

A O D R

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER



A Message From the Team

Happy Spooktober, boos and ghouls!

Here at the Academy of Death Racers, we've been hard at work behind the scenes to keep up our list of sprints, prep everything we need for our upcoming film festival, and keep everyone up to date on reception to the newest and best films as festival season rages on. A few of our leadership team actually got to attend TIFF online this year, as well as LFF, CIFF, and Fantastic Fest! How cool is that!

We couldn't be more proud of the reception to last year's AoDR announcement! We had so many people interested in suggesting movie sprints, we actually filled the Movie Club spread of this newsletter barely a day after the last newsletter!

With festival season underway, and three fantastic new sprints ready to go (including our first to include a 2021 movie), this is an exciting time to be an AoDR member!

- Ian, Jeff, Mark, Alex, Cris, Lukas

aodr.net



IN FAMILY



WE TRUST



The Academy of DeathRacers Festival

The Academy of Death Racers Festival is an international online film festival celebrating the best short films of the year and promoting widely available screenings for the public. The first AODR Festival will be held from the 14th – 30th January 2022.

The 2022 AoDR Festival will have 4 competitive strands, the winner of each receiving a cash prize of \$250 apiece for excellence in the following categories:

Animated short film

Documentary short film

Live action short film

Film with LGBTQ+ theme (short or feature)

In addition, a \$100 prize for Audience choice will be awarded to the film given the highest rating by the attendees of the festival.

Selected filmmakers will also be given the opportunity to partake in live Q&A or panel sessions as part of the festival.

Winners will be announced in our live ceremony, which will take place online on Saturday 26 March 2022.

All genres of film are accepted, with a maximum runtime for shorts of 40 minutes including all credits. Films entered in the LGBTQ+ category can be of any length, and any genre.

Films should be submitted digitally through FilmFreeway.

A non-exclusive licence worldwide screening is expected for all films entered, however, we will consider and make reasonable accommodations for geolocking specific films in specific circumstances. As well as enabling us permission to securely stream the films, this licence would enable us to use short clips from selected films to create trailers for the festival, as well as extracts to display as part of the Awards ceremony.

All films should be submitted as a streaming optimized first (usually a .mov or .mp4 file), and have subtitles where English is not being spoken. As a festival with the aim of being as accessible as possible, we aim to offer closed captions for all selected films, so require either: an .srt (or similar) caption file, or the transcript of the film so we can generate captions.

Please also supply a digital version of the poster, selected stills from the film, details of the cast & crew, and a brief summary of the film, all of which may form part of the content on our website, and other promotional content we create. If you have one, please also include a link to a trailer for the film too.

Dates and Deadlines

September 1, 2021
Submissions Open

November 30, 2021
Earlybird Deadline

December 31, 2021
Regular Deadline

January 7, 2022
Notification Date

January 14 - 30, 2022
Event Date

Submit your film:
filmfreeway.com/aodr

For more info:
aodr.net/festival-2022

The Movie Club

Every month, members of the community nominate themed "sprints" of five movies to watch. Deathracers are naturally completionists, so we over in the Movie Club try to watch all these movies before the end of the month!

Here are the sprints for October:

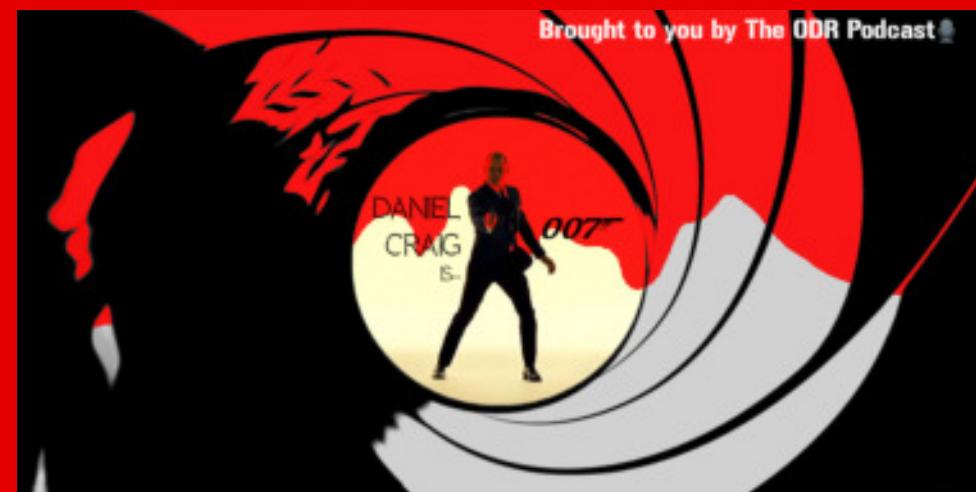


Oktoberfest: Films about Drinking suggested by slightastro



Daniel Craig as Bond

suggested by The ODR Podcast



Days of Death suggested by Ale><



Community Spotlight

Ale><

Ale>< is one of the community managers over on the oscarsdeathrace discord server. She's also a huge horror fan who set up the last sprint for October! We caught up with her to ask a few questions for this month's Community Spotlight!

How did you get involved with the Oscars Death Race community?

Dude. I am eternally grateful to have found my tribe through pure luck and the glorious wonder that is Reddit.

