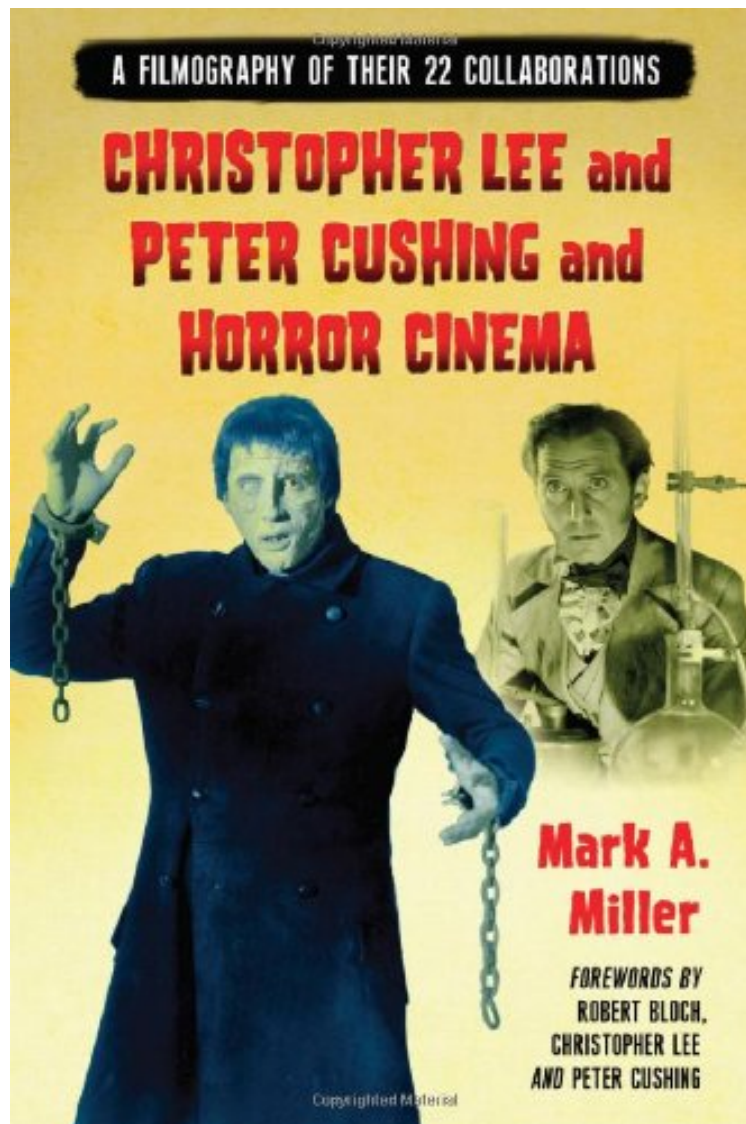


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Mark A. Miller

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Mark A. Miller : Christopher Lee and Peter Cushing and Horror Cinema: A Filmography of Their 22 Collaborations before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Christopher Lee and Peter Cushing and Horror Cinema: A Filmography of Their 22 Collaborations:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The Horror Legacy of Peter Cushing and Christopher Lee!By Mike

O'Connor This 2010 paperback edition of *CHRISTOPHER LEE AND PETER CUSHING AND HORROR CINEMA, A FILMOGRAPHY OF THEIR 22 COLLABORATIONS* is a straight reprint of the HC published by McFarland in 1995. Although overpriced at \$45.00, it is a well-rounded, critical yet affectionate summary of the films those two horror icons made together. Though they first crossed cinematic paths in 1948 with Olivier's *HAMLET* production, Cushing and Lee struck lightning in 1957 with Hammer's *THE CURSE OF FRANKENSTEIN*, a film that made them both film stars and started a long association with Hammer Films. In the following years, they made some wonderful films together and a few celluloid stinkers including *THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES*, *THE GORGON*, *THE SKULL*, *HORROR OF DRACULA*, *SCREAM AND SCREAM AGAIN*, *DRACULA A.D. 1972* and *HOUSE OF THE LONG SHADOWS*. Despite the varying quality of those films, both men always gave their best. Miller's book provides a thorough, entertaining and perceptive chronicle of the 22 CL films, providing plot summaries, production details and critical/popular reception along with comments by CL, co-stars like Hazel Court, director Freddie Francis, etc. While the book is a valuable summary of CL's film collaboration, what I found most memorable was its description of the love and affection between the two. Over the years, Cushing and Lee became best friends and it's touching to read of their friendship. In short, *CHRISTOPHER LEE AND PETER CUSHING AND HORROR FILMS* is a well-researched, informative and altogether charming summary of two cinematic greats in action.

