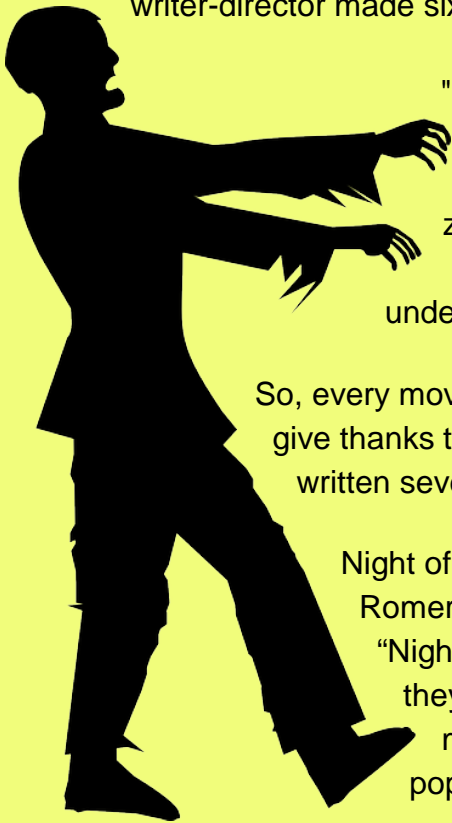


# What are the Most Successful Horror Movies Ever?

The most successful zombie movie ever is *Zombieland*... if you only look at the money. The 2009 horror-comedy starred Jesse Eisenberg and Woody Harrelson as survivors trying to escape a zombie-filled city. It reportedly earned \$75 million at the box office. However, if you don't *just* consider profit, the most successful zombie movie ever, in terms of profit *and* cultural impact, is George A. Romero's 1968 horror classic, *Night of the Living Dead*. Romero built his career out of zombies. The writer-director made six zombie films, but he had his greatest success with his first movie.



"Night of the Living Dead" influenced every zombie movie that came after it, according to Baylor University assistant professor and zombie expert James Kendrick. He says this film clearly established the zombie as a truly frightening character capable of independent action. Before then, zombies in movies were usually people in a trance or under the control of someone else.

So, every movie since 1968 that has zombies running around scaring people must give thanks to Romero's black-and-white masterpiece, says Kendrick, who has written several books on zombies and teaches a course on zombie films.

*Night of the Living Dead* also changed people's feelings about horror movies. Romero's film helped to again make popular horror films in the U.S. Before "Night of the Living Dead," most horror films were not very horrible at all; they were slapstick comedies, such as the "Abbott and Costello Meet..." movies in the 1950s. One truly frightening film that became hugely popular is Alfred Hitchcock's "Psycho," made in 1960.

So, yes: *Night of the Living Dead* was culturally important in the US. But it also may be the most profitable zombie film in history. The movie cost only \$114,000 to make, and it has earned more than \$30 million worldwide. Unfortunately, however, Romero and the film's producers didn't get much of that money. Because of a legal mistake by the film company, the movie is in the public domain. This means that you can legally download it free from many websites, including YouTube.

But money aside, horror film experts have no doubt that *Night of the Living Dead* is a classic. It seems the US Library of Congress agrees. In 1999, it selected Romero's movie to be kept in the National Film Registry, thanks to its cultural significance.

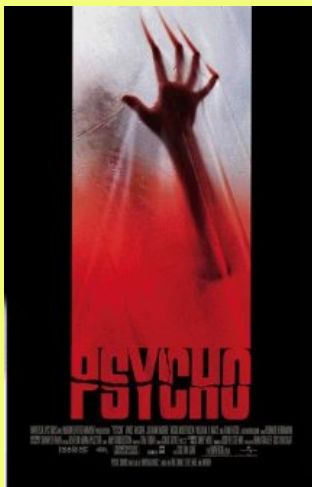
## Who is Who?

Match each name with the correct description.

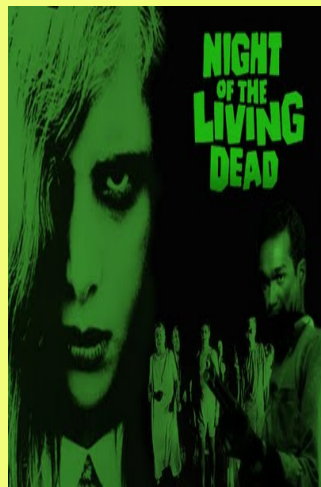
- |   |                  |  |
|---|------------------|--|
| A | Alfred Hitchcock | actor                                  |
| B | George A. Romero | actor                                  |
| C | James Kendrick   | Assistant Professor, Baylor University |
| D | Jesse Eisenberg  | made "Psycho"                          |
| E | Woody Harrelson  | made "Night of the Living Dead"        |

## When was it made?

Match the film to the year it was made.



A



B



C



D

1950s	1960	1968	2009

# Time Line: A Short History of Horror

Match each event to the year it happened.

1. "Night of the Living Dead" is made.

2. "Night of the Living Dead" is put into US National Film Registry.

3. "Psycho" is made.

4. "Zombieland" is made.

5. Abbot and Costello films are made.

1950s	1960	1968	1999	2009
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Original text source: Michael Avila, Life's Little Mysteries Contributor, May 26, 2010 12:39pm ET

<http://www.livescience.com/32602-what-is-the-most-successful-zombie-movie-ever.html>

**Picture credits:**

Zombie silhouette: [http://pixabay.com/p-156055/?no\\_redirect](http://pixabay.com/p-156055/?no_redirect)

Night of the living dead (poster): <http://espaciolacasa.files.wordpress.com/2012/05/notldr.jpg>

Abbot and Costello meet Frankenstein (poster): <http://moviebuzzers.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Abbot-and-Costello-Meet-Frankenstein.jpg>

Zombieland (poster): <http://www.sonypictures.com/movies/zombieland/>

Psycho (poster): [http://ia.media-imdb.com/images/M/MV5BMTE5ODc3MDIzMI5BMTI5BnBnXkFtZTYwMDU0NzE5..V1\\_SX214 .jpg](http://ia.media-imdb.com/images/M/MV5BMTE5ODc3MDIzMI5BMTI5BnBnXkFtZTYwMDU0NzE5..V1_SX214 .jpg)

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