer, special effects man, makeup designer and much more, Giannetto De Rossi.

A real master of all cinematic trades, his film credits began in the 1960s, including work with Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor on ***The Taming of the Shrew*** and ***Dr Faustus***, then with Sergio Leone on ***Once Upon a Time in the West***, etc.

The 1970s saw him employed on the likes of Sergei Bondarchuk's epic ***Waterloo***, with Rod Steiger, Orson Welles and Christopher Plummer, ***The Valachi Papers***, with Charles Bronson, Bertolucci's ***1900***, ***Fellini's Casanova***, Aldo Lado's ***The Humanoid*** and many more.

However, it was his spectacular work for Lucio Fulci which brought Giannetto big time international acclaim.

Sr Fulci hired him to come up with some really special effects for the film which was subsequently dubbed "the goriest in the history of cinema".

That was ***Zombi 2***, (aka ***Zombie Flesh Eaters***, ***Nightmare Island*** etc) which starred our previous guest Ian McCulloch.

It was a sort of sequel to George A Romero's 1978 ***Dawn of the Dead***, which had been retitled ***Zombi*** for its Italian release.

Although the film's direction is credited to Lucio Fulci, Giannetto is thought to have been responsible for filming the underwater shark scene in which the big fish's "handler" played a somewhat precocious zombie attacking the man-eater in the Gulf of Mexico.

Giannetto's fabulous special effects make-up work on ***Zombi 2*** led to two further collaborations with Lucio Fulci, ***The Beyond*** and ***House by the Cemetery***.

Top producer Dino De Laurentiis was so impressed by Giannetto's work that he had him collaborate with Carlo Rambaldi on two films made in Mexico, David Lynch's version of Frank Herbert's classic sci-fi novel ***Dune***, and Arnold Schwarzenegger's second outing as Conan, the barbarian muscleman in ***Conan The Destroyer***.

Giannetto also worked on ***Rambo III*** with Sylvester Stallone and on James Cameron's feature debut, ***Piranha II***.

Having designed the featured creature for 1989's ***Killer Crocodile***, Giannetto was awarded his directorial debut with ***Killer Crocodile 2***, which he also co-wrote, as he did when he directed his second feature ***Cy Warrior***.

His seemingly endless creative output includes designing the mask worn by Leonardo di Caprio in ***The Man in the Iron Mask*** (which was reputedly made out of polystyrene) and much more, which he will surely expand upon during his much anticipated festival visit.



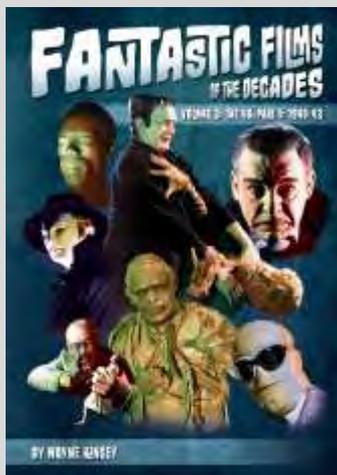
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Taking a chronological look at horror, science fiction and fantasy movies from 1940-43. 89 films/serials are discussed with separate pages dedicated to Film Legends – actors and prominent filmmakers – and others index linking film series. Plus introductory pages for each year giving the topical news headlines with Oscar buzz to keep our films in context.

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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 Pendulum Hotel on Sackville Street in Manchester, a purpose-built conference centre and hotel.



The Hotel has 117 bedrooms.

It has offered the following prices:

Friday £80, Saturday £80 & Sunday £60

(B&B per room)

If staying for all 3 nights: £220

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

THE FESTIVAL OF FANTASTIC FILMS

The second decade

2000

Martine Beswick is probably best known for her appearances in two of the classic James Bond movies, *From Russia with Love* and *Thunderball*. In the former, she played one of the gypsy women in the memorable cat fight preceding the big gun battle. Hammer films signed her up for their foray into the distant past, *One Million Years B.C.* opposite Raquel Welch wearing what was memorably described as "mankind's first fur bikini". Perhaps that should have read "womankind"... However, Martine went on to star in Hammer's unofficial follow-up, *Prehistoric Women*, in 1967, before her unforgettable appearance in Peter Sasdy's *Dr Jekyll and Sister Hyde*, in which she played the good doctor's evil sibling.



One of Britain's most talented and certainly most versatile directors, Val Guest returned to Manchester where he had filmed the classic police procedural thriller *Hell is a City* in 1959, to appear at our 11th festival. A sprightly 88, he bounced onto the stage like someone 50 years younger to talk extensively about his 40 years behind the camera making such classics as *The Quatermass Xperiment*, *Quatermass 2*, *The Abominable Snowman*, *The Day the Earth Caught Fire*, *When Dinosaurs Ruled the Earth* and many more.

