



# THE PURITAN POST

| by Hank W. Mardukas |

## This Week on Home Video

### BLACKKLANSMAN (2018)

*BlacKkKlansman* is a real return to form for director Spike Lee, and probably his best film since *Miracle at St. Anna* (2008). Starring John David Washington, son of greatest actor of all time, Denzel, *BlacKkKlansman* follows Ron Stallworth, an African American police officer who infiltrates the KKK by impersonating a white version of himself on the phone. With the help of a Jewish cop played by Kylo Ren to act as "White Ron Stallworth", they are together able to become a member of the KKK and eventually help thwart a planned bombing. Both stylistically and thematically, *BlacKkKlansman* is a vintage Spike Lee flick that manages to be intense, funny and insightful, often at the same time. I see Oscar nods in the future for both Mr. Washington and Mr. Ren.

## This Week on TV

### The Haunting of Hill House (Netflix)

Netflix premiered a new Horror series called "The Haunting of Hill House" recently. The show is well shot and well acted (Carla Gugino, Timothy Hutton), but it is incredibly slow, and it is neither scary nor is it fun. My one Horror rule is that if a Horror flick (in this case show) isn't scary, it must be fun. "The Haunting of Hill House" is sadly neither. Also, I'm convinced that ghost stories are officially played out in Horror today. The comeback of The Slasher is upon us. Heard it here first.

## Director Spotlight: John Carpenter



**Birth:** 1/16/1948 Carthage, NY  
**Notable Works:** *Halloween, The Thing, Assault on Precinct 13, Escape from New York, They Live, Starman, Big Trouble in Little China, Dark Star, The Fog*  
**Fun Fact:** Does all the scores for his films and performs them live.

## THE PURITAN POST'S IV Weeks of HALLOWEEN, Week III: HALLOWEEN III: SEASON OF THE WITCH (1982)

You may have thought I'd review the new *Halloween* film that came out this weekend, but you thought wrong. If you're a loyal reader of THE PURITAN POST, you'll know I have a running feud with my boss, Pat Collier, because he won't pay for me to see new releases. So, for now, I'll be reviewing the third movie in the *Halloween* saga, *Halloween III: Season of the Witch*. *Season of the Witch* is not only the greatest sequel in the entire *Halloween* series, but is also quite possibly the greatest sequel in cinema history. How you might ask? The movie has a historically atrocious reputation, boasting a 4.8/10 IMDB rating and a 42% on Rotten Tomatoes. I'll save my thoughts on Rotten Tomatoes for another article entirely, but my point is, don't listen to critics' opinions on movies. Have your own views. But listen to me right now, when I tell you that *Halloween III: Season of the Witch* is the greatest sequel of all time. Why? Because it doesn't include Michael Myers.

That's right. An entire *Halloween* movie with no central antagonist of Michael Myers. A *Halloween* movie not even set in the original universe, but rather one closer to our own. A *Halloween* where the only time the original flick is even referenced is when it appears on TV in a movie marathon-within-a-movie resulting in the most brilliant use of score in the series (*Halloween III* was on the forefront of meta movies). Tommy Lee Wallace, director of the OG *It* TV movie, production designer of the OG *Halloween*, and ex-husband to Nancy Loomis, Annie in *Halloween*, was originally supposed to direct *Halloween II*, but didn't like the script.

Instead, Wallace penned the most original sequel of all time, bordering on Sci-Fi and Horror, about a psychotic Irish toy executive for "Silver Shamrock Novelties" plotting to use Halloween masks to mass murder children on Halloween night as part of an ancient Celtic witchcraft ritual. When a dying man tells ER Doctor Dan Challis "they're going to kill us" whilst holding a Silver Shamrock mask, Challis sets off on a suspense-filled journey full of conspiracy and murder to stop Silver Shamrock before their TV commercial mass murders innocent children wearing their masks. *Halloween III: Season of the Witch* is delightfully deranged in all the best ways with a sly social commentary to boot.

Not only is this movie incredible as a standalone Horror/Sci-Fi flick, but it is also the most loyal installment relative to Debra Hill and John Carpenter's original vision for *Halloween* sequels. Hill and Carpenter envisioned non-traditional, serialized sequels for *Halloween* a la *The Twilight Zone*, but *Halloween III* was the only one ever made that way. It is also the only *Halloween* sequel that truly feels Carpenter-esque both stylistically and tonally. *Halloween III* almost seems as though it exists in the world of *They Live* or *Escape from New York*. *Halloween III: Season of the Witch* is a tough movie to track down, but if you're able to find it, I assure you it is phenomenal and there is truly no other sequel, *Halloween* or otherwise, out there like it.

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