

# ILLUSTRATED LECTURES

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One of four catalogs from the Jack Stevenson Film Archive

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The following lectures can be delivered in-person by Jack Stevenson, an American film writer and print collector who has lived in Denmark since 1993 and has a dual specialty of American exploitation cinema and (selective) Danish film history.

## WITCHCRAFT THROUGH THE AGES: THE WORLD'S MOST PROFANE FILM?

This lecture/screening is based on my book *Witchcraft Through the Ages*, (<http://www.fabpress.com/vsearch.php?CO=FAB078>) – the only book as yet written on this film – originally known as **HÄXAN** – or its director Benjamin Christensen. In researching the book I familiarized myself with previous writings on the subject by the likes of scholars such as John Ernst, Arne Lunde, Casper Tybjerg, etc., and was able to go further and uncover new aspects about this legendary film from the original Danish source material.

This presentation raises interesting questions about the director's motivations, examines the film within the context of its time and inventories its many revivals and rediscoveries down through the years while also touching upon broader issues regarding the history of witchcraft.

**Duration:** screening time of my 16mm print of the film is 75 minutes (can also be screened off DVD) with three blocks of talk: at start, before second spool and at conclusion.

**Previous Screenings:** I have presented this program in various contexts in Europe and America in colleges and at cinemas and film club situations.

**This program would be ideal for:** Halloween screenings, film series dealing with witchcraft, film history classes or forums focusing on Scandinavian culture.

## SCARED TO DEATH: THE MOVIE GIMMICK IN THEORY & PRACTISE

This presentation will broadly focus on the history of gimmicks, sensory embellishments and the atmospheric anomalies that were part of the historic American movie going experience, using the American director William Castle – “king of the gimmick” - as a focal point. Trailers and short films will

demonstrate processes such as 3-D (glasses provided) and “psychodrama” and several trailers to Castle films will be screened.

***Duration is standard feature-length / Formats: 16mm & 35 min.***

**Previous Screenings:** This program screened to good response at Nova cinema’s most recent “Off-Screen” festival in Brussels, and I had previously delivered a lecture on William Castle at the Dutch Filmmuseum in A’dam in 1994. In general I have lectured and written on gimmicks for many years.

**This program would be ideal for:** Film festivals or film series that have a film history focus and can incorporate lectures of this type, and in context with Media Archaeology.

**Related feature films I could supply as accompaniment:** THE TINGLER and/or other William Castle features.

## **IT CAME BEFORE MTV: THE HISTORY OF MUSIC VIDEO**

The screening of “Soundies”, “Snader telescriptions” and “Scopitone” films have historically defined the short music film format in America and paved the way for the modern music video. These forerunners of MTV will be screened and discussed in a technological as well as aesthetic context.

***Duration: feature length / Format: all 16mm, both optical and magnetic (“no light”) sound***

**Previous Screenings:** *numerous*

**This program would be ideal for:** music festivals that have a screening option, or for programs or classes concerned with media archaeology or historic musical forms.

## **THE ROOTS OF DOGME**

in 2003 my book *Dogme Uncut* was published by Santa Monica Press, and this class (or series of classes) is offered as a further examination of the specifically Danish roots of the movement, with a focus on the 3 Danish films that most inspired Lars von Trier to create Dogme95: *Quiet Days in Clichy*, *Weekend*, *I am Curious Yellow*)

**Previous Screenings:** this has not yet been presented, although on occasion of the release of my book *Lars von Trier* by the British Film Institute in 2002 (check <http://us.macmillan.com/larsvontrier> ) I did delivered a presentation on Lars von Trier in venues in Europe and America which was somewhat similar.

**This program would be ideal for:** Film History classes, Scandinavian

studies, etc.

## **JOURNEY TO THE CENTER OF GRINDHOUSE: THE HISTORY OF A SECRET CINEMA:**

With the release of Quentin Tarantino and Robert Rodriguez's *Death Proof* and *Planet Terror* in 2007 the old American trade term "Grindhouse" experienced a revival. European writers generally did a pretty good job defining the term in preparation for those releases yet it embraces a much richer slice of film and cultural history than most people know, influencing many modern directors and embracing many different strands of American popular culture. This presentation explores the meaning of the term from a cultural/historical perspective.

**Duration: approx 90 min, screening format: 16mm**

**Related feature films available:** *Viva, Savage Streets, Vigilante*, a selection of 35mm trailers (see *Commercial Features* and *Compilation Theme Shows* lists respectively)

**Previous Screenings:** The film school in Breda, Holland, The Star & Shadow cinema in Newcastle, The National Film Museum in Helsinki

**This program would be ideal for:** any series, festival or seminar that has a focus on film history, media archaeology or American popular culture.

## **TOTALLY UNCENSORED: HOW SCANDINAVIAN SEX CINEMA CONQUERED THE WORLD**

Based on my soon to be published book, SCANDINAVIAN BLUE by McFarland, see: <http://www.mcfarlandpub.com/book-2.php?id=978-0-7864-4488-5> ... This is a bracing examination of post-war Scandinavian sex cinema and the impact it had on a more Puritanical Anglo-Saxon film culture through the 50's, 60's and 70's, helping to set in motion, among things, the American sex revolution and ending screen censorship in the US. Legendary films as well as obscure gems are to be discussed and screened (in excerpts) in a show guaranteed to enlighten and startle even the most jaded cineaste.

**THREE FEATURE FILMS THAT ARE OFTEN INCLUDED:** "WITHOUT A STITCH" – 1968, "GIFT" from 1966 and "ADVENTURE IN DENMARK" from 1973 - all available in 35mm prints with English subtitles. More information on these 3 feature films is available in our *Commercial Features* catalog list.)

**Duration: long feature length / Format: 16mm, 35mm & DVD projection**

**Previous Screenings:** This presentation in various forms has screened at the Cambridge Film Festival ('06), and in America in the fall of 2006 at the Austin Fantastic Film Festival, The Yerba Buena Arts Center in San Francisco, The Cleveland Cinematheque and the Andy Warhol Museum in Pittsburgh. In July 2007 it was presented at the Vila do Conde festival in Portugal, in October at the BUT festival in Breda (NL) and the Lausanne Underground Film and Music Festival (LUFF), in November at EXGROUND film fest in Wiesbaden, and, along with 3 related feature films, in Hamburg and Munich. In Norway presentations have taken place in Bergen, Tromsø and Trondheim, and in Denmark at the Cinematheque in Copenhagen on 29.03.09.

**This program would be idea for:** any series or festival (sidebar) devoted to censorship issues, erotica in general or Scandinavian culture.

\* REMEMBER TO ASK ABOUT OUR OTHER CATALOG LISTS: "**COMPILATION THEME SHOWS**," "**COMMERCIAL FEATURES**" and "**INDIE / UNDERGROUND**"

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