Italian director Antonio Margheriti (aka Anthony M. Dawson) regaled us with tales of his remarkable career in film, from science fiction, such as *Battle of the Worlds*, starring Hollywood's original *Invisible Man*, Claude Rains, to sword-and-sandal epics (*Giants of Rome*), horror (*Castle of Blood*) featuring Barbara Steele, westerns (*Take a Hard Ride*) with Jim Brown and Lee Van Cleef, as well as the first European film set in the Vietnam war, *The Last Hunter*, with our 1996 festival's guest David Warbeck, who went on to star in two more Margheriti movies, *Hunters of the Golden Cobra* and *Tiger Joe*.



2000

The amazingly prolific Brian Clemens was script editor, associate producer and writer for ITV's ground-breaking early 1960s series ***The Avengers***.

Alongside scripts for many other classic television series such as ***Danger Man***, ***The Baron*** and ***The Persuaders***, his big screen credits included producing Hammer's ***Dr Jekyll and Sister Hyde***, as well as directing ***Captain Kronos - Vampire Hunter*** (both of which he also wrote).

After considering over 500 actresses for the part of Purdy in ***The New Avengers***, it was Brian who chose Joanna Lumley for the role which made her famous.



For Spanish-born screenwriter, director, playwright and painter, Jorge Grau, this was his first visit to our Festival, but not to Manchester, as he had filmed much of his 1974 horror hit ***The Living Dead at the Manchester Morgue*** in the city and on various locations around the north of England.



Having attended film school in Italy, Jorge had become a huge fan of the films of neo-realist Roberto Rossellini, especially his use of real locations.

He recalled that in ***The Living Dead at the Manchester Morgue*** (a.k.a ***Let Sleeping Corpses Lie*** among its 14 other titles worldwide) actor Fernando Kilbeck, playing a zombie who had been drowned in a river, was none too pleased when the director insisted on keeping him soaking wet for the entire film.

The lovely Janina Faye made a welcome return to the Festival, as did Britain's legendary stuntman Eddie Powell, who had been such a success with his remarkable stories of daring-do the year before, that he came back this following year to continue the account of his life in films. Eddie spoke of his appearance as almost every single German soldier dramatically killed in 1964's ***633 Squadron***, as well as performing the stunts as the creature in Ridley Scott's ***Alien***. He doubled for Clint Eastwood in ***Kelly's Heroes*** and ***Where Eagles Dare*** (which its stars memorably renamed "Where Doubles Dare"). It looked as if Eddie had really hit the big time as Clint's stunt double, but as he ruefully recalled, "He went back to America and didn't make any more films in Europe..."



Two great guests so enjoyed their appearances at our event during the previous decade that they became regular attendees - producer Richard Gordon and director Norman J. Warren. Hugely popular and much esteemed by everyone, they fully joined in with all the annual goings-on throughout this second decade.

2000

Fondly remembered as the star of Hammer's 1971 film *Blood from the Mummy's Tomb*, Valerie Leon had been a guest in 1996, but returned to recall more about her double role in that Hammer classic, as well as her appearances in no fewer than seven *Carry On* films, and her roles in *Queen Kong*, as well as two Bonds, *The Spy Who Loved Me*, with Roger Moore and *Never Say Never Again* alongside Sean Connery.

2001

This year marked the welcome return of our first guest in 1990, pioneering animator Ray Harryhausen and the first appearance of that other Hollywood legend, and polymath Forest J Ackerman.

A hale-and-hearty 85-year-old, Forry won international fame as editor and chief scribe of the magazine "Famous Monsters of Filmland". Also known as The Ackermmonster, he was renowned as the first person to coin the phrase "sci-fi" and accumulated probably the largest collection of horror and science fiction memorabilia in the world, which he housed in his 18-room home and museum known as The Ackermansion, which was visited over the years by more than 50,000 fans of fantastic films.

He acted as a literary agent for such famous science fiction authors as Ray Bradbury, Isaac Azimov and A.E. van Vogt among others and also served as what he called "illiterary agent" for writer-director Ed Wood.

Forry recalled his friendships with these greats as well as cinema giants like Fritz Lang.



Spain's most famous werewolf (on screen), writer-director-actor, Paul Naschy also appeared in films portraying his own versions of Count Dracula, Frankenstein's monster, the Hunchback of Notre Dame, The Mummy and Fu Manchu, and in so many other varied roles that he was awarded Spain's Gold Medal Award for Fine Arts by King Juan Carlos.

Although the award was the equivalent of a knighthood, Paul Naschy really was the King of Spanish horror movies, a charming gentleman and a great boost to this year's Festival.

Also greatly adding to the event with return visits were much esteemed regular guests Janina Faye, Richard Gordon and Norman J. Warren.

