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Cozy up on the couch with the best animated Halloween films

By Felicity DeGaetan

When autumn begins to roll around and pumpkin spice season is among us, it's time to bring out the cozy blankets and nestle in for a good Halloween movie.

However, some of us may not be into super thrillers and gore. If you're looking for a fun and spooky movie to usher in the fall season, look no further than the four best animated films to leave you with all the ghostly feels.

4. "The Nightmare Before Christmas" (1993)

The movie is filled with music, color and classic stop-motion animation that is sure to leave you feeling ready for Halloween and Christmas alike. However, the split holidays take a few points away from this quirky film that relegates it to the bottom of this list.

3. "Casper" (1995)

Nothing says scary like a ghost falling in love with a human.

Despite this, Casper is a friendly ghost who peacefully haunts a mansion in Maine and befriends a young girl named Kat who moves in.

Casper falls for Kat, adding



From Tim Burton classics to "Casper," these four films are sure to entertain you this Halloween season. UNSPLASH/Felipe Bustillo

Whether you categorize this as a Halloween or Christmas movie, everyone can agree "The Nightmare Before Christmas" has spooky themes throughout.

This classic Tim Burton animation showcases the Pumpkin King of Halloweentown Jack Skellington struggling with his identity, and he plots a way to kidnap Santa Claus and take over his role with Christmas.

humanity and charm to a movie showcasing the life of a boy who's not truly alive and doesn't feel good enough for the girl he loves.

A unique movie of its time, "Casper" was the first feature film to have an animated character as the starring role. Though it lacks much of a spooky factor, this Halloween staple is as cheesy as it is loyable.

2. Corpse Bride (2005)

Another Tim Burton classic, this film showcases everything that makes Burton a phenomenal filmmaker with iconic caricatures, vibrant colors and fun music that are sure to make the dreary story within the film all the more entertaining.

This movie follows Victor as he navigates through the underworld with a deceased woman who was left at the altar in her past life. She believes Victor intends to marry her.

Burton plays with the traditionalism that stems from classic scary movies, and leads his viewers to fall in love with the unknown world below and the beings who occupy it. Heart wrenching yet fun, "Corpse Bride" is certainly a staple to watch this season.

1. "Coraline" (2009)

The spookiest and best animated scary film of all time is "Coraline."

After moving into a new mysterious pink mansion, Coraline Jones is eventually introduced to an entire "other" world while exploring, which is vibrant and full of fun. Everyone in this new world completely loves and nurtures her.

But everyone in this new world has buttons for eyes, and soon the happy vibe turns manipulative with Coraline feeling threatened to have her eyes sewn shut so she can continue living among them.

Overall, "Coraline" is a twisted yet whimsical film that both frightens and leaves you wanting more. It's the ultimate Halloween movie to creep out parents, kids and college students alike.





Secondhand scares: Thrift your next Halloween costume

By Brielle Lopez

Halloween is next month, and costumes are yet another expense for college students, which is why thrifting is a fun and affordable way to shop for a costume.

I visited some thrift stores in the USF area this weekend to prove students can piece together a fun, cute costume on a budget.

The Salvation Army Family Store on Nebraska Avenue was the first thrift store I explored. This store has a wide variety of



clothes, so I opted for two simple costumes and one that could be harder to find and put together.

The first costume I found was a feminine angel costume that consisted of a white halter dress that costs \$9.99 and white pump heels that cost \$12.99. The outfit could be paired with a white headband from Walmart for about \$2.00, for a grand total of \$24.98.

The second costume I put together was a feminine devil. This outfit had more pieces to it, with a \$4.99 red cowl top, a \$3.99 black skirt and a \$12.99 pair of pump heels. The skirt had a white price tag and it was a Saturday, meaning it was 50% off. The grand total ended up being \$19.98, and could be accented with cute fishnets found anywhere from Walmart to Target.

In comparison, Spirit Halloween's website sells an angel costume for about \$25, but it doesn't come with a shirt or any shoes. The website also shows a full devil costume with a dress and all accessories, which



rings up to \$90. Thrifting would recycle clothes while saving a lot of money in the process.

The third costume was a Wednesday Addams costume, the daughter from the classic cartoon "The Addams Family," later a TV show and turned into many movies. The outfit consisted simply of a black white-collared dress that cost \$9.99. Add some pigtail braids

and black shoes and you've got Wednesday Addams in the flesh.

Hope's Children Store on Fowler Avenue was the second thrift store I visited, where I set on finding masculine counterparts to the angel and devil costumes.

The masculine devil costume is made up of a \$5 red button up, \$6 black slacks and a \$1 maroon tie. All together the outfit was \$12 and could be worn with any black shoes of one's liking.

