

# Peterborough Arts Cinema

Films that make you think

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May at 7:30pm

## The Girl With All The Gifts (2016)

US, 1h 51min cert R

**Director;** Colm McCarthy,

**Stars;** Gemma Arterton, Dominique Tipper and Glenn Close

In a dystopian near future, humanity has been ravaged by a mysterious fungal disease. The afflicted are robbed of all free will and turned into flesh-eating 'hungries'.

Humankind's only hope is a small group of hybrid children who crave human flesh but retain the ability to think and feel. The children go to school at an army base in rural Britain, where they're subjected to cruel experiments by Dr. Caroline Caldwell (Glenn Close). School teacher Helen Justineau (Gemma Arterton) grows particularly close to an exceptional girl named Melanie (Sennia Nanua), thus forming a special bond.



In the many years since Bela Lugosi's **White Zombie** (1932) the monster has been used, re-used and re-imagined in numerous ways. They were mindless consumers in Romero's **Dawn of the Dead** (1978, remade 2004); metaphors of plague in **Zombie Death House** (1988); and the fears of third world migration in **World War Z** (2013).

Locally zombies first crawled into daylight in the comic **Attom** (1992 – 1994 by Charles Farley and Kathleen Maddox) that started violently and got messier over the seven issues. The story ranged from mid-west America to a parallel fantasy world and even earned a cover quote from Sam Raimi.

Ten years later local horror punk band The Ruined released their first album **Here Lies...** (Rowdy Farrago Records). Unfortunately zombies here are a moveable feast, they can either (depending on the song) represent the mindless others or the fear that the band and its fans engender in straight society.

Local born Hollywood actress Claudia Katz Minnik appeared as a nun (well, there's one in every aeroplane disaster movie, isn't there?) in the 2007 direct-to-video release **Plane Dead/Flight of the Living Dead**.

The Web comic **Immunis** started in summer 2013 by Sean Reidy and Anthony Ashley frequently featured local settings before it prematurely ended.

Several years ago the annual city **Zombie Walk** started (held on the Saturday afternoon closest to Hallowe'en, between Charters and The Brewery Tap). In this local fans express their creativity in costume and make-up. Last year's parade ranged from zombie Tellytubies to people playing characters from the game Plants vs. Zombies.

Last year saw the release on Youtube of episode one of the semi-animated video comic **The Black Bull Incident**, from Pickled Eye productions (Robert and Simon Wright), that had the subtitle 'Pretty Rough Around Closing' and we await future instalments.

Also in 2016 the locally made feature length **Zombies in Tha Hood** unfortunately didn't live up to the promise of the earlier (mainstream) **Rhago Boy** (2013). While that had a rough vitality that gripped, the second offering unfortunately fell between its twin targets of horror and comedy.

We hope that further explorations will be made locally into the world of the shuffling dead.

*Peterborough SF Club was founded in 1976 to promote science fiction, fantasy and horror in the city. The members are looking forward to the British Fantasy Convention that is to be held at The Bull Hotel at the end of September.*

Small Town Zombies  
Peterborough Science Fiction Club