2002



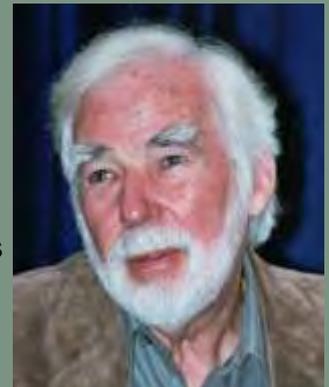
British director John Hough cut his directing teeth on TV's *The Avengers*, before branching into feature films with some terrific horror-suspense pictures such as *Sudden Terror*, and Hammer's *Twins of Evil*, the Disney sci-fi pic *Escape to Witch Mountain*, and the remarkable, *The Legend of Hell House* scripted by Richard Matheson.

John attended the festival just after finishing filming the Jack the Ripper horror thriller *Bad karma* (aka *Hell's Gate*).

Composer of many marvellous film scores, John Scott was one of Britain's great jazz saxophonists, flautists and clarinetists, originally finding fame as jazzman Johnny Scott, he appeared as himself in the terrific 1962 British film *All Night Long*, an updated jazz-themed version of Shakespeare's *Othello*.

John had become one of Britain's most sought-after session musicians and his talent as an arranger was soon noted, leading to work with the top pop artists of the day including the Beatles.

John's big breakthrough as a film composer came with his fine score for the very fine 1965 Sherlock Holmes film *A Study in Terror*, which led to his writing and often conducting over 150 super scores including *The Final Countdown*, High Hudson's *Greystoke: the Legend of Tarzan*, Charlton Heston's *Antony and Cleopatra* and such cult classics as Ted Kotcheff's *Wake in Fright* and Norman J. Warren's *Her Private Hell*, *Satan's Slave* and the award-winning score for *Inseminoid*.



Mel Welles, who memorably played the flower shop owner Gravis Mushnick in Roger Corman's 1960 horror-farce *The Little Shop of Horrors*, turned up at the festival wearing a grey fedora hat which he proudly stated had belonged to actor Laird Reggar, star of the 1945 film versions of *The Lodger* and *Hangover Square* after which he promptly died aged only 30.

It must be said that, hat or no hat, Mel bore a remarkable resemblance to the Hollywood star.

Following his extensive career in American film and TV and the success of the Corman film, Mel left America for Italy where Rome's Cinecittà studios was busy producing films for the international market. In the early 1960s, the Via Veneto hosted the real-life *Dolce Vita*, and Mel found work as an actor-producer-director until he returned to the US in the 1970s.

2003

American actor David Hess is probably best remembered for his portrayal of psychotic sadists in the likes of Wes Craven's notorious 1972 feature, ***The Last House on the Left*** and Ruggero Deodato's ***The House on the Edge of the Park***.

In real life, David was the opposite of the psychos and nut jobs he played on screen. A talented musician, in his twenties he recorded "All Shook Up" a year before it became a hit for Elvis.

Recruited to be a songwriter for Shalimar music, David was at one time based in New York's legendary Brill Building, alongside pop composers such as Antonio Carlos Jobim, Leiber and Stoller etc.

In between writing songs for Elvis, which featured in the films ***Paradise Hawaiian Style*** and ***Frankie and Johnny***, David wrote and recorded "Speedy Gonzalez", which later became a huge hit for Pat Boone on both sides of the Atlantic.

A real highlight of our annual Dead Dog Party to round off the Festival was when David appeared with his guitar, to give a rousing unforgettable performance of "Speedy Gonzalez".



Bolton-born Michael Armstrong had established himself when still in his twenties with his award-winning 1969 short film ***The Image***, which starred the young David Bowie in his first film role.

Our old Festival friend, producer Tony Tenser saw potential in the young film maker and gave him the opportunity to write and direct his first feature ***The Haunted House of Horror***, starring American heart-throb Frankie Avalon.

However, it was Michael's following picture, ***Mark of the Devil***, with Herbert Lom and Udo Keir, which truly established the 26-year-old internationally, being a massive success in America and throughout Europe.

Michael also wrote the 1977 film ***The Black Panther*** about real life murderer Donald Neilson. Although somewhat vilified as being exploitative on first release, it is now regarded much more favourably. Michael's screenplay for the 1983 comedy-horror, ***House of Long Shadows***, which starred Peter Cushing, Vincent Price, John Carradine and Christopher Lee was directed by another festival guest of our first decade, Pete Walker.

Michael was a big hit at the festival and enjoyed it so much that he returned in 2005 and 2013.



