

= The Projected Man =

The Projected Man is a 1966 British science fiction film directed by Ian Curteis , written by Peter Bryan , John C. Cooper , and Frank Quattrocchi , and starring Bryant Haliday , Mary Peach , Norman Wooland , Ronald Allen , and Derek Farr . It was released in the United States by Universal Studios , as a double bill with Island of Terror . The plot revolves around a scientist , Dr. Paul Steiner , experimenting with matter teleportation by means of a laser device . However , after a failed attempt at projecting himself , he becomes a disfigured monster who embarks on a murderous rampage .

Discovered by Alex Gordon as an unproduced screenplay by Hollywood writer Frank Quattrocchi , The Projected Man was directed by Ian Curteis ; it would be the first theatrical film that he would direct . However , due to his lack of experience , he ran into several problems during filming . As the film fell behind schedule and the budget kept increasing , he was fired during the film 's final stages . Producer John Croydon replaced him ; however , Croydon remained uncredited as the producers did not wish to publicise the problems which had occurred on set .

The Projected Man has received mixed reviews . Several sources were critical of the film 's resemblance to other science fiction films , with The Fly and 4D Man being singled out by critics and moviegoers alike as possible inspirations , although the film 's executive producer Richard Gordon has denied this . The Projected Man was featured in a ninth season episode of comedy television series Mystery Science Theater 3000 , and has been released on DVD by Cinema Club .

= = Plot = =

Dr. Paul Steiner (Bryant Haliday) and Dr. Christopher Mitchell (Ronald Allen) work on a projection device that enables them to transmit any object within a few miles of the machine . While they find the device works with inanimate objects , the living creatures they use it on always seem to die . When Dr. Patricia Hill (Mary Peach) arrives , she helps them fix the error , making Steiner think the problem has been solved . Meanwhile , Dr. Blanchard (Norman Wooland) , Steiner 's boss and head of the institute he works for , is being blackmailed by Mr. Latham (Derrick De Marney) , who wants credit for Steiner 's discovery . He forces Blanchard to demand Steiner to give a premature presentation to Professor Lembach (Gerard Heinz) .

Steiner , Mitchell , and Hill feel they are ready to present , but at the event , Blanchard places acid on the machine when everyone is unaware , causing an explosion . The funding for Steiner 's project is ended instantly , however , Mitchell later discovers that the device has been tampered with . Steiner goes to Blanchard 's house , where Lembach and Latham are having dinner . He presents the men with the evidence that his machine was deliberately tampered with , and Lembach allows him to have another chance . Steiner decides to try to project himself to Lembach 's house , and , with help from his secretary , Sheila (Tracey Crisp) , he begins the procedure . However , right then , Mitchell and Hill return to the laboratory .

The two try to convince Sheila to stop the projection , but as she is inexperienced with the device , she instead ends up projecting Steiner to somewhere else . He ends up at a construction site , the hideout of a band of thieves who are attempting to break into a bank . It is learned that an error in the projection has given Steiner the ability to kill people by touching them , and has mutilated one half of his body . Steiner kills the criminals , and then enters a store , where he steals a pair of rubber gloves and a coat . He then breaks into the institute , where he finds Latham and kills him . He also destroys the building 's power supply , alerting Hill and Mitchell that something is wrong . By this time , Inspector Davis (Derek Farr) has discovered the bodies of the criminals and is determined to stop Steiner .

Sheila is kidnapped by Steiner , who interrogates her in her apartment . She reveals that Blanchard and Latham planned against him , angering Steiner . Before leaving , Steiner sets Sheila 's apartment on fire with her inside (unaware that she survives) and goes to hide at Blanchard 's house . When Blanchard returns home , he is killed by Steiner . Meanwhile , Davis has examined Latham 's body and realises that the electric marks left on Latham were the same as the criminals .

Steiner shows up at Hill 's house , where he finds her and Mitchell . Steiner demands that they tell him where he can find more electricity , since after the projection he needs energy to survive . Hill and Mitchell try to convince him to return to the laboratory so they can try reversing the projection , but Steiner rebuffs them and leaves toward a power plant .

Davis , Hill , and Mitchell find him rumbling around in the power plant . Davis tries to kill him , but Steiner resists his bullets , so Hill again tries to persuade Steiner to return to the laboratory . Steiner is eventually convinced , so he goes with them , but when he arrives , he tricks them and begins destroying things . With the laboratory on fire and the projection device wildly out of control , Steiner is hit by the projection device 's laser , causing him to disappear as the fire rages on .

= = Production = =

The Projected Man was discovered as an unproduced screenplay by film producer Alex Gordon . The script was written by Frank Quattrochi , a Hollywood screenwriter , and was originally set in the United States . Gordon sent it to his brother Richard , also a film producer . Richard enjoyed reading it , but had it re @-@ written to be set in London . He would serve as producer on the film . Ian Curteis was hired to direct The Projected Man , which would be his first theatrical film , as all of his previous work had been in television . Curteis was hired at the insistence of producer John Croydon , who was confident that Curteis would later become a success .

The movie was 50 % financed by Compton , the company of Michael Klinger and Tony Tenser .

