

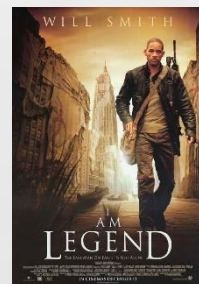
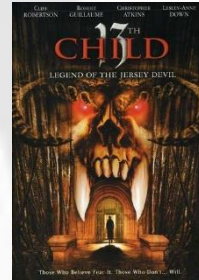
New Jersey Has a Long History of Silver Screen Tricks and Treats

Since the inception of the NJ Motion Picture & Television Commission back in 1978, the Garden State has hosted numerous horror movies, giving audiences edge-of-your-seat jump scares, spine-tingling chills and maybe even a few laughs. In fact, New Jersey has provided scenes for so many scary movies over those years that you might start calling it *Boo Jersey!* Just in time for the Halloween season, we present to you an essential list of horror films shot in the state...

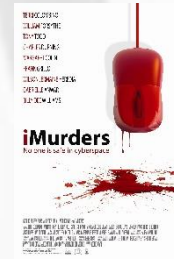
- **The Amityville Horror** (1979) James Brolin and Margot Kidder deliver chilling performances in this big-screen adaptation of Jay Anson's novel of the same name. Although the actual events were said to take place on Long Island, the house with the unforgettable 'eye' windows was filmed in Toms River. The movie was such a box office sensation that it spawned multiple sequels, two of which filmed in New Jersey as well.
- **Friday The 13th** (1980) Many classic horror films were released in the 1980s, but one of the most popular and influential was "Friday the 13th." Camp counselors open a summer camp where a grisly murder took place years earlier. Not long after, the unsuspecting counselors, one of which is played by a young Kevin Bacon, find themselves stalked by a brutal killer. This granddaddy of the slasher genre was filmed in Camp No-Be-Bos-Co, Hope, Freehold and Blairstown. To this day "Camp Crystal Lake" remains a popular destination for horror enthusiasts.
- **Creepshow** (1982) Stephen King, one of the biggest names in the horror genre, penned the script (and co-starred) in this tongue-in-cheek scare-fest that looks like it was torn from the pages of a spine-chilling comic book. One of the stories in this anthology, directed by George A. Romero, is entitled *Something to Tide You Over* and starred Ted Danson and Leslie Neilson. It was filmed at Island Beach State Park.
- **Cat's Eye** (1985) Stephen King returned to the big screen with another frightening anthology comprised of three short stories. One of the tales concerns a vicious crime boss who forces his wife's tennis pro boyfriend (Robert Hays) to traverse the ledge of a high-rise building soaring above the streets of Atlantic City.
- **Jacob's Ladder** (1990) Tim Robbins, Danny Aiello and a pre-*Home Alone* Macaulay Culkin star in Adrian Lyne's critically-acclaimed psychological thriller about a Vietnam veteran who survived a near death experience in the war only to be confronted with an array of horrifying hallucinations and visions upon his return home. A mansion in the Forest Hill section of Newark served as a key location.
- **Desecration** (1999) New Jersey native Dante Tomaselli made his directorial debut with this indie film that he also wrote. Shot and edited on a modest budget, the film developed a cult following and established Dante as a respected voice in the genre. In *Desecration*, after his mother's untimely death, the emotionally-devastated main character accidentally causes the death of a nun and unleashes a chain of supernatural events. Filming took place in Somerset, Essex and Passaic counties.