2004

Although Jeremy Bulloch's acting credits go back to his teenage years in the 1950s, he won featured roles in such iconic British musicals as Billy Fury's 1962 smash hit ***Play it Cool*** and Cliff Richards' 1963 blockbuster ***Summer Holiday***, as well as a plethora of film and TV roles, including two ***Dr Who*** series (1965's ***The Space Museum*** and ***The Time Warrior*** in 1974) and three James Bond films, it was his role as Boba Fett in 1983's ***Star Wars Episode VI - Return of the Jedi***, that brought the Trekkies pouring in.

The huge success of the character came not only as a big surprise to Jeremy, but to producer George Lucas too.



Having first appeared at our festival in 1997, screenwriter and producer Tudor Gates returned to expand on his career writing for TV in the 1950s and 1960s then graduating to the big screen with work on major European productions such as ***Barbarella*** and ***Danger Diabolique*** in 1968, before writing his Hammer trilogy ***The Vampire Lovers***, ***Lust for a Vampire*** and ***Twins of Evil***.



Best known for her roles in Hammer films of the late 1950s and early 1960s, Yvonne Monlaur's incandescent beauty made her a real rival to her contemporary Brigitte Bardot.

Beginning work as a fashion model, the young Yvonne was soon in demand for films in France and Italy. In 1959 one Italian newspaper pronounced that she was the most promising young actress of the year.

She arrived on the British horror scene in Anglo Amalgamated's ***Circus of Horrors***, in 1960 but it was at Hammer's Bray Studios that she really made her mark, first in ***The Brides of Dracula*** opposite Peter Cushing, then in ***Terror of the Tongs*** with Christopher Lee and Geoffrey Toone.

After that, she resumed her film career in France but her three British movies won her lasting a place in film fans' hearts. A lovely lady, she was a fantastic guest.



2005



Cult Italian director Ruggero Deodato recalled that his idea to drum up publicity for his notorious movie ***Cannibal Holocaust*** almost landed him in jail.

He asked the film's stars to go to ground when the film was released and rumours abounded that they had actually been killed in the movie and the deaths depicted on screen were filmed for real. Finally the actors had to be produced to prove this "snuff movie" rumour was incorrect.

Robin Askwith's film career began when he was still a teenager, in Lindsay Anderson's film, ***If*** in 1968 which won the Palme D'or at the Cannes Film Festival.

Robin recalled his first horror film, ***Tower of Evil*** (aka ***Horror on Snape island***) produced by regular festival guest Richard Gordon in 1972. Later the same year, Robin featured in Pete Walker's ***The Flesh and Blood Show*** had a leading role in the highly-regarded Italian director Pier Paolo Pasolini's ***Canterbury Tales*** before co-starring with Michael Gough in ***Horror Hospital*** the following year.

Then came Val Guest's ***Confessions of a Window Cleaner*** in 1974 which established Robin in the public's affections as cheekie-chappie Timothy Lee and he starred in its three follow-ups.

The son of cinematographer, writer, director Ronald Neame, Christopher Neame became a greatly respected film writer and producer in his own right, making such films as 1971's ***The Beast in the Cellar***, and ***The Awakening of Emily***, which starred Koo Stark in 1976.

Christopher was also the man behind many successful TV series including ***Danger U.X.B.***, ***The Flame Trees of Thika***, ***The Irish R.M.***, and the 1996 film ***A Feast in July***, among others.



WE BELONG
DEAD





One of the great unsung heroes of British film and television, producer-director Peter Graham Scott spoke at fascinating length about his remarkable career which spanned over 40 years.

Beginning as an actor, after World War II, he became an assistant film director, then film editor, working on such prestigious movies as *Brighton Rock*, before taking up directing duties in the 1950s with pioneering TV series such as *Danger Man* and *Sir Francis Drake*.

He added the "Graham" to his name so as not to be confused with the naturalist Peter Scott.

The 1960s saw him direct film comedies like *The Pot Carriers*, *The Cracksman*, with renowned TV comic Charlie Drake, followed by the 1964 comedy *Father Came Too*, which starred Leslie Phillips, James Robertson Justice and Stanley Baxter.

This was alongside his steady TV work, including *The Avengers*, *Redcap*, *The Prisoner* and *Zero One*, which he succinctly described as: "Danger Man in an airport".

He also acted as producer on classic BBC series such as *Mogul*, *The Borderers* and *The Onedin Line*.

The multi-talented Warwick Davis's short stature belies his huge talent, which has graced both *Star Wars* and *Harry Potter* films.

His first big break came when Warwick was just 11 and his grandmother came across an advertisement for people who were 4 ft tall or less to appear in the new *Star Wars* film, *Return of the Jedi*, in 1982.

Already a big *Star Wars* fan, Warwick couldn't believe his luck, but it became even better, when he was awarded the leading ewok role of Wicket.