The masculine angel costume I put together consisted of a \$4 white button up, \$3 beige dress pants and a \$1 light blue tie. The outfit price came out to only \$8 and could be worn with any light shoes of choice.

Community Thrift Store also on Nebraska Avenue was the last store I explored, and there I found an Adam Sandler costume, which can be any oversized shirt and a pair of shorts. The outfit is made up of a \$5.75 extra large polo shirt, \$3.75 men's cargo shorts, \$12.75 Reebok sneakers



and a \$5.75 baseball cap. All together the outfit was \$28.

The charm of thrifted Halloween costumes is the creativity used to put together costumes. The ability to save money, protect the environment and make your own Halloween costume at the same time makes thrifting sound like a win-win situation to me.

Local haunts to hit up this October



Marcelene Pilcher

CORRESPONDENT

Legend has it that in 1976, a young woman took her own life on USF campus, found hanging by an oak tree. Some say she was an English major, others insist she studied music. Either way, one facet of the story is agreed on: she spent hours a day in the library doing research.

When she passed, her spirit

was tethered to that place. Some still claim to see her wandering the fourth floor of the library.

If the idea of an eternal afterlife spent researching your thesis isn't enough to scare you, here are a few paranormal hot spots around Tampa that might send a shiver down your spine.

Tampa Theatre Ghost

Theatres of the golden era are notorious hotspots for hauntings, no doubt those who lived for drama in life carry it into the great beyond. The Tampa Theatre has many friendly spirits that roam its halls after dark, including Fink Finley, according

to the Tampa Bay Times.

Finley was a projectionist at the theatre in the sixties. One day in 1965, he died unexpectedly from a heart attack while in the projection booth showing a film. To this day, Tampa Theatre staff claim if they look up into the projection booth from the audience, they may see Finley, who's been consistently spotted and photographed in the theatre's projection booth.

Tampa Theatre staff describe Finley as a friendly presence. If you go catch a play or film at the Tampa Theatre, take a moment and look back into the projection booth

Busch Gardens Spirit

The Serengeti Overlook Pub at Busch Gardens is said by those who work there to be inhabited by a supernatural presence after hours. Flipped tables, laughing children and unexplainable footsteps are among the sightings by staff.

The most commonly sighted spirit is an 8-year-old girl, which the staff has dubbed Wendy. She has been said to materialize in the main dining room or stop the elevator between floors. Her signature giggle has been heard by kitchen staff before utensils are knocked from counters, appliances flickering on and off.

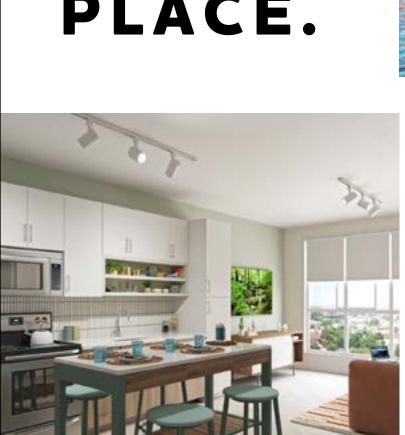
Brave souls who stay just before the park closes may catch a glimpse of something supernatural.

Oaklawn Cemetery Spirits

Oaklawn Cemetery was the first public burial ground in Tampa. Some residents have said that if you wander the graveyard at night, you can hear people whispering from the graves or see apparitions wandering the grounds.

So, if you're bored on a crisp October evening, see a movie at the theater or go for a midnight jog past Oaklawn Cemetery. Perhaps you'll see a lost soul.

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Howl-O-Scream and Halloween Horror Nights return to scare Tampa, Orlando



Clinton Engelberger

STAFF WRITER

Halloween brings countless family friendly traditions with a spooky twist, such as trick or treating and parties. For those leaning into the macabre side of the holiday, however, there are plenty of local events sure to provide a good fright this season.

The two most popular in the area, Howl-O-Scream and Halloween Horror Nights, are back after hosting limited events, or being outright canceled, last year. Both are determined to scare you to your limit.

Howl-O-Scream

Located only a few minutes from the Tampa campus, Howl-O-Scream at Busch Gardens has the ability to provide students looking for local haunted houses with hassle-free access.

Howl-O-Scream has long provided guests with thrills and unexpected frights in a successful fashion since 2000. After the event went on with only scare zones — outdoor areas filled with scare actors — in 2020 due to the pandemic, haunted houses are making a triumphant return this year.

