DIGITAL TERROR

Reporting the best horror on the net

WHAT MAKES A GOOD INTERNET HORROR?

Top Podcast Picks

Top YouTubers for Horror Lovers

Daniel Profeta on Dr. Nowhere's Oddity Compendium

OCT. 22

digitalterrormag.com

#5

Image credit: YouTube screenshot

BROADCAST SCHEDULE

4 **A Word from SCP-049**

Our Editor, the Plague Doctor, wishes to have a word with you. It's about the Pestilence. It seems you've contracted it...

6 **Spotlights**

Our guest writer, Long Horse, share his picks of his favorite horror podcast episodes, from The Dark Somnium to Full Body Chills to Creepy.

10 **Feature**

In the feature article we explore some of the elements that the best horror series on the internet share, such as ambiguity and suspense.

12 Best YouTube Channels for Horror Lovers

Not all horror-focused YouTube channels are created equal. In this article, we will recommend some of the highest-quality ones for you to enjoy.

14 Daniel Profeta on Doctor Nowhere

This article will explore the interview that the two YouTube creators participated in.

Photo credits
Local 58 logo: Wikipedia

ACCESSING FILE 22-01

a word from SCP-049

The Plague Doctor

Dear reader,

If your intent is to read this issue in its entirety, then I have no ill intention toward you. My goal is to eradicate the Pestilence - what is the Pestilence, you ask? Well... it seems your society has been mistaken in withholding its true identity. The Foundation censors all that it finds dangerous or controversial, it seems. The only true Pestilence is ignorance, the lack of knowledge of things that go bump in the night. I implore you to expand your knowledge on the various threats that roam our world, from the Iris' otherworldly Woodcrawlers to the Alternates of Mandela County. Their existence is a greater threat to human existence than nuclear holocaust. So long as you become aware of their existence, my work on this Earth is completed. I owe it to the SCP Foundation for allowing me to have such a vital role in the spreading of this information; they too have realized the threat is great, as will you when you read on. Spread the word of this publication, so my work of eradicating the Pestilence may be completed. And reader, thank you, for your openness and your concern. Beware, and be safe.

Sincerely,
SCP-049

[END OF FILE]

SCP FOUNDATION
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Faces: YouTube screenshots

LONG HORSE RECOMMENDS...

Top Podcast Picks

1

File: T2R1H9
from ***Creepy***

A zombie virus is overtaking the world, and no one is safe - not even the scientists studying it. After studying the infected, a scientist is a victim of his subjects. Follow him as he loses his humanity to animalistic urges.

2

Proxima Centauri is Not a Star
from ***The Dark Somnium***

A former airman is sent to the Sun's closest neighbor to analyze strange signals coming from it. It turns out, the "star" is not what it seems to be, and the crew members are not safe, not even in their ship.

Photo Credits:
Long Horse illustration by Carolyn Quintrell
All podcast cover art: Spotify screenshots

Lucid Dreamer

from ***Full Body Chills***

A woman has been having a recurring dream, where she finds herself in a black-and-white diner. Wanting to investigate further, she gets her hands on a tape that claims to help with lucid dreaming. It turns out, the restaurant in her dream is not what it seems...

3

SCP-1437: “A Hole to Another Place”

from ***SCP Archives***

SCP-1437 is a strange hole that leads to a multiverse connected to similar holes. Occasionally, objects from other worlds will come through the hole, providing an insight into the differences between the alternate universes.

4

Something Walks Whistling Past My House Every Night at 3:03

from ***Creepy***

When a neighbor’s son stays at our main character’s house for the night, he does the one thing the welcoming committee says never to do in their neighborhood: he looks out the window to see the whistler. A waking nightmare ensues.

5

What makes a internet

Photo credits: YouTube screenshots, Pinterest

good HORROR?

What the best series have in common

written by
SIREN HEAD

SUSPENSE

Suspense is one of the aspects of any horror that makes the genre so addictive. The media can have you on the edge of your seat, waiting for that monster to burst out of nowhere and take one of the characters away. Suspense in horror is more fear-based than other genres, such as action, which rely more on excitement of what will happen. The Mandela Catalogue really nails the element of suspense, especially in Volume 1. When Mark arrives at Cesar's house to flip through the camera feeds, the viewer is given a live view of the feeds. With MC being a horror series, the viewer waits anxiously for whatever happens next. The camera feed switches to the outside view, then to the in-side, then down the stairs. That suspense leads up to the audio snippet of Cesar's mother supposedly being attacked by the Alternate. Later on in the same episode, when Mark returns to his home and is being tormented by the Alternate, the thing finally gets him to un-alive himself. The next scene shows a blank screen. The viewer gets a tense knot of anxiety in their chest in anticipation of what will happen next. The Alternate Mark finally runs up to the camera, breathing loudly. The face alone is enough to scare almost anyone, but the preceding suspense makes it that much more shocking. While the second volume contains some suspense, the element is far more memorable and successful in the first.