And this led, five years later, to *Star Wars* producer George Lucas, casting Warwick in the title role of the fantasy adventure *Willow*, opposite Val Kilmer.

Warwick spoke of these films at length, as well as his title role in all six of the *Leprechaun* movies, and his then recent role as Marvin the Paranoid Android in the film of Douglas Adams' cult classic *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*.



2006



From film comedy, as Inspector Clouseau's manservant Kato to Japanese prisoner-of-war camp commandant in TV's *Tenko*, Burt Kwouk was a staple of British film and television for over 50 years.

Almost every film set in the Far East during WWII or afterwards featured Burt, as a Chinese, Japanese or Korean and even a Vietnamese in *The Lost Command* in 1966, although few viewers noticed that he spoke Cantonese, not Vietnamese.

He also appeared in three Bond movies, *Goldfinger* in 1964 and two in 1967, *Casino Royale* and *You Only Live Twice*.

Among his 150 credits in film and television, are the *Dr Who* series *Four to Doomsday* in 1982, Stephen Spielberg's 1987 feature *Empire of the Sun*.

With parents who were both actors, it seemed inevitable that Crispin Hellion Glover would follow them into show business.

Teenage roles in TV, led to a supporting role in *Friday the 13th: the Final Chapter* in 1984, but his big break the following year was as Marty McFly's dithering dad, George in *Back to the Future*.

In 1990, he played crazy cousin Dell in David Lynch's *Wild at Heart*, before small, but eccentric scene-stealing performances such as Andy Warhol in *The Doors*.

He attended our festival to show his first film as a director.

Entitled *What Is It?* this turned out to be an intriguing question, as the film was a somewhat surreal black comedy. Begun as a short film, it grew to feature length over its nine years of filming.

Ken Foree flew into Manchester having just finished filming *The Devil's Rejects*, directed by Rob Zombie.

Ken is best remembered as Peter Washington, police SWAT team officer who fought the zombies in the original *Dawn of the Dead*, in 1978.

A big man, he is 6 foot 5 inches tall (that's 1.96 metres) and built in proportion, Ken really is a larger than life character in more ways than one.

He freely admitted that his size and demeanour had somewhat led him to be typecast as strong, determined characters on both sides of the law, Sheriffs or crooks, basically.

A wonderfully affable man, this aspect of his character was very much in evidence in his performance as the cop Bufford Brownlee in Stuart Gordon's 1986 feature *From Beyond*.

No-nonsense law officers became Mr Foree's forte in such films as *The Dentist*, *Sleepstalker*, *True Blood* and *Terror Squad*.

But it was a change of pace when Ken was cast in Zack Snyder's remake of *Dawn of the Dead*, in 2004. He played a rigid tele-evangelist, but it allowed him to repeat a line he'd been given in the original movie, albeit with religious authority this time: "When there's no more room in Hell, the dead walk the earth."

A big enthusiast for horror movies, Ken admitted that he loved attending film conventions as that let him to get to know his fans, which he gladly did over this weekend.



Kenneth Cope, an absolute cornerstone of British film and television, attended the festival with his wife, actress Renny Lister. A prolific TV and film actress, Renny's credits range from Hammer's *The Curse of the Werewolf* to *Coronation Street*, *The Plane Makers*, *Maigret*, *The Informer*, *Callan*, *Paul Temple*, *Z Cars*, *Don't Forget to Write*, *Grange Hill* and many more.

Ken is fondly remembered as the ghost, Marty Hopkirk, in the unique comedy-fantasy-detective series *Randall and Hopkirk Deceased*, which soon attained cult status, which it retains to this day.

He recalled that at the end of filming, he jumped into the somewhat stagnant pool at Elstree studios dressed in the distinctive white suit he'd had to wear throughout the series, happily ruining the outfit. He mused, "I regret that now, it would be worth a fortune."

He spoke fondly of his co-star and friend the multi-talented Mike Pratt — musician, song writer and screenwriter, who died all too soon in 1976 aged 45.



Ken had already had a heady career, in feature films, such as Joseph Losey's *The Criminal*, on TV as a stalwart of the television's ground-breaking flagship of the early 1960s boom in satire *That Was the Week that Was*, alongside David Frost, Bernard Levin, Willie Rushton, Millicent Martin and others.

He spoke of his featured role as Mongol warrior Subodai in the 1965 epic *Genghis Khan* which was filmed in Yugoslavia. Ken discovered that the horses had all been trained as circus performers, so when he started to whistle they danced, which became a running gag between takes.

