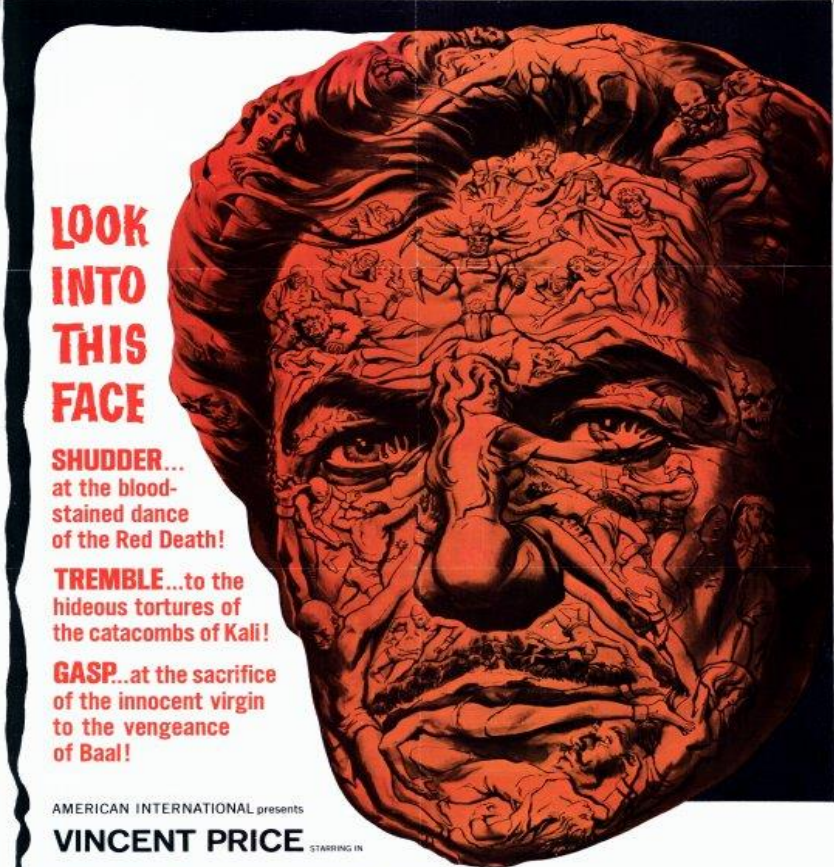


# FILMS FANTASTIC 10

The Journal of the NFFF Film Bureau



**LOOK INTO THIS FACE**

**SHUDDER...**  
at the blood-stained dance of the Red Death!

**TREMBLE...** to the hideous tortures of the catacombs of Kali!

**GASP...** at the sacrifice of the innocent virgin to the vengeance of Baal!

AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL presents  
**VINCENT PRICE** STARRING IN  
**EDGAR ALLAN POE'S** IMMORTAL MASTERPIECE OF THE MACABRE

**THE MASQUE OF THE RED DEATH**  
in **PATHÉCOLOR**

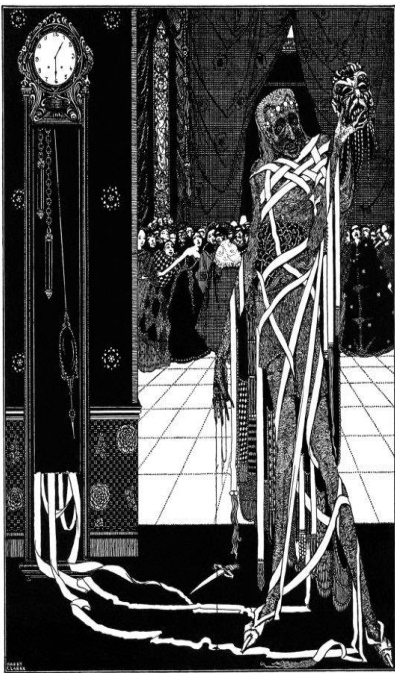
Also Starring  
**HAZEL COURT · JANE ASHER** Screenplay by CHARLES BEAUMONT and R. WRIGHT CAMPBELL • From a Story by EDGAR ALLAN POE • Produced and Directed by ROGER CORMAN

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# This Issue

## Fun With Plagues

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*Illustration 1: "The Masque Of The Red Death" by Harry Clarke*

Current events do have the ability to get in the way of life and play havoc with what we call normal. Thus the current pandemic which shall not be named here. On the other hand it can draw out attention to works on Disease vs Man, whether fact or fiction. The Zombie craze has abandoned the original occult origins in favor of a more scientific approach. Of course a small number of Zombies has been replaced by armies of the living dead thanks to George Romero and his followers.