- **13th Child: The Legend of the Jersey Devil** (2002) As one might expect, movies about the Jersey Devil are quite popular in the Garden State. Throughout the years, the Commission has been contacted dozens of times by filmmakers producing short films, features, television projects and documentaries on the subject. One such film was *13th Child*, which followed an assistant DA (*Dallas* actress Leslie-Anne Down) investigating a series of grisly murders in the Pine Barrens. Though the film uses the Leeds legend in the title, Michael Maryk and Cliff Robertson's screenplay ignores the lore of the Jersey Devil and connects the plot to the pre-colonial Lenape legend. The film was shot primarily in Wharton State Forest at Batsto Village, a popular historic site and an infamous spot for Jersey Devil sightings.
- **The Village** (2004) The highly successful director of *The Sixth Sense*, M. Night Shyamalan, directed climactic scenes for his hit film *The Village* in Pedricktown. In the first scene, a character is nearly smashed by a truck. The second scene depicts a driver pulling over at a gas station to ask about the mysterious village. Bryce Dallas Howard, Joaquin Phoenix and Sigourney Weaver star story of an isolated, tight-knit community that lives in fear of an evil inhabiting the adjacent forbidden forest.
- **War of the Worlds** (2005) Steven Spielberg and Tom Cruise teamed up to bring the famous H.G. Wells novel to the big screen. This science-fiction thriller follows a father who does everything in his power to protect his two children during an alien invasion. The aliens emerge from the ground on Ferry Street in Newark. Cruise's home, featured in the opening scenes, is located on Kennedy Boulevard in Bayonne, and the Bayonne Bridge, towering over his backyard, is later destroyed by the invaders. Several studio sets were constructed in a warehouse at the former Military Ocean Terminal near Bayonne Harbor, now the Port Liberty Cruise Port.
- **Satan's Playground** (2006) Director Dante Tomaselli returned to New Jersey to take audiences back to the haunted Pine Barrens where a stranded family is terrorized by the Jersey Devil. In contrast to *The 13th Child*, this film sticks more closely to the folklore. The feature was shot entirely on-location in Burlington County.
- **I Am Legend** (2007) In this big-screen adaptation of Richard Matheson's 1954 novel of the same name, Will Smith plays Robert Neville, the lone survivor of a zombie apocalypse who struggles valiantly to find a cure. The theatrical ending features two other survivors who journey to a sanctuary in "Vermont" with the cure. Interestingly, the scene was actually shot in Mount Airy, New Jersey. In the alternate ending, Will Smith's character escapes Manhattan across the George Washington Bridge into Fort Lee.



- **Jack Ketchum's *The Girl Next Door* (2007)** Based on Jack Ketchum's harrowing novel of the same name, *The Girl Next Door* recounts the horrific true tale of a young girl who suffered unspeakable abuse at the hands of her mentally-disturbed caregiver. Directed by Gregory Wilson, the majority of this feature was filmed on a set at Rollercoaster Studios in East Hanover and also on location in Paramus (Saddler River Park), Ridgewood and Fort Lee.



- **iMurders (2008)** Robbie Bryan made his directorial debut with this thriller about a series of grisly murders that all lead back to a social media-style chat room. Principal photography was completed in Hudson County locations over the course of several weeks.
- **Sleepaway Camp IV: The Survivor (2012)** The final installment of the *Sleepaway Camp* series, which started in 1983, began filming in 1992 at Camp Tamarack in Oakland, New Jersey, but production was ultimately halted for financial reasons. Years later, using a combination of new and old footage, the “completed” film was released.

- **Torture Chamber (2013)** New Jersey's own Dante Tomaselli returned to the Garden State for a third time to shoot this grisly horror film about a demonically-possessed 13-year-old boy who escapes from an asylum and discovers an old, abandoned castle with a secret passageway to a cobwebbed torture chamber. Filming took place in such locations as Lambert's Castle in Paterson and the Sterling Hill Mining Museum in Ogdensburg.



- **Jersey Shore Massacre (2014)** Jenni “JWOWW” Farley from MTV's hit reality show *Jersey Shore* executive produced this goofy slasher film that follows a group of fist-pumpers who become the targets of a deranged killer. Filming took place partly in Seaside Heights, which also served as the backdrop for many of the earlier seasons of *Jersey Shore*, as well as Newton, Sparta and Woodbridge.

- **The Unborn (2020)** Two security guards are working the night shift at a condemned building where they discover an evil presence lurking in a restricted section of the property. Together, Tiffany, a soon-to-be mom, and Joey, her love-sick colleague, take on the demonic spirit of the nefarious Dr. Thatcher who has sinister intentions for her unborn child. This macabre thriller was filmed entirely on-location in Jersey City.

- **Army of the Dead (2021)** Director Zack Snyder converted the closed-down Showboat Casino and the Atlantic Club Casino Hotel in Atlantic City into an apocalyptic wasteland for this action/horror film. The film stars Dave Bautista as the leader of a motley crew that takes on flesh-eating zombies in an attempt to pull off the world's greatest heist.



- **Human Hibachi 2 (2021)** Filmed in the desolate woods of Mt. Holly, *Human Hibachi 2* follows a family of cannibals who target the last known survivors of the first *Human Hibachi*. The feature was directed and written by Mario Cerrito.