Recommended. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good book with potential to be great. By Page Turner. Decent book about some very fine actors and their collaborations. It covers all of the movies they appeared in together. It gives some good insight on each of them. There are a couple of issues I had with it. The first being the author seems a bit, but not a lot, biased towards Lee. It doesn't disparage Cushing in any way. Still it was obvious to me. I guess maybe of the two, I am a bigger Cushing fan and the way he was meticulous and nuanced to make any part he played his own with just inflection. The bigger problem is the way the he dissects the movies and their understated meanings. It takes away from the subjects of his book and insinuates the author as the focus of the book. There is little insight on how they interacted with one another off and on screen. It's almost a given that they worked well together, but it would have been nice to hear more of that and not take it for granted. Still it's a good book about actors who are and were class acts all the way. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A Look at the Hammer Horror Icons. By Tim Janson. Like Karloff and Lugosi, the names Christopher Lee and Peter Cushing are synonymous with horror. The pair made 22 films together (far more than Karloff and Lugosi) although some may be surprised to know that not all of them were in the horror genre. Their work is celebrated in this new book from McFarland Company, always a leader in scholarly film books. Mark A. Miller, English teacher and writer for publications such as *Filmfax* and *Shivers*, looks at the pair's career in detail and with a thorough analysis of each of their films. One can say that Karloff and Lugosi passed the horror team torch on to the pair in more ways than one. As Miller notes in the introduction, Karloff and Lee made three films together including *The Crimson Altar* (1968) and *Corridors of Blood* (1958). The pair became close friends and even played cricket together. Miller begins with chapters devoted to the early lives of each actor. We learn about their childhoods, families, education, personal lives, and what drew them into careers as actors. Lee, born in London but of Italian ancestry, can trace his family's roots back to the time of Christ. Despite having several family members who were actors, Cushing was into his thirties before he began his own theatrical career. Of all things, the refined British actor was a big fan of early Western film star, Tom Mix. As mentioned, not all of their collaborations were in the horror genre. In fact, their first teaming was a production of Shakespeare's *Hamlet* in 1948. Perhaps even more amusing was their second pairing, the 1952 romantic musical, *Moulin Rouge*. However it would be their next two pairings that would eventually make legends of Lee and Cushing, 1957's *The Curse of Frankenstein* and 1958's *Horror of Dracula*. These two films teamed the pair with England's Hammer Studios for whom they would make 8 films together, and many more on their own. These films, and the sequels that followed returned horror to the gothic roots of Universal Studio's films of the 1930s and 1940s. Miller provides a detailed synopsis, background, and critical analysis of each of their 22 films and had done a remarkable job of research. There are wonderful anecdote's about each film's production and include comments by the actors themselves as well as period reviews from critics. Miller shares his expert view on what worked...and didn't work with each of the films, breaking down directorial and casting selections, and examining key scenes. A complete filmography is included with a complete list of credits for each film, year of release, and running time. About the only mild criticism I would lob is that it would have been nice to have a few more photos and perhaps some color photos but this is minor. Miller has done outstanding job of covering this immortal team and their films.

From their first pairing in *Hamlet* (1948) to their roles in *House of the Long Shadows* (1983), Christopher Lee and Peter Cushing have enjoyed the most successful collaboration in horror film history. Each of their 22 film outings together is examined in detail, including plot synopses and critical commentary (and of course release date, running time, studio, production information and full cast and credits are provided). The original research is supported by interviews with both Lee and Cushing, along with fellow performers and production personnel, such as Hazel Court, Robert Bloch, and Patrick Macnee.

"A model of research and presentation...not just an excellent film book --Filmfax"Marvelous" --Video Watchdog"All 22 of Lee/Cushing's collaborative films are examined, dissected, and most importantly, fairly critiqued" --bare bones."Marvelous" --Video Watchdog"All 22 of Lee/Cushing's collaborative films are examined, dissected, and most importantly, fairly critiqued" --bare bones.About the AuthorMark A. Miller has written articles for many periodicals, including Filmfaxand Shivers. He teaches English in Gahanna, Ohio.