



# Wes Craven: The Art of Horror

By John Kenneth Muir

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Filmmaker Wes Craven has consistently and imaginatively scared movie audiences since the early 1970s. His films encompass a variety of styles, elements and themes, from the nihilistic existentialism of *The Last House on the Left* to the successful *A Nightmare on Elm Street* (which sent horror in a bold new direction), to the hallucinatory dreamscapes of *The Serpent and the Rainbow*. And in the nineties, Craven returned with the *Scream* films, which were simultaneously funny, clever and scary films that overturned the horror cliches of the eighties. The present work provides a history of Craven's film career since 1972, examining all the themes and techniques the filmmaker explored. For each film, a synopsis, cast and credits, historical context, and critical commentary are provided. Also covered in detail are Craven's forays into television, including movies such as *Stranger in the House* and work on such series as *The New Twilight Zone*.

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"enthusiasm for his subject is evident...should prove of interest to the slasher fan"--*Classic Images*;  
"impressive persuasiveness and clarity...worthy investigation of...this monumentally moral director...all collections"--*Choice*; "intriguing...an in-depth look at a great mind"--*Music Revue Magazine*;  
"meticulous...cover[s] every aspect of Craven's career...exhaustive"--*Video Watchdog*; "well researched and written"--*Talking Pictures Magazine*; "the commentaries make especially interesting reading...a must-have"--*Samhain*; "invaluable"--*Interzone*; "the best overview of [Craven's] career I've seen...a lot of fun"--*Little Shoppe of Horrors*; "keen insights"--*Burlington County Times*; "you will learn something new by reading this book"--*fearsmag.com*.

### About the Author

**John Kenneth Muir** is the author of more than 20 reference books covering science fiction and horror on film and television. He is creator of the Internet sci-fi series *The House Between* ([www.thehousebetween.com](http://www.thehousebetween.com)) and his popular blog can be found at [reflectionsonfilmandtelevision.blogspot.com](http://reflectionsonfilmandtelevision.blogspot.com).

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