

# DUNDEAD

CELEBRATING HORROR, CULT AND WEIRD CINEMA

# 2025



# DCA

Dundee Contemporary Arts





**Like a zombie infection, news of Dundead has been spreading.**

2025 marked the most successful year yet for DCA's annual horror film festival, Halloween season and year-round screenings. As attendance for all strands of Dundead continues to increase and the ambition of the programme grows, Dundead has firmly cemented its place as Scotland's leading horror film festival.

## **BETH BATE, DCA DIRECTOR**

*"As Dundead continues to confirm its status as Scotland's leading horror film festival, it's been so exciting to see the development of an audience who are willing to take a chance on new and exciting films, celebrate horror history and embrace hidden gems, all thanks to their trust in our programme. I can't wait to see where it goes next."*

### **36 EVENTS IN 2025**

- **12** FESTIVAL SCREENINGS
- **6** HALLOWEEN SCREENINGS
- **13** YEAR-ROUND SCREENINGS
- **4** TOUR SCREENINGS
- **1** DUNDEAD QUIZ
- **PLUS 6** SHORT FILMS

- **19** VINTAGE TITLES
- **2** UK PREMIERES
- **5** SCOTTISH PREMIERES
- **4** NEW RELEASES
- **1** PREVIEW

- **3,240** TICKETS SOLD

## **AUDIENCE FEEDBACK**

*"Easily the best horror festival in the UK and in the comfort of the beautiful and spacious seats of the DCA. The films shown are always top notch and well chosen..."*



## FESTIVAL

The 2025 festival took place from Thu 8 to Sun 11 May and saw a 24% increase in admissions compared to 2024, with sales of festival passes increasing by 14%.

Dundead started in 2011 in response to demand from local horror fans. In 2021 programming for Dundead was brought in-house at DCA and the festival's popularity has grown in the years since.

The 2025 festival screened six new films alongside a retrospective strand of six vintage Italian horror titles. The festival welcomed special guests Mike Muncer of *The Evolution of Horror* podcast, writer and podcaster Becky Darke and Canadian short filmmaker Colin G Cooper. It also saw the introduction of a Green Room for festival attendees, badge making, and a collaboration with Holy Goat Brewing to create a limited-edition Dundead IPA.



- **24% INCREASE IN TICKET SALES**
- **14% INCREASE IN SALES OF FESTIVAL PASSES**

## GUEST FEEDBACK

*"Dundead ranks amongst my top experiences in terms of the thought & care put into its program selections, as well as the hospitality shown to attending filmmakers."* - Colin G Cooper

*"Gorgeous venue, banging films, lovely people and a near religious experience in your projector room."* - Becky Darke



## AUDIENCE FEEDBACK

*"Banger after banger after banger. I love you Dundead thanks for making me smarter about horror."*

*"Yesterday was a strong contender for the best horror film festival day of all time."*

*"Possibly the best Dundead yet."*





## HALLOWEEN

Dundead celebrated Halloween in style, with 2025's October season of screenings welcoming more horror fans than ever.

This year's six screenings saw a 14% increase in admissions on 2024, with sold-out anniversary screenings of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* and *The Phantom of the Opera*. Highlights included drag performances from CLIMAX Dundee, a preview of a new 4K Restoration of *The Descent* introduced by Dr Lucy Fife Donaldson (Senior Lecturer in Film Studies at University of St Andrews) and *Evilspeak* screened from an original VHS.

### AUDIENCE FEEDBACK

"The audience was clearly a mix of fans and first timers, so to hear the gasps and screams as the story progressed only made the experience more enjoyable..."

"Dundead knocked it out of the park this year with its surprise screening / Scottish premiere of *Honey Bunch*."

"Another amazing Dundead Halloween! Loved *Phantom*."

## DUNDEAD PRESENTS THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA ON TOUR

As part of Dundead Halloween and to mark *The Phantom of the Opera*'s 100th anniversary, Dundead commissioned a new score by acclaimed Scottish composers Andrew Wasylyk and Tommy Perman.

