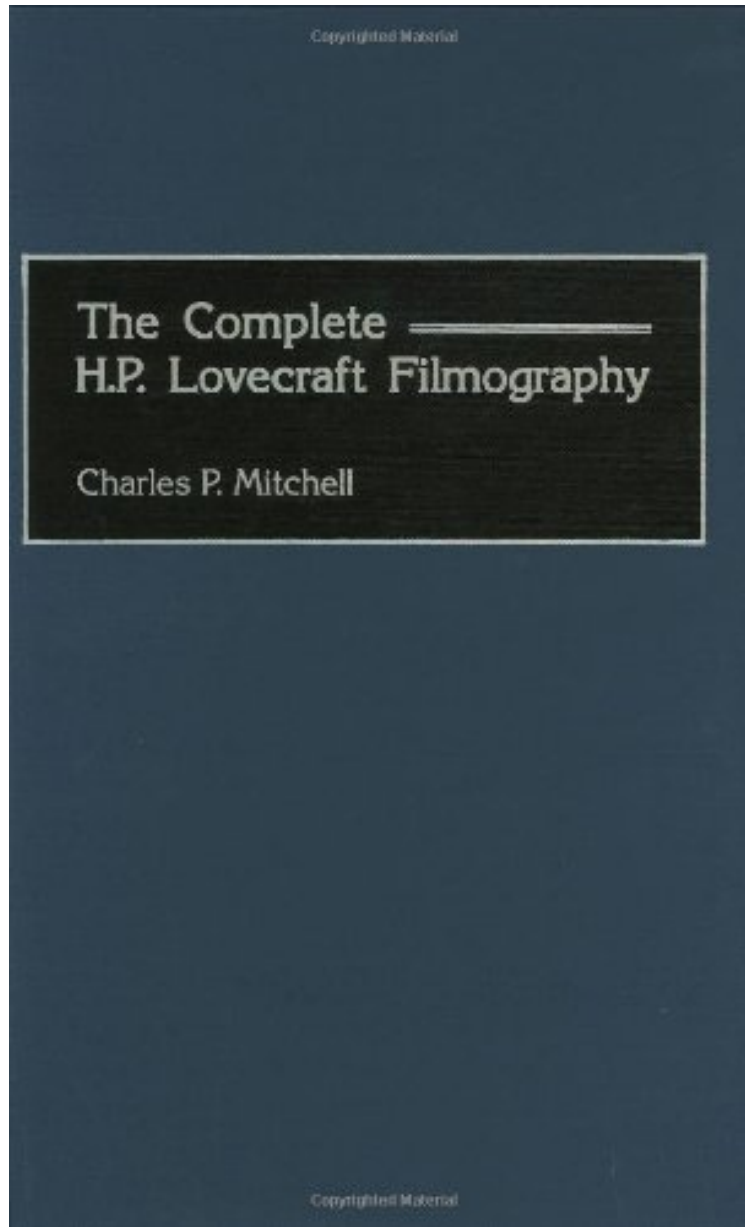


[Free] The Complete H. P. Lovecraft Filmography (Bibliographies and Indexes in the Performing Arts)

## The Complete H. P. Lovecraft Filmography (Bibliographies and Indexes in the Performing Arts)

*Charles P. Mitchell*

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**Charles P. Mitchell : The Complete H. P. Lovecraft Filmography (Bibliographies and Indexes in the Performing Arts)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Complete H. P. Lovecraft Filmography (Bibliographies and Indexes in the Performing Arts):