There will be three new houses including Witch of the Woods, The Forgotten and Cell Block Zombies as well as two returning houses, The Residence and Death Water Bayou: Blood Moon. Separate admission for the event is required. Prices

start at \$41.99 and go up to \$54.99 on the busiest days such as Saturdays in mid to end of October.

Halloween Horror Nights

Halloween Horror Nights at Universal Orlando Resort has set the gold standard for haunt events nationwide.

Usually featuring a mixture of popular films, TV shows and original concepts for the haunted houses, this year guests have the opportunity to experience event.

Which one should I go to?

Though both events seem to offer similar experiences for guests, the scale between the two is much greater than one would think.

If you're looking to save a bit of money and gas, and still experience the thrills first hand, Howl-O-Scream is a great opportunity to do so, especially if you live close to Busch Gardens. If you're desiring a more extreme



After a year of limited runs, both events are back with a full return to normal operations for the first time since 2019. SPECIAL TO THE ORACLE/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Beetlejuice, The Texas Chainsaw Massacre and The Haunting of Hill House up close and in person.

Prices are a bit higher than an average haunt event, starting from \$70.99 and capping off at around \$99.99 when purchased online. With high production values and lots to do — IO haunted houses, five scare zones and two shows — Halloween Horror Nights is a one-of-a-kind

scare this season, and don't mind splurging a bit, Halloween Horror Nights may be the path you're looking to take.

Both events run until Oct. 31, so there is still plenty of time to make a decision. Regardless of your preference, they exhibit numerous qualities that are guaranteed to allow you to have fun, scream loud and run away from multiple chainsaw-wielding monsters simultaneously.

Hop to local harvest celebrations



Lanie De La Milera

STAFF WRITER

Tampa is a city with plenty of things to do year-round, perhaps even more so during the fall season.

Whether students want cute pictures for their Instagram feeds or just a good time with friends, there are a number of different fall-themed spots to go and visit.

Here are a few places to check out within an hour from campus.

Harvest Holler Corn Maze

Approximately 45 minutes away from USF in Polk City, the Harvest Holler Corn Maze is open from Sept. 17 to Nov. 14.

Admission to the event costs \$15 for visitors between the ages of 13-64 and \$12 for all others, excluding children under the age of 2 who get in for free. There is also a discount offer for military members, law enforcement officers and firefighters to get in for \$12.

With admission comes allday access to each attraction, according to their website. Attractions include a corn maze, a "Frank-n-slide," a hay ride, corn tubs and more.

Sweetfields Farm

For more fall fun students can visit Sweetfields Farm, about 45 minutes away from campus in Brooksville.

The farm, which operates year-round, is set to open its annual Fall Maze Sept. 25 and have it run through Nov. 7. The maze and the rest of the fall activities will mostly be open Friday-Sunday but there are several Mondays available as well.

Sweetfields Maze spans over five acres with plenty of checkpoints and clues that will help participants find their way

Tickets to Sweetfields are for a three-hour time slot and are prone to selling out, so those looking to hop in on the fun will likely have to purchase them when they eventually go on sale online, which has yet to be released.

Tickets are free for children 2 years or younger and are \$9.75 for everyone else.

HarvestMoon Fun Farm Pumpkin Patch

Not far from Sweetfields is the HarvestMoon Fun Farm in Masaryktown, near Tampa.

Opening the fall season Oct. 2 and closing Nov. 7, the farm includes a twist to what the other similar venues may have. At night on select dates, a haunted nighttime flashlight corn maze is available to go through in the spirit of Halloween.

Tickets can be purchased for guests above the age of three for \$13.95 plus tax for weekends, and \$9.95 plus tax on weekdays. Children under two get in for free

Attractions include a maze, pumpkin patch, petting zoo and other classic fall-related events.



Ranking the best NFL Thanksgiving performances in recent history



Richard Silva

SPORTS CO-EDITOR

Since 2006, the NFL has made it a tradition to play three games on Thanksgiving Day, with the only exception being in 2020 when a game was postponed due to COVID-19-related issues.

Teams like the Detroit Lions and Dallas Cowboys have become mainstays of the event, consistently getting tabbed to play on the holiday.

This year is set to be no different. The Lions are scheduled to play the Chicago Bears in the early game at 12:30 p.m. and the Cowboys are matched up against the Las Vegas Raiders at 4:30 p.m. The late game is between the Buffalo Bills and New Orleans Saints, with kickoff planned for 8:20 p.m.

A tradition that draws so much attention is primed to create at least a few memorable moments. Here are the top five most impressive single-game performances in a Thanksgiving game over the last five seasons.

