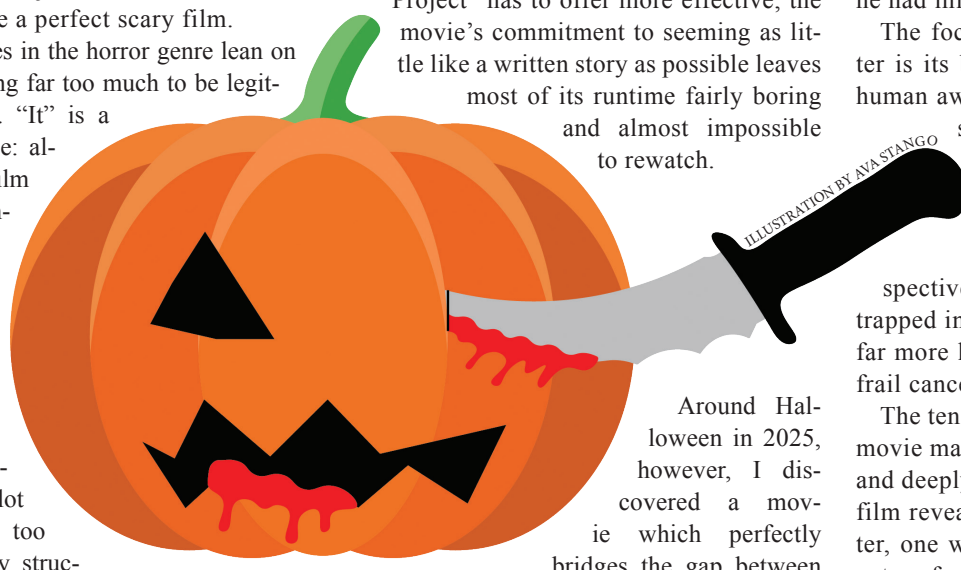
What's the best Halloween horror movie?

By MICHAEL MCGRAIL
Staff Writer

With Halloween right around the corner, many moviegoers have begun hunkering down and booting up their favorite horror movies to set the tone for the season. Although there's much to be said for the enduring quality of many horror classics, such as the character-driven drama of "It" or the campy, gory fun of "Friday the 13th," I find far more often than not that many Halloween classics fall just short of what I would consider to be a perfect scary film.

Most movies in the horror genre lean on generic framing far too much to be legitimately scary. "It" is a prime example: although the film delivers a compelling narrative about coping with lifelong trauma through its top-billed monster, Pennywise, the plot follows far too classic a story structure to be legitimately scary at any point. "It," like many other classic scary movies, fails to suspend its audience's disbelief due to its refusal to frame its story as anything more than just that: a story.



On the other hand, horror's more avant-garde films often fall similarly short in a different capacity. Take "The Blair Witch Project": the film's "found footage" framing entirely absorbs the viewer into its world, grounding its scares in a layer of reality by pretending all of the events were recorded in real life and found on an abandoned video camera. While this framing does make the few scares "The Blair Witch Project" has to offer more effective, the movie's commitment to seeming as little like a written story as possible leaves most of its runtime fairly boring and almost impossible to rewatch.

Around Halloween in 2025, however, I discovered a movie which perfectly bridges the gap between these two gaping flaws in the horror genre. A film that frames its plot as real found footage, but is also paced in a way that is almost constantly engaging and makes perfect sense in the context of the story. This movie is "Creep," a name it spends the entirety of its runtime earning in earnest.

The plot of "Creep" is simple, following a videographer named Aaron who drives out to a cabin in the woods to answer an online ad. It's there he meets Josef, a man who claims to be filming his last days before he succumbs to cancer. As the day plays out, however, Aaron slowly begins to realize that Josef is far more sinister than he had initially let on.

The focus this film places upon character is its biggest strength. The undeniable human awkwardness overflowing from Josef throughout the entire runtime underscores the horror of the film's plot perfectly. It creates a sense of unease, forcing the audience into Aaron's perspective through its framing as we are trapped in the woods with a man who feels far more like a ticking time bomb than the frail cancer patient he claims to be.

