

TV ON DEMAND

COMPELLING

The Exorcist
Amazon Prime Video
 Expectations were low, with few imagining a small-screen sequel could match the intensity of William Friedkin's 1973 film original. However, Jeremy Slater's 10-parter surprised many in its ability to generate shocks and chills. Praise must go to Geena Davis's performance as the Chicago businesswoman with something demonic in her house, but the real surprise was the rapport between Alfonso Herrera and Ben Daniels as the duo of incubus-expelling priests. Sadly, with Davis gone, the second season fell back on that buddy-buddy demon-hunter dynamic with diminishing returns.

LATIN DREAD

Terrified
Shudder.com

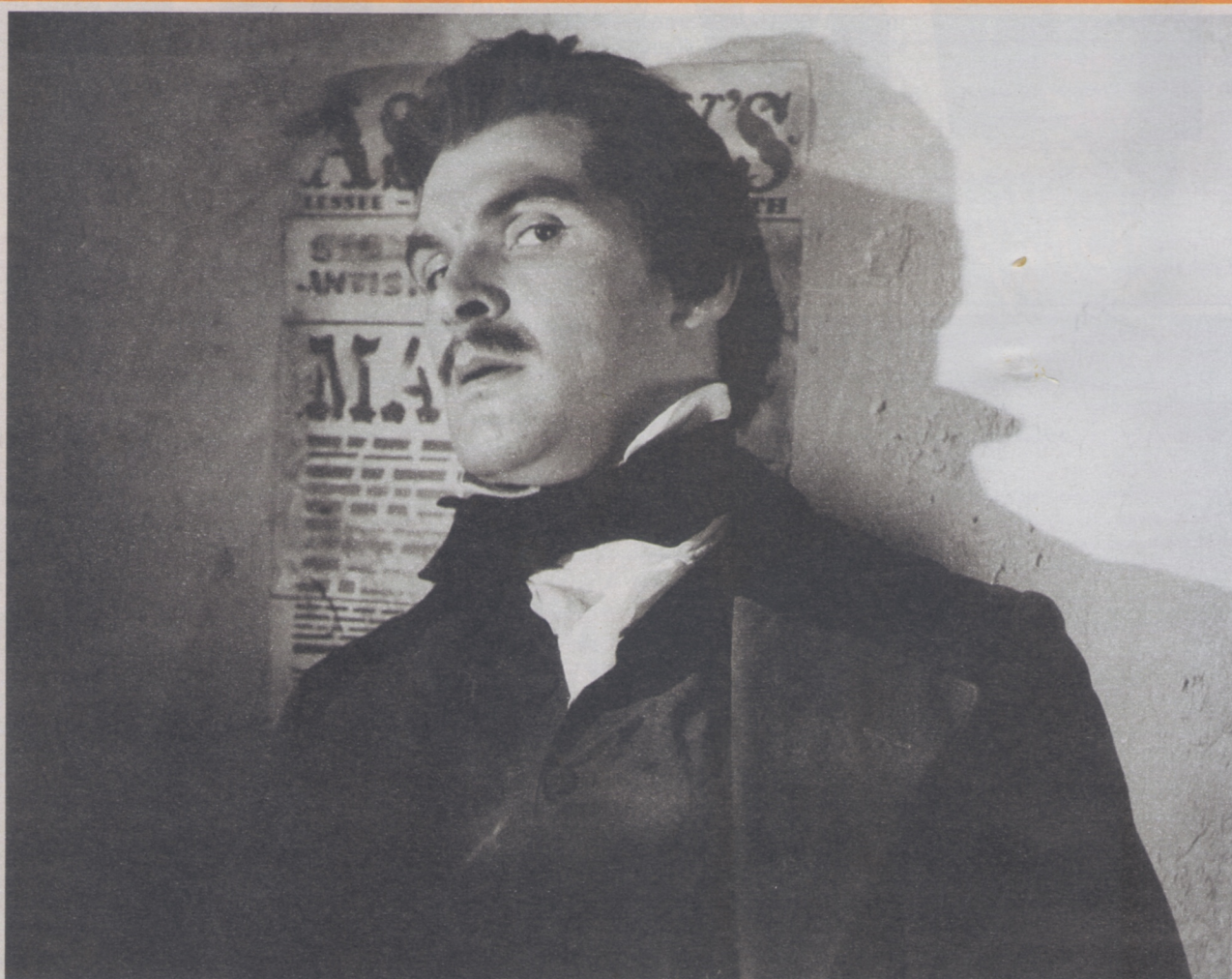


If you're looking for a reason to subscribe to an on-demand horror channel in time for Halloween, may we suggest Demian Rugna's unnerving paranormal marvel from 2017, which is available exclusively on Shudder. A mix of gory set-pieces, creeping dread and moments of genuine poignancy, this tale of ghost hunters tracking poltergeists in a Buenos Aires suburb is powerfully scary and features characters you genuinely care about. It also works as a metaphor for Argentina's political past, focusing on the trauma brought about by deaths and disappearances.

SITTING COMFORTABLY?

MR James
Vimeo.com
 For the past 13 years, Robert Lloyd Parry has been on tour reading the Victorian ghost stories of MR James in church crypts, grand halls and pub back rooms. In this masterly single-take performance, his face illuminated by a lone flickering candle, and looking

DON'T LOOK UNDER THE FLOORBOARDS



THE TELL-TALE HEART

BFI Player

Stanley Baker was 24 when he appeared in JB Williams's chilling 20-minute adaptation of Edgar Allan Poe's short story about a young man haunted by his murder victim's still-beating ticker, but the actor's magnetism was already in full effect. Made in

1953 but missing for 50 years before being rediscovered in an attic in 2017, this delight is free to view, alongside other spooky oddities, including Christopher Lee as a revenge-seeking ghost in John Fitchen's 1955 mini-expressionist chiller *Cross-*

Roads. Conveniently Mark Kermode's **Secrets Of Cinema** horror masterclass is still on the BBC iPlayer, so you can watch that next, followed by another BFI Player classic, such as Dario Argento's **Suspiria** or John Carpenter's **The Thing**.

uncannily like the great Cambridge scholar himself, our host recounts James's diabolical masterpiece *Casting the Runes* with the perfect storytelling mix of humour, warmth, apprehension and profound unease. A most pleasing terror.

HIGHLAND HORRORS

Calibre
Netflix
 It's a story familiar from films such as *Deliverance* and *Straw Dogs*, of urban interlopers

who disturb the ways of a tight-knit backwoods community and pay the price, but the genius of Matt Palmer's low-budget Highland thriller is how it repeatedly plays with your expectations. Centred around the excellent performances of Jack Lowden and Martin McCann as weekend game hunters from Edinburgh who run foul of the locals, this is a lean, gripping, slow-burn thriller that's as much about psychological pain as visceral shocks.

FEMME FATALE

Lore
Amazon Prime Video



Adapted from a 2015 podcast by Aaron Mahnke on truths behinds folklore, season one

of this anthology series felt didactic and undernourished, with Mahnke's narration and wooden performances killing all the drama stone dead. Thankfully, season two has upped the budget and dispensed with Aaron's adenoids. The history lesson on Prague's astronomical clock and the story of the demon-worshipping rocket scientist Jack Parsons, falling for a scarlet woman (Alicia Witt, pictured) chill and enlighten in equal measure.