- **Room 9 (2018)** Directed by Thomas Walton, *Room 9* tells the story of a young man who checks in at a small-town inn where a double homicide occurred 40 years ago. Filming took place in Pennington. Michael Berryman (*The Hills Have Eyes*) plays Jed Bedford, the owner of the ominous rest stop.

- **Room 9: They Turned Us into Killers** (2021) Michael Berryman reprises his role as Jed Bedford in this grisly sequel. Other noteworthy performances include Scout Taylor-Compton (Rob Zombie's *Halloween*) and Taryn Manning (*Orange is the New Black*). Principal photography took place at a house in Pennington and on the streets of Princeton. In this follow up, a mysterious woman named Star arrives to investigate the succession of murders that have occurred at the Bedford Inn.
- **Severance** (2021) Ben Stiller's chilling Apple + TV series tells the story of Lumon Industries, a biotechnology corporation that takes work-life balance to the extreme. Employees working on classified projects are required to undergo a "severance" medical procedure that separates their non-work memories from their work memories. When they're on the clock, they can't remember anything from their home life, and the minute they step out of the office they forget everything from their work life. The corporate headquarters of Lumon featured on the show is really the iconic Bell Works building in Holmdel, New Jersey.
- **Servant** (2021) Key scenes for Season 3 of M. Night Shyamalan's creepy Apple TV+ series *Servant* were filmed in Ocean City. Production took place at the south end of the OC boardwalk, and on the adjacent beach. Cast members Lauren Ambrose, Toby Kebbell and Rupert Grint appeared in the scenes.
- **Knock at the Cabin** (2022) An adaptation of Paul Tremblay's Cabin at the End of the World, *Knock at the Cabin* follows a family of three vacationing at a secluded cabin in the woods. Four heavily armed strangers darken their doorstep, demanding that they make an unthinkable choice to stop the apocalypse from happening. Dave Bautista, Rupert Grint and Nikki Amuka-Bird head the cast of this thriller written and directed by M. Night Shyamalan, to be released in 2023. Much of the movie was filmed at a custom-built cabin in Tabernacle, and at the Evergreen Dairy Bar in Southampton.
- **Insidious 5** (2022) In the fifth installment of the popular horror franchise, the Lambert Family is being tormented by a demon from a sinister dimension called The Further. Ten years after the previous film, Josh and Renai help their son Dalton move into college. Tilghman House, the yellow Victorian mansion immediately to the right of Drew University's Lancaster Road entrance off Madison Avenue, was decorated as a fraternity house for filming. Crews also filmed scenes in Morristown, at the Convent Mews townhomes near Morristown Medical Center. A funeral scene was filmed at Fair Mount Cemetery in Chatham.
- **Smile** (2022) *Smile* was set and filmed in the Garden State. Principal photography for this unsettling movie, similar to *The Ring* and *It Follows*, began in October of 2021 in the Hudson and Essex County areas. Scenes were also filmed at the Union County Jail, Rutgers Medical School, and the W Hoboken Hotel. Some ariel shots of the city of Newark are also featured. The film concerns Dr. Rose Cotter, played by Kevin Bacon's daughter Sosie Bacon, who begins experiencing frightening events after witnessing a traumatic event that involved a patient of hers.



- **Becky 2** (2022) – Young Becky must confront a group of fascist ex-cons after they kidnap her dog. This sequel to the 2020 movie was filmed in Allendale, at The Scotchwood Diner in Scotch Plains, and in Paterson where a controlled car explosion was staged. Lulu Wilson and Sean William Scott star in this action-thriller directed by Matthew Angel and Suzanne Coote.
- **Goodnight Mommy** (2022) A remake of the 2014 Austrian film of the same name, *Goodnight Mommy* is the story of twin brothers who return home after being apart from their mother for some time, only to find that her face is obscured by bandages. The twins begin to doubt her true identity as events turn violent. This psychological thriller, takes place entirely in one location, a house in Bedminster where filming took place for 23 days in the spring and summer of 2021. Naomi Watts and Nicholas and Cameron Crovetti star, Matt Sobel co-wrote and directs.
- **The Walking Dead: Dead City** (2022) – AMC's *The Walking Dead* has delivered heart-stopping scares for more than a decade. *Dead City* continues the survival adventures of two main characters, Maggie and Negan, played by Lauren Cohan and Jeffrey Dean Morgan. The show is currently in production in Newark, Holmdel, Paterson, Franklin Lakes, West Orange, Hoboken, Bayonne, Plainfield, Jersey City and at the Meadowland Arena in East Rutherford, which AMC converted into a studio.