Growing up I was a casual Oscars watcher, but a hardcore fan of film since my earliest memories and they have remained my number one passion. I even attended a couple of film schools: graduated from one of the two and was accepted to a prestigious film institute to complete my degree but, "Best laid plans . . ."

My Oscars obsession was birthed on March 25, 2001, when I attended a costume party for the 73rd Academy Awards. I dressed as a FedEx package from Castaway. That evening an obsession was born. The following year I hosted my first Oscar party – a tradition that lasted through the 2020 Oscars and finally ended in the Covid-Era.

I casually attempted death racing for years (without knowing what to call it), but due to the increasing availability of nominated films I became fixated on completing the race in 2018 in honor of the 90th Academy Awards. That year I was able to complete 87% of the race. The following year I finished at 96% and that nagging 4% lit the fire something fierce.

In February 2020 I found myself relating a little too much to the Reddit-circulated meme of Thanos wearing his gauntlet with hard-to-find nominated films' posters in place of Infinity Stones. The gauntlet featured the exact films I'd been struggling to find: Corpus Christi, St. Louis Superman, & the AoDR staple Les Misérables. The comments section on this meme was particularly good. A handful of people had some solid opinions on the struggle that is hunting down nominated films. I'd never known anyone that was into trying to track down and watch all the nominated films, let alone as hardcore about it as I am.

Through the comments I stumbled upon a magical subreddit – a community of my beloved fellow Death Racers. In meeting the other Racers, the stars aligned and I finished the race for the first time.



What are your favourite movies you've watched for the Oscars Death Race?

I've had the beautiful fortune of completing the last 2 ODRs. Once the fog of film-blindness has lifted there have been a handful of films that have really stuck with me. I'm most grateful for getting to experience films I more than likely wouldn't have seen or even heard of if it wasn't for the Race: Learning To Skateboard In A Warzone (If You're A Girl), Life Overtakes Me, Walk Run Cha-Cha, The Cave, For Sama, Pain & Glory, The Two Popes, Another Round, Better Days, The Man Who Sold His Skin, Feeling Through, The Present, and Do Not Split.

Tell us about your sprint!

Horror films have a special place in my heart. I knew little of their true influence on me creatively until I began film school. I've studied the works of classic horror writers and horror folklore since I began learning how to read. The first book I read and the first movie I watched were both works of horror. That kino film was The Lost Boys.

I couldn't devour the genre quick enough; constantly reading, studying anything and everything – I was a small and strange encyclopedia of horrors. Basically all the creepy stuff you never want to hear a kid talk about. Too many movies utilize that trope and it doesn't turn out very well for all involved.

So now I'm here, completely well-adjusted, to bring to you all, dear friends and fellow Racers, a journey of fear, terror, and the grotesque. American horror can lean too Hollywood and neutered or too murder-porn and I don't want any part of that bullshit. It is my pleasure to share some of the best of the worst and most frightening films from all over the world.



What's your favourite horror movie

Most of my all-time favorite films are either horror or teeter on the edge of the genre. Even the dramas and thrillers I love most have horrific elements and leanings, at the very least are heavily influenced by the classics. I'm all about the elements and stories so steeped in our history and evolution – the seeds so ingrained in our psyches they illicit a visceral response. What I'm describing is largely referred to as folk-horror and I believe it to be the most terrifying sub-genre of horror.

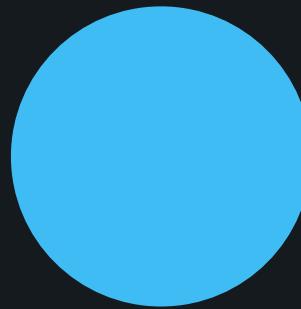
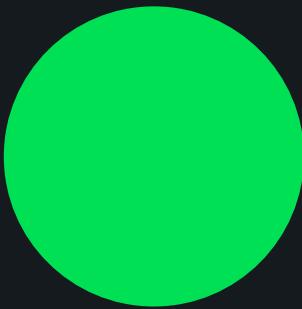
Anything that can haunt you and remain – whether or not you want it to – I live for feeling that way towards films.

Until recently I may have had a straightforward answer to this question, but the standings are being challenged and my favorite film, that just so happens to be of the genre, may soon be replaced by another.

As an Aster-stan I am proud to sing the praises of and share my love for Midsommar. Come say hey on the Midsommar subreddit and we'll get weird! I'm one of the (likely fucked up) individuals that watches Midsommar and comes away from it feeling a sense of peace and hopefulness.

It's just that lately, I've been thinking a lot of this car . . . licked by flames, neon, and a dancer named Alexia . . .

Featured Review



Even though I had predicted the plot itself, the actuality of it was overwhelming

Petite Maman

Review by Rachel

Incredibly moving. This movie tricked me into going to therapy for an hour.

It is so single-minded, almost like a short film, but I mean this as praise, not criticism. When I realized what the movie was trying to communicate to me, I was overcome; I did not foresee how emotional it would make me. Even though I had predicted the plot itself, the actuality of it on its own was overwhelming. My mind suddenly processed so much, felt so much, it was nice that the movie just meditated with me, allowed me to process and feel, then invited me to move forward.

I had a pretty rough relationship with my mom before she died. She was mentally ill and so am I, the way we handled our own mental health was very different for so many reasons. Her childhood is completely opaque to me. I know so little about it. Such a unique kind of closure this film offered, I can't really describe how I feel at this point, simply overcome.

