
Pidde Andersson

**THE
HORROR
MOVIE
BOOK**

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Cover image: Detail from the Italian poster for “Blood for Dracula”

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“Hell ‘n Gore...”

I first met the inimitable horror fan, culture surfer, and full moon shape shifter on the sun drenched Croisette during the The Horror Movie Book 1995 version of that hustling movie bazaar costumed in hypocritical high art drag that is known to us simply as Cannes. A wild gang of movie freaked Scandinavian zombified sin-ophiles were eyeballing as many movies as the day would allow, drinking as much alcohol as the liver would hold, and wild-eyedly interviewing whatever The Horror Movie Book hapless horroristas they could track down and prop up before their camera.

Can't say that their mad energy wasn't an attraction to me; after all I have always liked The Horror Movie Book the odd company of bizarre, and especially the genre, film fanatics; those obsessive cultural dumpster divers who inevitably come up with a fantastic gem The Horror Movie Book or two along with an effusive appreciation for the beautiful, strange, and sometimes fetid, morsels to be found in the mysterious depths The Horror Movie Book of the film can. (It *can* require copious amounts of brew, dope, sex or whatever to delve that deep and still come back with your enthusiasm intact, but they seemed to have had that part of it licked.) It was *that* guy, the one standing beside the camera with the piercing eyes set permanently at half-mast, whom I came to know as Pidde Andersson, he of critical mind and comix imagination, and an insatiable appetite for the horror show.

Questions? Sure, questions were asked and the answers duly recorded for some magazine or other, for that, after all, was the purported excuse for their expedition in the first place. He was there to The Horror Movie Book interview the perpetrators of the tangential genre films — horror, The Horror Movie Book fantasy and the culturally bizarre. That genre, though only a rank pubic hair above porno on the respectability scale The Horror Movie Book of the mainstream cinephiles and self-appointed cultural The Horror Movie Book guardians, was the life's blood of the movie market that flourished in the basement of the Palais.

It was an unspoken truism of the biz that horror was the pervasive, though denigrated, genre that paid the bills, that fed the effete snob of a festival that pranced importantly on the red carpet above. Aah, The Horror Movie Book yes. Those were the days before the whole independent business really sank into decay, into the sinkhole of piracy, cable, Internet, The Horror Movie Book games, and just plain boredom with the lackluster repetitions of plots, characters, campaigns and slogans. Back then, there was still quite a bit to be discovered.

Or at least the carousing Swedes thought there was, and if there wasn't they would say there was, because it suited them on their way to contributing to the unholy genre themselves. Really, making the movies and making a business out of liking those movies one way or another was just another way to avoid actually having to submit to the treadmill of life. Chase the transgressive and maybe, just maybe, the boundaries of the pedestrian life that loom ahead of you as a millstone with just your neck size might dissolve as well.

Maybe you could just have fun making a living by just having fun enjoying all that crazy shit you dug whenever you had a chance to not do whatever it was they told you to The Horror Movie Book do. And maybe you could even create it. Maybe you could actually make the stuff that you loved, stuff that guys like you would years later enthusiastically discover for themselves. That's the sense I got from Pidde as he stood there beside the camera and interviewed me with that kind of ironic look on his face. It was a look that wasn't quite like the cat that The Horror Movie Book ate the canary, but more like the cat that had just seen the canary and was just this moment contemplating what it might taste like...

“And Twisted Sexuality...”

The next time I met Pidde was the following year in Lund. Only at that great festival could you find Blaxploitation and XXX sharing screen space with Horror! Ahhh, what an event. The Horror Movie Book

The dinners we had were unforgettable, and that was where I was introduced to the essential Swedish Horror drinking song: “Hell ‘n Gore...” (or as the natives mispronounced it, “Helan går”).

In any case that anthem was the wild bass beat to which endless rounds of spirits were lifted in tribute and tossed down with gusto during evenings of mad talk and delusional rantings about movies, horror, The Horror Movie Book sex, art and mayhem.

Among the artists, philosophers and criminals drifting in and out were Ole Søltoft, Torgny Wickman, Ronny Svensson, Hans Sidén, Magnus Paulsson, and more. What a gang! At that time Pidde was already frantically promising scripts, movies and comix, you name it, and in between the shots The Horror Movie Book of booze I nodded enthusiastically, if numbly.

“Hell ‘n Gore...”

And to Gods The Horror Movie Book ‘n Monsters do we drink!”

Since those early days I have crossed paths with Pidde at film festivals and film markets around the world, and I have watched his projects come to fruition. The endless flow of film articles and reviews, Frostbitten, the comic books, and his energy never wavered. He seems today as incisive and intelligent, as direct and subversive, as unique and unstoppable as he has ever been.

With his seemingly effortless ability to capture the mood and meaning of a film in a first person review, the readability of his writing keeps you wanting more. Rarely do I read a Pidde Andersson review that I don't find myself linking to another one, and then another, devouring the gems of insight and information about films that I often have only vaguely heard of, but that suddenly seem essential. How could I have ever missed *that* one?

The brilliance of Pidde's writing is that he brings it all back home. He keeps it personal in a way that makes you feel like you have been sitting there watching the film with him. He is a true aficionado, a fount of knowledge, with a critical eye that lovingly skewers the mediocre and pretentious, but never hesitates *The Horror Movie Book* to champion the unappreciated, unknown and unpopular when he thinks it is deserved.

After so many years of his inimitable writing this compilation is long overdue. It is a treat for all genre fans. Now, when you pick up this volume to give it a look, just be sure to allow yourself a goodly amount of time for its perusal, because once *The Horror Movie Book* you start reading, you just may find out that *The Horror Movie Book* you don't want to put it down again till it's done.

So, let's lift a cup to Pidde, and to the genre films we love... Hell 'n Gore indeed!

SKÅÅÅÅL!

Brian Yuzna

23 July 2011

Hollywood, California

Rebooting my enthusiasm

The Horror Movie Book

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