The event toured five cinemas across Scotland, including a sold-out screening at DCA on Halloween itself. This was made possible thanks to support by Film Hub Scotland, part of the BFI's Film Audience Network, awarding funding on behalf of Screen Scotland and the BFI National Lottery.



"One of the best cinema experiences I've ever had."

### AUDIENCE FEEDBACK

"From the get go, the new score breathes an overwhelming melancholia into the film, it flips what could be approached as a straight up creature-feature horror flick, into something much more sincere and disturbing..."



## MONTHLY SCREENINGS

**Dundead continues all year round.**

In addition to the May festival and October Halloween screenings, 13 Dundead screenings took place across the year. These saw an increase in attendance of 20% on 2024 - the first full year of regular monthly screenings.

### AUDIENCE FEEDBACK

*"Dundead is a highlight of living in Dundee! Long may it continue!"*

## DUNDEAD AUDIENCE

**In 2025 Dundead attracted new visitors to DCA as well as building on its loyal fan base.**

Across the year 22% of Dundead bookers were first time visitors to DCA. 33% of bookers came along to more than one Dundead screening, with 50 individuals coming to 10 or more screenings across the year.

- **22% OF DUNDEAD BOOKERS WERE FIRST TIME VISITORS TO DCA**
- **33% CAME TO MORE THAN ONE DUNDEAD SCREENING**
- **50 PEOPLE ATTENDED TEN OR MORE DUNDEAD SCREENINGS**

### AUDIENCE FEEDBACK

*"I love its yearly Dundead festival. Its mix of classic and new horror is unbeatable. Plus its monthly one off showing keeps you happy till the next year."*

*"Love Dundead, always programmed really well with a mix of well known and lesser known cult classics and new films I wouldn't have seen otherwise."*

*"Their Dundead horror film strand in particular is absolutely fantastic - this program spotlights both great classics of the genre as well as much rarer underground horror gems. The annual Dundead film festival at the DCA is the cinematic highlight of my year, and it has even introduced me to some of my all-time favourite films!"*

*"The staff are so lovely and I really enjoy the dundead events. I got to see my fave horror movie 28 days later here this past summer! The cinema was packed and it was a great vibe!"*



## 2025 FILMS

**JANUARY**  
**FEBRUARY**

**MARCH**

**APRIL**

**MAY**

**JUNE**  
**JULY**

**AUGUST**  
**SEPTEMBER**  
**OCTOBER**

**NOVEMBER**  
**DECEMBER**

Captain Kronos: Vampire Hunter  
Presence  
Blue Velvet  
The People's Joker  
Picnic at Hanging Rock (50th Anniversary 4K Restoration)  
Darkest Miriam (UK Premiere)  
Deep Red (50th Anniversary)  
Somnium (Scottish Premiere)  
Zombie Flesh Eaters  
Sanatorium Under the Sign of the Hourglass (Scottish Premiere)  
A Bay of Blood  
For Night Will Come (UK Premiere)  
Suspiria (4K Restoration)  
Black Sunday  
The Wailing (Scottish Premiere)  
The Gesuidouz (Scottish Premiere)  
Demons (40th Anniversary 4K Restoration)  
28 Days Later  
Friendship (Preview)  
M3GAN  
M3GAN 2.0  
The Night of the Hunter (70th Anniversary)  
The Toxic Avenger  
The Rocky Horror Picture Show (50th Anniversary) with live drag  
The Descent (20th Anniversary 4K Restoration)  
Return to Oz (40th Anniversary)  
Evilspeak (VHS)  
Surprise Preview (Scottish Premiere) - Honey Bunch  
The Phantom of the Opera (100th Anniversary) with live score  
Dead of Night (80th Anniversary)  
The Shining (45th Anniversary)

See what's coming next at [dca.org.uk/dundead](https://dca.org.uk/dundead)

Dundead Festival 2025 logo by Katriona Gillon  
Photographs by Erika Stevenson and Helen Macdonald  
Dundead presents *The Phantom of the Opera* tour design by Rhianne Connelly

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Dundee Contemporary Arts

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