

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Reader:

Welcome to this special edition of *MSJ*: a collection focusing on the horror genre. I'm thrilled (pun intended) to showcase such an eclectic mix of pieces that showcase not only the importance of horror in popular culture but the various ways through which its ideas can be expressed.

In assembling this collection, I felt like a mad scientist ensconced in his laboratory, toiling in the shadows as I gathered the necessary instruments to complete my grand experiment, taking extensive notes while I stitched together a beautiful creation that celebrates the intricacies and complexities of everything that horror can offer us.

Within these pages, you will find a diverse selection of pieces: a video essay analyzing James Sibley Watson and Melville Webber's 1928 short film *The Fall of the House of Usher*; an investigation on the use of light and shadow in Hitchcock's *Rear Window*; an interview with Bram Stoker's great grandnephew, Dacre Stoker; an exploration of domestic abuse between Stanley Kubrick's *The Shining* and Bryan Bertino's *The Dark and the Wicked*; and a study of Mike Flanagan's *The Haunting of Bly Manor* that examines how the miniseries engages in a dialogue with nineteenth-century socio-political structures.

You will also discover a fortieth anniversary retrospective of John Carpenter's classic *The Thing* that discusses the film's staying power and why it continues to enthrall audiences; a review of panels and films exhibited at the 2022 Vancouver Horror Show festival; and an interdisciplinary review that focuses on gender in the workplace by comparing Ridley Scott's film *Alien* to Anne Tibbets's novel *Screams from the Void*.

Reading through each of these pieces, I'm reminded of how important horror is for our health and well-being, how important it is to interact with our fears and phobias so as to gain a deeper knowledge and understanding of both our individual selves and the greater world. Above all, each of these pieces is a firm reminder that we cannot truly appreciate the light if we never venture into the darkness.

Finally, I would like to thank Greg Chan, editor-in-chief, for entrusting me with this horror-themed issue. I appreciate his boundless patience and invaluable assistance in guiding me through this exhilarating process.

Cheers,



Michael Howarth
Guest Editor