One of the more memorable stories on the subject is Edgar Allan Poe's "The Masque Of The Red Death", first published in 1842. The plot summary is "borrowed" from Wikipedia.

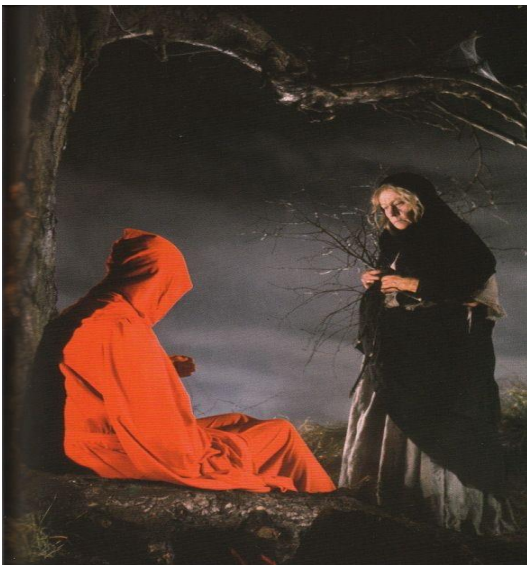
The story follows Prince Prospero's attempts to avoid a dangerous plague, known as the Red Death, by hiding in his abbey. He, along with many other wealthy nobles, hosts a masquerade ball in seven rooms of the abbey, each decorated with a different

color. In the midst of their revelry, a mysterious figure disguised as a Red Death victim enters and makes his way through each of the rooms. Prospero dies after confronting this stranger, whose "costume" proves to contain nothing tangible inside it; the guests also die in turn.

With the success of his previous adaptations of Poe stories Roger Corman was naturally attracted to Red Death as a vehicle for Vincent Price. The adaptation and screenplay were written by Charles Beaumont and R. Wright Campbell, and was padded by material from another of Poe's stories "Hop-Frog", a tale of revenge. Again the synopsis is from Wikipedia.



"Hop-Frog" (originally "Hop-Frog; Or, the Eight Chained Ourang-Outangs") is a short story by American writer Edgar Allan Poe, first published in 1849. The title character, a person with dwarfism taken from his homeland, becomes the jester of a king particularly fond of practical jokes. Taking revenge on the king and his cabinet for the king's striking of his friend and fellow dwarf Trippetta, he dresses the king and his cabinet as ourangotangs for a masquerade. In front of the king's guests, Hop-Frog murders them all by setting their costumes on fire before escaping with Trippetta.



Somewhere in Italy in the late Middle Ages, an old woman (Sarah Brackett) encounters a robed man (John Westbrook) in the forest. Giving her a white rose he tells her to return to her village and tell them the day of deliverance is at hand. As he hands her the blossom it turns blood red.



Later Prince Prospero (Vincent Price) accompanied by his friend Alfredo (Patrick Magee) arrives at the village to invite the peasants to a festival where they will be allowed scraps from his table. He is greeted by defiant words from Gino (David Weston) and Ludovico (Nigel Green), telling him of the prophecy.

Prospero orders they be killed but a horrible scream draws the prince to a hut where the old woman has just died from the Red Death. He orders Gino, Ludovico, and Francesca (Jane Asher), Ludovico's daughter, to be taken to his castle. He then orders the village to be burned to the ground.





Back at the castle we meet the other characters. Juliana (Hazel Court) believes she will marry Prospero. Hop Toad (Skip Martin) plans revenge on Alfredo when he throws a goblet of wine at Esmeralda (Verina Greenlaw), the tiny dancer. Prospero plans to meet his master, Satan, before the end of the masked ball that serves as the climax of the film. But all plans are thrown away by the appearance of a figure in red.