Bryant Haliday was cast in the lead role as Professor Steiner . He was chosen for the role as Gordon was opposed to a British actor playing the title role , and the budget would not allow a Hollywood star to be used . The fact that Gordon was already familiar with him , as he had cast him in Curse of Simba and Devil Doll , was also a factor . Haliday , a fan of horror movies , enjoyed doing The Projected Man . British stage actress Mary Peach was cast in the lead role as Dr. Patricia Hill . It was insisted that she be given top billing for her role . Norman Wooland , a German @-@ born British character actor , was cast as Dr. Blanchard , the film 's villain . Derek Farr portrays Inspector Davis , and Ronald Allen plays the role of Dr. Christopher Mitchell . A scene in the film features actress Norma West lying topless on a morgue table ; this scene was added to aid sales overseas .

Curteis ran into several problems while directing the film . Owing to his absence of feature film experience , the film 's tight schedule , and limited funding , he became quickly overwhelmed , and The Projected Man started going over its budget and falling behind on schedule . Executive producers Michael Klinger and Tony Tenser threatened to take over production as they did not want to increase the budget . Since Croydon had hired Curteis , it became his responsibility to fire him and finish directing the film . Richard Gordon suggested that " I think Curteis was relieved to step out because he simply didn 't know any longer what to do . " Croydon was not credited for his directing work on the film ; as Gordon said , " one tries not to publicize such incidents . "

= = Release = =

The Projected Man was released in the United Kingdom by Compton @-@ Cameo Films Ltd in the summer of 1966 under an X @-@ certificate , which indicated it was suitable only for those aged 16 and older .

The Projected Man was shot at the same time as Island of Terror , with which it was released on a double bill . The idea of the double bill came to Richard Gordon when he ran Island of Terror for Universal Studios ' executive in charge , Hi Martin . As The Projected Man 's special effects were not yet finished , Gordon showed Martin Island of Terror . Martin enjoyed the film and obtained the American rights for a " very large sum of money . " As Gordon was not keen on the idea of Island of Terror being placed at the bottom of the bill with one of Universal 's other features , which he described as " no good for [our production company] financially , " he proposed adding a second film , noting that The Projected Man was nearing completion . He showed an unfinished workprint of the film to see if Martin was interested , and he enjoyed it enough to accept the deal . When The

Projected Man was shown in theatres in the United States , it was cut thirteen minutes shorter than the original British print , due to the fact that Universal felt the opening scene , which depicted a rehearsal for an experiment which came later in the film , was " repetitive . " They also did not want a double bill with a duration of over three hours , and did not want to edit Island of Terror , so The Projected Man was trimmed to provide an exact 180 @-@ minute running time .

= = = Reception = = =

A review in entertainment industry magazine Variety praised The Projected Man , writing that the screenplay " is a mosaic compiled from other films but the pieces hang together fairly well . " However , Variety criticised the character 's motives , saying that " the origin and motives of the third party are never fully explained . " The magazine wrote that the performances in the film were " generally good , " and that " the characters do not fall prey to the usual cliches . " Writing for Ottawa Citizen , Gordon Stoneham , reviewing the double bill of The Projected Man and Island of Terror , called The Projected Man " dreadful stuff , " saying that the film was " badly written , woodenly acted , and abounding in the cliches of the horror film genre . " However , he wrote that " it is short and to the point " and wrote that " although it trods a familiar path , every now and then it comes up with some arresting bit of cinematic coloring that rivels the attention . " Comparing the two films , he stated that The Projected Man was " the best . " A TV Guide review wrote that the " characters are better portrayed than usual in films of this nature , keeping the actors from becoming mere stereotypes " and that " subtle artistic direction and first @-@ quality special effects give this picture a strong visual presence . " The review graded The Projected Man with two stars out of four . The anonymous reviewer for the British Kinematograph Weekly called the cast " competent " and noted that , while the " plot [was] at least as old as H. G. Wells " , there was something about the film that would challenge the " hard @-@ boiled child of today " .

Many reviews were critical of the film 's resemblance to The Fly . British magazine Time Out pointed it out , as did TV Guide . Audiences also noted that it was similar to the 1959 science fiction film 4D Man . In a 2000 interview with Video Watchdog , Richard Gordon stated " we weren 't really influenced by The Fly " and wrote in the 2006 book Interviews with B Science Fiction and Horror Movie Makers that " Projected Man does have a very strong similarity to The Fly , but it came to us as a finished screenplay and seemed to be a perfectly logical film to make . "

= = = Mystery Science Theater 3000 = = =

The Projected Man was shown in a ninth season episode of Mystery Science Theater 3000 . The show , a comedy television series , revolves around a human character Mike Nelson and his two robots friends , Crow T. Robot and Tom Servo who are forced to watch bad films while trapped in outer space by their captor , Pearl Forrester . To stay sane while watching the bad movies , Mike and the robots mock the film as they watch . During the episode , their silhouetted images are superimposed over the film to give the impression that they are sitting in a cinema as they make their jokes . The Projected Man was the first episode of the ninth season . It was originally broadcast on Sci @-@ Fi Channel on 14 March 1998 , the second season of the series to premiere on that channel . It was the series ' second film to star Bryant Haliday ; his film Devil Doll had been previously lampooned . Series writer Paul Chaplin spoke negatively about Haliday 's performance , saying , " I guess Haliday was considered to be someone who could carry a film . I don 't know much about movies , but in mid @-@ 1960s England they must have been about three million years behind the music . "

= = = Home media = = =

In 2006 , The Projected Man was released on DVD by Cinema Club .