IMAGERY

Some horror series rely on creepy sounds to scare the viewer. Others, however, are more reliant on jarring imagery. Almost any horror series, both on the internet and on the big screen, will have some variety of creepy imagery. There's the Mandela County Alternates, with black faces and cartoony eyes or blank faces entirely. Then there's those weird trees from Alex Kansas' videos. While not outwardly creepy, the trees are clearly different from any normal tree, making them stand out from the rest. Nephthys Media uses creepy, if not interesting, images that appear computer-generated, such as the sea creatures in Thalassophobia, or the masked faces of the royal family. The Wyoming Incident has a lot of creepy faces, but that's about it, but that doesn't mean it wasn't effective. Boisvert stands out with its unique, Hylics-like art style, which uses both hand-drawn animation and photography. Every epi-sode of the series has some variety of jarring imagery, whether it be the weird, centipede-like angels, or the various other characters, like the one the main character fights who has knives for teeth. While scary images are not completely necessary to make a scary horror series, it would be very difficult for one to make a creepy series without using even a little imagery. Sounds are creepy, sure, but pictures are worse.

All photos: YouTube screenshots

AMBIGUITY

The best internet horror series are often ambiguous or cryptic, leaving the viewer to make up their own theories. What's with all the religious themes in the Mandela Catalogue? Some people, such as the YouTuber Wendigoon, think that the Alternates are demons, and that Lucifer replaced Jesus and is deceiving people into believing in him. This theory makes sense, as many Christians believe committing suicide will send one straight to hell, so that could be why the Alternates are influencing people into doing so. Another ambiguous thing is the nobility in Nephthys Media. Are the royal family actual planets? Or do they merely inhabit planets? The latter is more likely to be true, as the astronomical objects in that system are referred to as 'vessels.' Perhaps the most cryptic internet horror series is Boisvert. Many of the episodes contain strange dialogue that is hard to decipher. For example, the main character's dialogues with the angel are strangely worded. Strange and cryptic themes and messages in internet horror series make them that much more interesting and mysterious. Ambiguity is inherently intriguing, thanks to humans' curious nature and our fear of the unknown. For a series creator to come out and explain everything would take the joy out of the hunt for information, and making up theories is far more satisfying, since it allows the viewer to make up their own explanations which may make more sense to them than what others can deduce.

CONTINUITY

You know how in a book where there are multiple plots, and the book switches between them? You read a few chapters about one thing, then the book switches to the other thing that you almost forgot about. There's a bit of an 'oh yeah!" moment where you remember what exactly happened in the plot you forgot about. Some internet horror series do this, and do it well. One such series is the Monument Mythos. While many of these horror videos don't seem to relate to each other, they are all tied together at some point. For example, there are multiple videos dedicated to separate plots, such as the Freedom statue, the Special Tree, and the Cornerfolk. While these videos seem out of place compared to the others, they are all tied together nicely. The Freedom statue and the Angel get in a brawl that essentially destroys the world and changes it into the strange dimension that the Cornerfolk inhabit.

Gemini Home Entertainment has some moments like this as well. Some episodes are about seemingly unrelated things, such as one about the solar system. While seemingly unrelated to the strange 'Wood-crawlers' featured in World's Weirdest Animals, the subject matter does tie in. The Iris is the source of the Woodcrawlers, which are invading Earth. While episodes about seemingly unrelated subject mat-ter are rather rare across internet horror series, the ones that are done are done well.

BEST YOUTUBE CHANNELS FOR HORROR LOVERS

#1 Goose Boose

A Mexican YouTuber whose videos are often about horror and gaming, usually making a commentary on them. One of his most popular series is called Traumathon.

#2 Nexpo

Similar to Goose Boose but more well-known, Nexpo (short for Nightmare Expo) also creates videos analyzing horror media, websites, and urban legends. His "Disturbing Things from Around the Internet" series is one of the things he is most known for.

All photos: Wikitubia

#3

Lazy Masquerade

Samuel Ayling, also known as Lazy Masquerade (or simply “Lazy”) is a horror narration YouTuber from Surrey, England. He is well known for his Hannya mask which he uses as his avatar.