10 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Very detailed and well written  
By A Customer  
This book is actually divided into four different parts. The first is the introduction which provides an excellent background to Lovecraft, including an overview of his work and a glossary of Lovecraftian terms and ideas. Here the author lists over 60 works influenced by Lovecraft, ranging from a comprehensive adaptation to a work with a throw-away reference to Lovecraft and his work. These films are divided into two categories, depending on whether the level of influence is major or minor. Each film has a brief synopsis. The second part is an in-depth treatment of the 30 films in which Lovecraft's influence is most important. These films are then thoroughly analyzed by comparing them to Lovecraft's own writing. In many cases, this section is the most appealing. For instance, Mitchell takes a film seldom considered to be Lovecraftian, such as *THE CRAWLING EYE*, and proves the Lovecraft connection by quoting four passages from Lovecraft's novel *AT THE MOUNTAINS OF MADNESS*. Utterly brilliant! The third section is the photo essay, which is most enjoyable, but far too short. I enjoy the pictorial comparisons of Lovecraft himself to actor Christian Heyerdahl, who plays Lovecraft in the picture *OUT OF MIND*. Finally, the last section are the appendices, which briefly touch upon Lovecraft's influences on television shows such as *THE NIGHT GALLERY* or *THE TWILIGHT ZONE*. Then he touches upon AMATEUR Lovecraft productions, a most welcome coverage. The book ends by discussing the difficulties and problems of developing good Lovecraft film adaptations. The author then suggests a dozen novels and short stories by Lovecraft and others who write in his style that would have the best chance to be developed into good films. This last section is most extraordinary and valuable, and it makes the book indispensable for the Lovecraft aficionado. A most excellent book on all counts!

9 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Just Okay and Pricey for 'Just Okay'  
By Franklin Hummel  
First, another book on Lovecraftian film, video, and television productions was published in 2000 called *THE LURKER IN THE LOBBY*, which was aimed at a more general audience than Mr. Mitchell's *THE COMPLETE H.P. LOVECRAFT FILMOGRAPHY*, which seems more for academics. The films listed are divided into two sections: primary and secondary. The author stresses that mere inclusion of "Cthulhu Mythos" names or places is not enough for a film to be included in the primary section, there must also be truly Lovecraftian themes and concepts present as well. This is reasonable, but somewhat simplistic. This division is further undercut by Mr. Mitchell then ignoring his own rule for inclusion by listing movies such as *CTHULHU MANSION* and *WITCH HUNT* in his primary list, films which only include a few HPL-related names and \*no\* true Lovecraftian concepts -- while very Lovecraftian-themed films such as *QUATERMASS AND THE PIT* (aka *FIVE MILLION YEARS TO EARTH*) and *THE BEAST WITHIN* are placed in his secondary list. (Such a misplaced concept of "Lovecraftian" is what has led to there not only being so many \*bad\* Mythos movies, but seeming now a book which presents \*bad\* Mythos movies \*as\* Lovecraftian!) On the good side, some films which are often missed by Lovecraftians, such as *THE MANITOU*, are included and discussed at length in the book. Also, some recently "discovered" productions, such as a Japanese TV version of "The Shadow Over Innsmouth" are also noted. The problems come, however, with the fact that this *FILMOGRAPHY* is certainly far from "COMPLETE" and has a number of factual errors in it. For example, the late 1990s, 70-minute-long Australian film *CTHULHU*, based on several of H.P. Lovecraft's stories seems not to have been known to the author. Commonly-known Mythos-related films have been overlooked. In a section at the end of the book, where Mr. Mitchell suggests stories which might make future, good film adaptations, he includes Colin Wilson's novel *THE MIND PARASITES*, seemingly failing to know this book \*had\* already served as the basis for the movie *LIFEFORCE*. (It is mentioned in another review Mr. Mitchell covered *LIFEFORCE* in another of his books and suggests this is why it was not included in this *FILMOGRAPHY*. Hogwash! First, if it was included in another of Mitchell's books, he should have known it was based on a Mythos novel, and second, even if it is covered in another of his books, this does not excuse the fact it is very much relevant to \*this\* book's subject.) The television section is particularly weak. There are been a good number of TV versions which are Lovecraftian-related, yet these are only discussed briefly and many are absent. The HPL aspects of the television series *BABYLON 5* are mentioned, which is noteworthy, but nothing is said about the B5 movie *THIRDSPEACE*, whose story was a complete Lovecraftian homage. The two Mythos episodes of the animated *THE REAL GHOSTBUSTERS* are not included. Another error is found with mention of the forthcoming film *DAGON* by Stuart Gordon (of *RE-ANIMATOR* fame). Mr. Mitchell lists the movie's plot as being based on HPL's very short story of the same name, when in fact even brief research turns up that this film is based on Lovecraft's "The Shadow Over Innsmouth". I think what I find is the basic flaw in *THE COMPLETE H.P. LOVECRAFT FILMOGRAPHY* is that the author's research seems in many places to be weak. Mr. Mitchell seems to have purposely avoided those internet and literary sources (such as the previous mentioned *LURKER IN THE LOBBY*) which could have served as extremely useful primary bibliographic sources. The results of this is a reference book which contributes some information and insight to Lovecraftian film study, but very little which is new, and leaves me with the sense of many lost opportunities. ...*THE COMPLETE H.P. LOVECRAFT FILMOGRAPHY* sadly does \*not\* live up to its title. In my opinion, it is for completists only. I happen to be one.