He appeared in two *Carry on* films, *Carry on at Your Convenience* and *Carry on Matron*, with the latter featuring Ken coping badly in high heels when having to appear in drag. His many other roles included the 1981 *Dr Who* serial *Warrior's Gate* and as Ray Hilton in *Brookside* from 1999 to 2002,

Ken had played one of *Coronation Streets*' best-loved early characters, the guitar-playing, Liverpool layabout Jed Stone, a role to which he would return a couple of years after our festival. Maybe we had something to do with that ...



2007

Britain's very own Blonde Bombshell from the 1950s, through the 1960's was Vera Day. When she appeared opposite Marilyn Monroe in Laurence Olivier's film *The Prince and the Showgirl*, in 1957, Vera was asked to dye her hair, as there could only be one blonde in a Monroe movie.

That same year she had memorably appeared in *Hell Drivers* opposite Stanley Baker, Patrick McGeehan and Sean Connery, then in *Quatermass 2*, before taking the lead role in the unforgettable sci-fi horror *The Woman Eater*.

It was an every-day story of a flesh-eating tree with a taste for the ladies, which is in the control of a mad scientist played by George Calouris, the Manchester-born actor who had the unique distinction of playing featured roles in both *Citizen Kane* and *Hancock's Half Hour*.

Interestingly, although *The Woman Eater* was given an X certificate here, it was marketed in America aimed at children.

Among Vera's recent film and television appearances, was a memorable cameo in Guy Richie's 1998 *Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels*.

Vera is a real live wire and was an unforgettable guest.



Veteran Hammer actor Edward De Souza was forthright in his tales of the making of *The Phantom of the Opera* with Herbert Lom and *Kiss of the Vampire* (without Christopher Lee or the *Dracula* character) both made in 1962.

He also spoke of his lead role in the 1965 *Dr Who* adventure *Mission to the Unknown*, one of the most intriguing lost episodes of the classic programme.

None of the regular cast appeared, not even the then Dr, played by William Hartnell, who had been given a much-needed extra week's holiday. Edward played Space Security Service Agent Marc Cory who has been targeted for death by the Daleks and the story recounted his attempts to warn earth of an impending Dalek invasion.

When he appeared at the Festival, he had just recently completed filming *The Golden Compass* and would soon return to Manchester to play Colin Grimshaw in *Coronation Street* from 2008 until 2009.

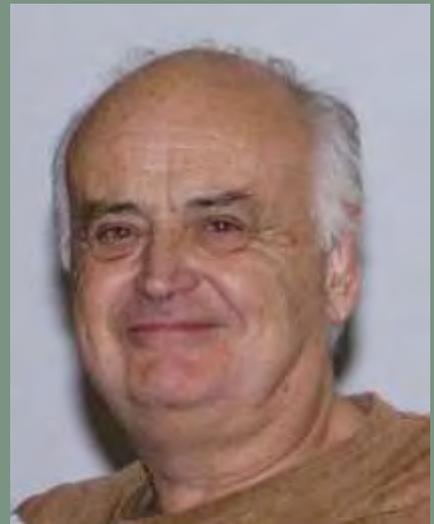
Master of Cine Fantastique films, French director actor and writer Jean Rollin was a fascinating character, controversial in his time, but a born survivor.

His film career began in his national service in the army in the early 1950s when he worked with fellow conscript Claude Lelouche, making military commercials.

But it was his first feature, ***Rape of the Vampire***, which he wrote and directed in 1968, that first brought him wide attention.

Made on a tiny budget, it managed to look like a much more expensive production and he followed it with three more movies along the same lines, ***The Nude Vampire***, ***Shiver of the Vampire*** and ***Requiem for a Vampire***.

Despite many financial ups and downs, he continued to write and direct, notching over 50 films in his impressive 50 year career.



Actor John Leyton was little changed from his 1960s successes such as ***The Great Escape*** and ***Von Ryan's Express***.

His career took off in the 1960 Granada TV series ***Biggles***, in which he played the title character's sidekick Ginger, resulting in smitten female fans immediately setting up the John Leyton Fan Club.

That in turn led his manager to edge John into a singing career and he had a massive hit in 1961, with "Johnny Remember Me", which he had performed while acting in the TV series, ***Harper's West One***.

His acting performances in ***The Great Escape*** and ***Guns at Batasi*** led to his being cast opposite Frank Sinatra in ***Von Ryan's Express*** which was shot mostly in Italy, before returning to film interiors at 20th Century Fox Studios in Los Angeles.

Frank got on well with the young English actor and gave him tickets for his show in Las Vegas, so John took along the young American actress who had starred with him in the British-made ***Guns at Batasi***, resulting in his introducing Old Blue Eyes to Mia Farrow, who was to become his next wife.

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Alongside his big screen work, American actor-writer-director Mark Redfield has had an extensive career on stage, founding two theatre companies and touring internationally.