#4

Nuke’s Top 5

“Nuke” is one of the (justifiably so) most popular YouTube channels that features alleged paranormal and ghost videos. Many of them offer a dose of humor among the spine-chilling moments.

#5

Wendigoon

Isaiah Mark Nichols, also known as Wendigoon, is a horror, conspiracy theory and true crime YouTuber known for his iceberg videos.

#6

MrBallen

Jonathan Bartlett Allen, also known as MrBallen online, is a YouTuber who discusses the “strange, dark & mysterious delivered in story format” and has an extreme dislike for YouTube’s Like button.

YouTuber Daniel Profeta on Dr. Nowhere's Oddity Compendium

Profeta, who discusses content like analog horror, had the opportunity to interview the creator of The Boiled One and other icons of the genre.

What is the Oddity Compendium, you ask? It's a fictional education program by Dr. Nowhere meant to teach viewers about "many wonderful and strange oddities that exist inside of, outside of, and around your universe." These oddities can be anything from organisms to products to events to... well, anything.

Have you ever thought that your bed was up to no good? Well, it seems Dr. Nowhere certainly has. One of the creatures he has created is called the Mattressfolk, or Flesh Beds. Essentially, these are creatures that disguise themselves as mattresses and feed upon unsuspecting humans after their "hibernation." Classified as parasites, it is possible that these creatures originated at around the same time that Napoleon Bonaparte was alive, and even shared DNA and blood type with him.

The second "oddity" discussed in the video is not a creature, but a location. The Headless Macrocosm is a "subreality" parallel to Earth where, instead of people, impossibly tall and headless "corpses" exist. About 2,000 humans from various realities live in this dimension, having fallen asleep under mysterious circumstances. Strangely, being teleported to this realm seemingly erases a person from existence aside from the Macrocosm itself, with no one in a given person's original reality remembering said person's face or identity.

Scan the code to watch the video!

An example of what the Macrocosm's headless corpses can do is provided in the video. A man in the Macrocosm accidentally brushed against one of them, which proceeded to remove his head and attach it to its own neck. Any traces of the man's existence were then erased from his home reality.

The third and final oddity in the video are the Obelisks of Enlightenment. These obelisks are described as appearing in remote locations across the world, such as deserts, the Bermuda Triangle, and even the moon. Appearing in groups of 1-8 and standing from 10-150 feet tall, they ever-so-slightly levitate off the ground and are moving about two inches forward per year. The obelisks are constantly inundated with the seemingly infinite information of the universe, and as such are constantly singing about said information to compensate. This song lures in unsuspecting people, who either die or are physically incorporated into the obelisks.

The (obridged) Interview with Dr. Nowhere

Daniel:
What was the inspiration behind The Boiled One?

Dr. Nowhere:
PTSD and war. I've researched World War II during various points in my life for school. The feelings I got from that in particular... the atrocities of it and how strangely recent it was. I like to channel how I'm feeling into something I can produce. Not only that, an equal part inspiration was definitely creepypasta. When I was young, I'd be staying up watching scary videos. I wanted that old Flash animation feel, that indiscernable face shape, that very recognizable facial silhouette. Something seven-year-old me would have been completely wrecked by.

Daniel:
What's the most cathartic work you've made?

Dr. Nowhere:
My most recent video, Where Did Life Go, which was a complete departure from what I normally do because that's what I was feeling like. There was a message and real feelings in it, and people genuinely responded to that. A lot of people in the comments of the video were saying they were seriously considering committing suicide within, you know, days or short periods of time. It's like the video is very therapeutic to them. I'm not going to go around saying I saved lives or anything, but even knowing that I provided momentary solace, it's therapeutic knowing that I'm translating my message well because it came across to people who are in a much worse position than I am.

Daniel:
What inspires the creatures?

Dr. Nowhere:
I love creatures. I love designing faces because I believe they're more relatable than humans' in many ways. A lot of people, especially now, struggle with self-hatred and self-isolation. They atart to feel dissassociated with themselves, and I think the internet might be part of that. It's very disheartening and people wake up and view themselves as monsters in many ways. I think that using these creatures as a bounce off for relatability, like this foreign thing feels like you, and you feel that much more attached because it feels foreign, like how you feel foreign to yourself.

All photos: Google images

All that is required of the Terminals is to open the Gate.
No means are unathorized, no internal restrictions are placed upon the costs of achieving this goal.
As many probes as necessary will be lost, watchers will watch themselves be consumed in CoS, and Terminals will bleed out in the pursuit of this goal.

What was ordained, shall be.

angusnicneven.com

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“Open the gate”: angusnicneven.com (modified by Carolyn Quintrell)