The tension present throughout the entire movie makes "Creep" both truly horrifying and deeply entertaining. Every scene in the film reveals a new layer of Josef's character, one which is defined by his deceptive nature from the very start.

This is why "Creep" stands out as the best horror movie I've ever seen. It manages to ground its audience in the perspective of its main character in the most literal way possible through its framing: we see exactly what Aaron sees, and know exactly as much as he knows.

The film manages to pull off this framing without risk of becoming boring due to the focus it places on its main antagonist. Instead of being some offscreen force of evil that startles the audience with the occasional jump scare, Josef manages to stay onscreen for nearly the entire movie's runtime and still tap into our intrinsically human fear of the unknown.

It's never clear at any point exactly what Josef is capable of. There's this constant disconnect between what he says and what he does, oftentimes saying something deeply disturbing in a completely neutral tone, or revealing details about his life which completely contradict the story he had initially given to Aaron. It's this disconnect which paints Joesf as something unknowable yet still darkly entertaining, earning him a place as one of the most horrifying characters put to screen without relying on any supernatural elements.

If you're looking for a movie this Halloween season that will disturb you deeply, I couldn't recommend "Creep" enough. Not only is it strangely entertaining to watch, but it will force you to feel every experience right alongside its main character. It truly does the impossible, creating a horror film that has both an engaging story and a constant sense of unease emanating from each and every shot.

The Yankees have mistaken comfort for contention

By ANTHONY ANGELILLO
Copy Editor

When the New York Yankees were eliminated from the playoffs earlier this month, part of me hoped that such an ugly collapse would force the franchise to take a hard look at itself.

The rest of me knew better, because I have been a fan long enough to know that in the Bronx, losing in October rarely means anything for the people in charge.

Yankees Manager Aaron Boone will return in 2027 for his 10th season, the final year of a two-year $10.5 million extension.

Two days after they brought back Boone, general manager Brian Cashman, who has run the front office since 1998, announced at the end-of-season news conference that he had agreed to a new deal.

I am furious with this franchise, but I would be lying if I said I was surprised. For 17 years, the Yankees have lost in October in nearly the same way. Running it back stopped being a surprise a long time ago, and now it's a habit.

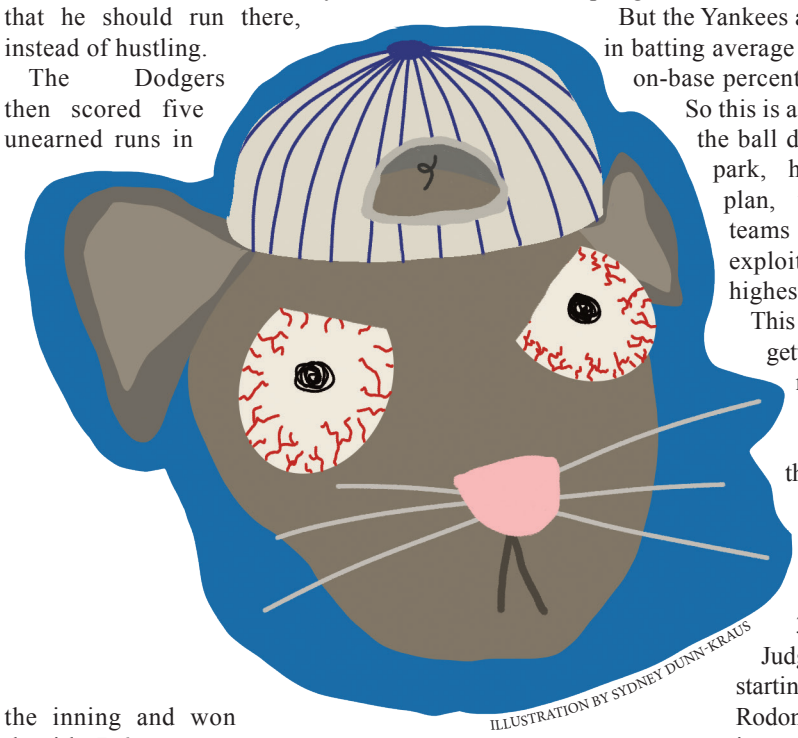
The 93 wins this team piled up meant nothing by Oct. 7, the night the Tampa Bay Rays finished a three-game American League (AL) Division Series sweep at Yankee Stadium. After dominating the Boston Red Sox in the wild card round, the Yankees scored only five runs in the entire series.

