Top 5 Classic (Before 1970) Horror Movies of All Time (Rotten Tomatoes)



#1 Psycho (1960)

Critics Consensus: Infamous for its shower scene, but immortal for its contribution to the horror genre.

Because Psycho was filmed with tact, grace, and art, Hitchcock didn't just create modern horror, he validated it.



#3 The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari (1919)

Critics Consensus: Arguably the first true horror film, The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari set a brilliantly high bar for the genre — and remains terrifying nearly a century after it first stalked the screen.



#6 King Kong (1933)

Critics Consensus: King Kong explores the soul of a monster — making audiences scream and cry throughout the film — in large part due to Kong's breakthrough special effects.



#7 Nosferatu (1922)

Critics Consensus: One of the silent era's most influential masterpieces, Nosferatu's eerie, gothic feel — and a chilling performance from Max Schreck as the vampire — set the template for the horror films that followed.



#8 The Night of the Hunter (1955)

Critics Consensus: Featuring Robert Mitchum's formidable performance as a child-hunting preacher, The Night of the Hunter is a disturbing look at good and evil.