5. Roquan Smith (2019)

Stats: 16 tackles, two for loss, two sacks and two quarterback hits

A game being on Thanksgiving alone is enough to pump up the energy surrounding it, but when a division rivalry is also in the fold, things ratchet up.

That was the case in 2019 when the Bears took on the Lions in front of 65,412 fans at Ford Field. Chicago eventually wound up winning the game 24-20, courtesy of a late go-ahead touchdown reception from running back David Montgomery, but linebacker Roquan Smith made his presence known throughout the contest.

Specifically, Smith finished with a whopping 16 tackles, two for loss, two sacks and two quarterback hits. One of his biggest plays of the game came late in the fourth quarter after Montgomery's touchdown to put the Bears up.

The Lions started their final drive with 2:12 seconds left on the clock pinned back at their own 17-yard line, but quickly maneuvered their way down the field and were threatening to score in the game's waning moments.

Quarterback David Blough took the snap and scanned the field before Smith shot through the A gap and brought Blough down for a huge 13-yard loss on third down, setting up the game-clinching Eddie Jackson interception on the following play.

4. DeShaun Watson (2020)

Stats: 17-of-25 for 318 yards and four touchdowns

Quarterback DeShaun Watson put on a passing clinic in a 41-25 win against the Lions in 2020, completing 68% of his passes for 318 yards and four touchdowns.

As the game entered the fourth quarter, the Texans were in control leading 26-17, but the outcome was far from decided.

Less than three minutes into the final frame, Watson looked toward the left side of the field and uncorked a 40-yard heave in the direction of receiver Will Fuller.

Fuller hauled in the pass in stride and waltzed into the endzone, starting a 15-0 run in Houston's favor that would effectively end any chance the Lions had left.

3. Will Fuller IV (2020)

Stats: Six receptions, 171 yards and two touchdowns

In order for Watson to have as impressive of a game as he did, chances are one of his receivers had to step up and have a big game, and that's exactly what Will Fuller IV did.

The versatile receiver finished his day with six receptions for 171 yards and two touchdowns, making his mark on the game. Fuller also tallied another score on the ensuing drive via a trick play.

After Watson took the snap under center, he quickly turned and handed the ball to running back Duke Johnson who scampered horizontally across the field before lateralling the ball back to Watson, leaving the defense in disarray.

Amid the chaos, Fuller found himself wide open at the 15-yard line catching a pass and beating the Detroit defensive back to the pylon for the last Houston touchdown of the day.

2. Phillip Rivers (2017)

Stats: 27-of-33 for 434 yards and three touchdowns

At 36 years old, Phillip Rivers put together one of the most complete performances from a quarterback in recent Thanksgiving history in a convincing 28-6 win over the Cowboys.

Not only did the former San Diego and Los Angeles Charger toss a trio of touchdown passes to three different teammates, he also logged the fourth most passing yards he has ever achieved in a single game with 434.

His defense did him plenty of favors, holding Dallas to a mere six points and shutting them out until the fourth quarter, and his offensive line kept his jersey clean all night, but Rivers held up his end of the bargain as well.

To make his game even more significant, this was the first time the Chargers had a game on Thanksgiving since the AFL-NFL merger in 1966, and remains the team's only appearance since to this date.

I. Cameron Jordan (2019)

Stats: Six tackles, four for loss, four sacks and four quarterback hits

Besides the quarterback, there's an argument to be made an edge rusher may be the most impactful player on a football field at any given moment. Defensive end Cameron Jordan certainly made his mark in the Saints' 26-18 victory over the Atlanta Falcons in 2019.

Jordan sacked quarterback Matt Ryan four times, collected six tackles, four for loss and notched four quarterback hits. Both the sack and quarterback hits numbers were, and still are, career highs for the II-year pro.

A career game like he had couldn't have come at a better time, on a nationally televised stage against a rival team in winning fashion, moving his team to 10-2 on the year.



Prior to the shift to three games 15 years ago, the NFL used to schedule two games to be played on Thanksgiving from 1970 to 2006. SPECIAL TO THE ORACLE/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

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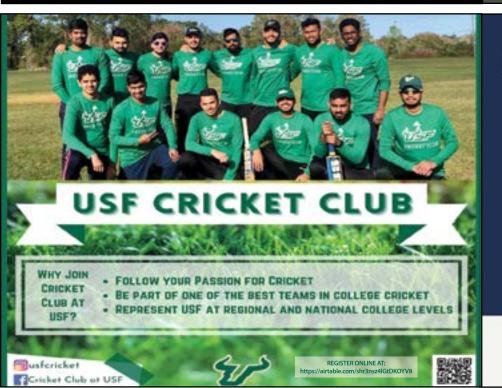


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