Only one other Yankees team, the 1980 club, had ever been swept in a best-of-five series. Rays starting pitcher Drew Rasmussen took a no-hitter into the eighth inning of Game 1, and in Game 2, the Yankees had four players commit errors and only three hits.

It's funny because, for a baseball team, they can't execute the simplest plays. Even funnier is that this happened two years ago, with the same sloppy play costing the Yankees their best shot at a title since 2009.

With New York up 5-0 on the Los Angeles Dodgers in Game 5 of the 2024 World Series, Yankees outfielder Aaron Judge let a routine fly ball drop out of his glove in center field; Yankees shortstop Anthony Volpe bounced a throw to third base and Yankees starting pitcher Gerrit Cole never covered first base, but he did point at the base, just to let Yankees first baseman Anthony Rizzo know that he should run there, instead of hustling.

The Dodgers then scored five unearned runs in the inning and won the title 7-6.



Boone acknowledged this week that his teams keep losing to higher-seeded opponents. Under Boone, the Yankees are 7-0 in postseason series against teams with worse regular-season records and 1-8 against teams with better regular-season records.

Now, for any baseball operation, that means that they are good enough to make the playoffs but are not good enough to beat better teams. That's not a player issue; it's the guy in the dugout, who only got the job because he hit a walk-off home run against the Red Sox back in 2003.

If there is one thing this team does well, it's hitting the long ball. I mean, their lineup is built entirely around the home run, and in the 2026 season, they ranked fifth in Major League Baseball (MLB) in homers per game.

But the Yankees also ranked 29th in batting average and dead last in on-base percentage this season. So this is a team that, when the ball doesn't leave the park, has no backup plan, which is why teams like the Rays exploit that to the highest degree.

This core is also getting older and more expensive, and the Yankees are tied to it into the 2030s. During the 2026 season, designated hitter Giancarlo Stanton was 36, Cole was 35, Judge was 34 and starting pitcher Carlos Rodon was 33. Judge is signed through 2031, when he will be 39.

Cole and Rodon are signed through 2028, and starting pitcher Max Fried, who will turn 33 in January, just finished the second year of an eight-year $218 million deal.

Managing general partner Hal Steinbrenner called the end of the season unacceptable, then said the blame could not be pinned on Boone or Cashman, and instead blamed the position players.

Steinbrenner insisted he has never called a season without a championship success, but in the same response, he mentioned that "winning 93 games is not a failure."

The late Yankees owner George Steinbrenner famously said winning was "the most important thing in my life after breathing," and his teams won seven World Series Titles and 11 pennants. After the Dodgers beat the Yankees in the 1981 World Series, he publicly apologized to the fans.

Nobody needs Hal to copy his father, who changed managers 20 times in his first 23 seasons as owner. Fans need an owner uncomfortable enough to change something. Steinbrenner says the Yankees went all in this year with the "highest payroll in the history of the organization," yet he called lowering the payroll "ideal" for the 2025 season.

To be fair, the Yankees have never had a losing season under Cashman and have made the playoffs nine times in the last 10 years. Plenty of fan bases would trade places with us. But this franchise did not collect 27 championships by settling, and this drought is now tied with 1979 to 1995 for the longest in team history.

Some of the biggest frustrations came inside the clubhouse, where Judge said after the sweep that the Yankees should go all in this winter and get whatever players they need. Ownership answered by bringing back the same two men and blaming his teammates.

A lockout is expected once the labor deal expires Dec. 1, which means a 2027 season may not even happen. This franchise will not head into a new direction until the people at the top are held to the standard every Yankees fan already holds them to. I will keep rooting for this team, but I learned a long time ago to stop expecting change and start accepting mediocrity.