He wrote, produced, directed, designed and starred in the 2002 film version of Robert Louis Stevenson's immortal story of good and evil ***Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde***, a real labour of love for Mark.

A great devotee of the life and writings of Edgar Allan Poe, Mark wrote, produced, directed and starred in the title role of the 2006 film ***The Death of Poe***.

It chillingly presented the last week's of the great author's life as he descended into madness in 1849 Baltimore, where the film was made.

2008

Probably best known as a singer, Jess Conrad OBE has had a long and distinguished acting career.

Like John Leyton, he began as an actor, appearing in such films' as Hammer's 1959 comedy ***The Ugly Duckling***, but was spotted acting as a pop singer in a television play, and signed up as a singer by Jack Good for his rock and roll TV series ***Oh Boy***.

Pop chart success didn't put a stop to Jess's acting career, and he continued to appear in films including ***The Boys***, ***Rag Doll***, ***Konga***, Michael Powell's ***The Queen's Guards***, and on TV - playing an especially memorable role as a psychologically damaged pop star in an episode of ***The Human Jungle***.

Many film and TV appearances followed, which Jess recounted by eschewing the usual interview and taking to the stage to do a terrific virtual one-man show.



Following in the footsteps of his father, renowned Italian horror-film director Mario Bava, Lamberto Bava worked with Ruggero Deodato on ***Last Cannibal World*** and ***Cannibal Holocaust*** in the late 1970s.

Father and son then worked together on Dario Argento's 1980 horror movie ***Tenebrae***, Mario handling the special effects, lighting, camera operation and even directing some scenes, while Lamberto was assistant director, on this and Argento's ***Inferno***. He recalled that the worst part of his job was acting as "cat wrangler" of the many felines in the picture. As anyone who has tried rounding up just one cat, can testify that its no easy matter, but a whole gang of them is impossible. That job led to Lamberto's subsequent lifelong loathing of the creatures.

Mario then wrote and directed his first feature, ***Macabre*** in 1980, which delighted his father as his son taking up the torch of Italian horror.

Lamberto's biggest personal success was with his 1985 film ***Demons***, shot in West Berlin and produced by Dario Argento.

An international hit, it led to a sequel ***Demons 2***, after which Lamberto made the Giallo ***Delerium*** in 1987, before splitting his directing between TV and cinema.

The very versatile English actor Damien Thomas became a stalwart in British television series from the late 1960s onwards.

His first big screen film was the 1970 version of Shakespeare's **Julius Caesar**, with Sir John Gielgud in the title role and Charlton Heston as Mark Antony. The following year Damien featured in John Hough's Hammer horror **Twins of Evil**, with Peter Cushing.

However, his biggest film was the 1976 epic, **The Message**, starring Anthony Quinn and Irene Papas, which chronicled the life of Mohammed.

Budgeted at 10 million dollars, an enormous sum 40 years ago, location filming in Morocco and Libya lasted a year.

Damien also featured strongly in one of the most expensive TV productions ever, the 1980 nearly nine-hour mini-series **Shogun**, set in the 17th century and filmed entirely in Japan, with interiors shot at Tokyo's Toho Studios, famously home of the original **Godzilla**.



2009



Born in Chester, Emily Booth gained a BA in Media and Film at Goldsmiths College, London, before establishing herself as a writer, actress, producer and presenter.

She made her film debut in the title role of the 1997 **Perverella**, with later film appearances including, **Fallen Angels**, **Evil Aliens**, **Grindhouse**, **Doghouse**, **The Reverend**, **Shed of the Dead** and over 20 more.

After working as presenter of Channel 4's **Big Breakfast**, the twinkingly vivacious Emily won a place in the pantheon of Horror Royalty in 2007 when she became the face of the Horror Channel.



Best remembered as Greg Preston in BBC's fine mid-1970s dystopian post-apocalypse series **Survivors** (written by Daleks creator Terry Nation) the Scottish born actor Ian McCulloch also had an extensive big screen career.

He starred in several classic Italian horror movies such as Luigi Fulci's 1979, **Zombie**, then **Zombie Holocaust** the following year, alongside Luigi Cozzi's sci-fi **Contamination**, which along with his role in the 1984 **Dr Who** series **Warriors of the Deep**, have made him something of a cult film and TV favourite.

From the 1990s, his acting appearances became fewer as he concentrated on his life as a farmer in the Scottish Borders.



Peter Sasdy was born in Budapest, but began his directing career on the British commercial channel ATV while in his twenties, working on drama series such as ***Emergency Ward 10***, ***Harpers West One***, ***Probation Officer***, ***The Plane Makers***, etc. throughout the 1960s.

In 1971, Hammer Films called and Peter made his first feature ***Countess Dracula***, based on the story of Hungarian Countess Bathory. Filmed at Pinewood on the sets which had been built for ***Anne of a Thousand Days***, the film starred Ingrid Pitt and Peter's fellow Hungarian Sandor Eles.

