

The Texas Chain Saw Massacre: Horror History [B2]

Cinquant'anni fa è stato realizzato uno dei film più terrificanti e cruenti della storia. Indecente e inquietante, fu vietato per anni in paesi come l'Australia, la Francia e il Regno Unito.

Fifty years ago, The Texas [Chain Saw](#) Massacre, one of the most influential films in Hollywood history, [hit cinema screens](#), shocking people around the world and influencing the genre for decades to come. Even the slasher film poster's [blood-dripping](#) message was designed to disturb: "Who will survive and what will be left of them?"

TRESPASSERS WILL BE EATEN

The film's plot was simple: a group of sadistic, [grave-robbing](#) cannibals torture, kill and eat [trespassers](#). To add a little [flesh](#) to these bones: the film is described on the website Rotten Tomatoes as being about a group of hippies who travel to an old farmhouse, where they discover crazed, murderous [outcasts](#) living next door. The group is then attacked one by one by a man in a mask made of human skin — Leatherface — [wielding](#) a chainsaw.

STUNNING SUCCESS

The film was an immediate success in the US, making today's equivalent of \$150 million. Now considered a classic, one of the scariest films ever made, reviews at the time were mixed. The LA Times simply called it "[despicable](#)." Other critics [praised](#) its aesthetic quality and power, although reviews could be confusing, with one journalist calling it a "masterpiece of fear and [loathing](#)."

THE POWER OF THE FILM

The film's power came from three sources. The horror and [gore](#) are mostly suggested and felt rather than seen. The film creates a claustrophobic atmosphere of madness, threat and imminent violence, but there is little explicit detail. The tone was deeply disturbing, said one critic: "The driving force is total [insanity](#)." The film's makers also scared people by claiming that the movie was based in true events — in fact, the movie did have elements of the shocking story of the 1950s serial murderer Ed Gein. The film was also received as a social commentary on the political climate of the time.

HORRIFIC FILMING

Making the film in Texas in the summer was a nightmare. With a budget of just \$140,000, the [cast](#) of unknowns filmed sixteen hours a day, seven days a week. The farmhouse [furniture](#) was made of animal bones and latex, and the crew covered the walls with blood from the local [abattoir](#) and decorated the floor with animal remains. Some of the actors' blood in the film was actually real as the stage blood tubes proved [faulty](#). In one scene, featuring the chainsaw, an actor was told to stay still or die! In the final torture scene, filmed over twenty-six hours in 46° C (with [foul-smelling](#) actors in their costumes, with dead animal parts and fetid cheese for atmosphere), the [cast](#) took breaks to vomit outside.

INFLUENTIAL MOVIE

Co-written and directed by Tobe Hooper, The Texas [Chain Saw](#) Massacre was enormously influential. It originated several elements in the slasher genre, including the use of [power tools](#) as murder weapons, the killer as a large, silent, masked figure, [devoid](#) of personality, and the sadistic killing of victims. The film's roots can be seen in numerous classic movies, including Halloween, The Evil Dead, The Blair Witch Project and The Silence of the [Lambs](#).

Glossary

- **grave-robbing** = tombaroli
- **wielding** = brandire
- **gore** = sangue
- **insanity** = follia, pazzia
- **faulty** = difettose
- **devoid** = priva
- **trespassers** = intrusi
- **furniture** = mobili
- **flesh** = carne
- **despicable** = disprezzabile
- **praised** = elogiare
- **loathing** = odio, disgusto
- **foul-smelling** = maleodorante
- **power tools** = utensili elettrici
- **Chain Saw** = motosega
- **hit cinema screens** = arrivare sugli schermi cinematografici
- **blood-dripping** = sangue che cola
- **outcasts** = emarginati
- **cast** = attori
- **abattoir** = macello, mattatoio
- **Lambs** = agnelli