7 of 9 people found the following review helpful. A Useful and Enjoyable Guide  
By Christian Matzke  
Covering so narrow and subjective a sub-genre as Lovecraftian films is a tricky thing. There is no established guide for how to go about it, and the comparison between Mr. Mitchell's book and Mr.'s Stryzik and Migliore's earlier book on the subject, "The Lurker in the Lobby" is very enlightening. I like both books

and feel all the more informed for having them both. I should mention up front that a film of mine is reviewed in both books, so perhaps I am biased. But my enthusiasm for Lovecraftian films would have made me buy these books even if I hadn't been involved in their creation. One point of contention I would like to comment on is whether Mr. Mitchell should have used "The Lurker in the Lobby" as a primary source (...). While this might seem logical or tempting, the field is too narrow and Mr. Mitchell's book would no doubt have been seen as "piggybacking" off the earlier book. There are a number of websites dealing with Lovecraftian films who appear to me to be guilty of this. Mr. Mitchell chose wisely in doing his own research, and while there are a few places where he certainly could have benefited from contact with other resources that have covered the sub-genre, he took the high ground and can be proud of the outcome. Is the book subjective? Of course. Does that make it bad? Far from it. His choices make for fascinating reading whether you end up agreeing with him or not. Certainly we all have a few films we can't believe haven't been covered in a book like this one, but that's to be expected from so new a field of study (and as a note, "Lifeforce" was reviewed in Mr. Mitchell's last book, "A guide to Apocalyptic Cinema", so perhaps he didn't wish to use up space repeating himself). Mr. Mitchell's book is a great addition to what I hope will be a growing number of books on the subject. I highly recommend it to those with a real interest in the history and diversity of Lovecraftian films.

The influence of science fiction writer H. P. Lovecraft is widely felt in modern literature; authors from Robert E. Howard to Stephen King can claim him as their ancestor. But cinema too has seen Lovecraft's impact, and author Charles Mitchell offers here a comprehensive guide to the dozens of films that are representative of this influence. Mitchell studies the films in detail, analyzing the major Lovecraft elements and examining the fidelity of the films to the original works. Amateur films as well as television productions and foreign cinema, are included in Mitchell's scrutiny, revealing the challenge of transcribing Lovecraft to the screen, while at the same time suggesting the potential of Lovecraft's work for future, quality screen adaptations. In addition to plot summaries, entries for each film include annotated cast lists, critiques of actors' performances, the degree of fidelity to Lovecraft, and representative quotes from each film. This thorough work will be of interest to students of cinema as well as modern literature.

From Booklist An example of a reference source that tells you more than you thought it was possible to know about an arcane topic. More than 33 films are covered in depth, with annotated cast lists, synopses, analyses, assessments of performances and "fidelity to Lovecraft," and representative quotes. RBBCopyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "[T]hose with extensive and comprehensive film collections may want to consider its purchase."- American Reference Books Annual "Those with extensive and comprehensive film collections may want to consider its purchase."- American Reference Books Annual? [T]hose with extensive and comprehensive film collections may want to consider its purchase.?- American Reference Books Annual About the Author CHARLES P. MITCHELL has served as director of many Maine libraries and also as the Chairman of the Southern Maine Library District. He is the author of A Guide to Charlie Chan Films (Greenwood, 1999) and A Guide to Apocalyptic Cinema (Greenwood, 2001).