He then made Hammer's ***Hands of the Ripper***, this time using the Baker Street set at Pinewood which had been constructed for Billy Wilder's ***The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes***, but the interiors of St Paul's Cathedral had to be specially built, as permission to film on the actual location was not granted.

The following year, Peter directed (from Nigel Kneale's script) ***The Stone Tape*** for the BBC, a haunting, thought-provoking and ground-breaking piece of ghostly science-fantasy.

In 1973, Peter made the horror/mystery/thriller ***Nothing But the Night***, starring Peter Cushing and Christopher Lee, the only film produced by Charlemagne Films, a company set up by Christopher Lee and top Hammer producer Anthony Nelson Keyes.

Peter followed this with the curious 1977 sci-fi western starring Jack Palance, ***Welcome to Blood City***, shot in Canada, then Hollywood's ***The Lonely Lady***, which its star Pia Zadora described as a cross between ***Rocky*** and ***Emmanuelle***. It is now listed in the Top Ten Best Bad Films.



One of cinema and TV's finest villains, Derren Nesbitt was so entertaining and full of stories that he had to be invited back to the festival.

First distinguishing himself playing various thugs and ne'er do wells in TV series and films from 1958, he won a rather more substantial role as a not-so-merry man in Hammer's 1960 Robin Hood adventure ***Sword of Sherwood Forest***.

Some of his memorable cinema roles were as the sinister blackmailing biker in ***Victim*** (1961), then as a German air ace in ***The Blue Max*** with George Peppard and Ursula Andress who had an unforgettable scene with what seemed to be a gravity-defying towel which shifted between shots so that it always covered her modesty.

Derren remembered George Peppard waiting in the cold open cockpit of a WWI aircraft, warming self up with a hip flask, resulting in a very merry performance in this scene as the ambitious German air ace, Bruno Stachel.

Working with Frank Sinatra on the realistic spy thriller ***The Naked Runner***, Derren struck up a warm friendship with Old Blue Eyes.

He then turned up alongside Richard Burton and Clint Eastwood, in ***Where Eagles Dare*** as the rapier-sharp SS officer Major Von Hapen. He was also one of the infamous grave

robbers in ***Burke and Hare***, the final film of director Vernon Sewell (***Blood Beast Horror*** and ***Curse of the Crimson Altar***).

However, Derren's biggest regret was losing the title role in ***Villain***, in 1971. He was scheduled to play the lead but Richard Burton was at a loose end in London while Elizabeth Taylor filmed ***X, Y and Zee***, so volunteered his services and Derren lost out on what would have been the greatest role of his career.

Daughter of actors Jimmy Hanley and Dinah Sheridan, Jenny Hanley's first film role was in the 1969 Bond movie ***On Her Majesty's Secret Service***, before swiftly moving into horror movies such as ***Scars of Dracula***, with Christopher Lee, ***Tam Linn*** with Ava Gardner and Pete Walker's ***Flesh and Blood Show***.

Jenny's extensive television career ranges from presenting the children's series ***Magpie***, to acting roles in ***The Persuaders*** with Tony Curtis and Roger Moore, ***Orson Welles' Great Mysteries***, a stint on ***Emmerdale*** and much more.

Her on-stage interview at the festival had to be re-scheduled from Sunday afternoon to Sunday morning, resulting in huge disappointment for one fan who had travelled from Yorkshire specially to see her, only to find that, with the changed schedule, he had arrived too late. When Jenny heard this, she generously gave her devoted fan an hour of her time for a one-to-one chat, which was more than he could have dreamed of.



Following war service, John Carson made his film debut in 1947, and was soon a ubiquitous face on film and television.

His distinctive silky voice was often compared to that of James Mason and made him the voice of Sun Silk Shampoo's long-running TV advertising campaign, over a theme by John Barry, which became a hit record "The Girl with Sun in her Hair".

Uniquely suited to playing both heroes and villains, John's imposing manner led to roles in a host of films and practically every classic television series from the 1950s on.

Among his long list of credits are ***The Night Caller*** in 1957, and in a trio of fine Hammer horrors, starting with ***Plague of the Zombies*** in 1966, then ***Taste the Blood of Dracula*** and

Captain Kronos Vampire Hunter.

After being featured in ***Dr Who: Snakedance***, in 1983, which marked the first TV role of Martin Clunes, John moved to South Africa, where he appeared in the hugely successful star-studded TV series ***Shaka Zulu*** in 1986 and ***Rhodes***, with Martin Shaw, in 1996.

Our next Progress Report, the last before this year's Festival, will feature items on all the guests who attended during our third decade.