

“Halloween”

By Helen Lutz

The movie “Halloween” first hit theaters 40 years ago in 1978. That was also the year our first daughter was born. I’m not sure with the plethora of “Halloween” films which have hit the market since that I’ve ever seen that first one. At the time it was scary enough moving to Japan with a six week old infant and no familial support; we didn’t take her to see scary movies.



Not having had a lot of experience with all the “Halloween” movies, sure I know about Jamie Lee Curtis and Michael Myers wearing the creepy William Shatner mask, but really didn’t know how well I’d follow the story in the 2018 version of “Halloween” currently in theaters. Much to my surprise Director David Gordon Green makes sense of the story to newcomers.

We first meet a couple of pod-casters (Rhian Reed and Jefferson Hall) who are doing a case study of Michael Myers. We also meet a stoic Michael at the Smith’s Grove asylum where he is chained in the yard, enjoying some sunshine and fresh air. Michael’s psychiatrist, Dr. Sartain (Haluk Bilginer), is fascinated by the idea of a ‘Michael’ who is described as evil incarnate. He cautions the young reporters that they not cross the line when trying to talk to Michael which keeps them safely out of his reach. We never get a good view of Michael’s unmasked face.

“Halloween” wouldn’t be “Halloween” with Michael chained in a solitary jail cell. Yes, it’s now time to move him to a much better, more secure facility – whatever could possibly go wrong? Of course a highly secure prison transport bus is no match for Michael who manages to escape and go back to his old ways and haunts. No one is safe, especially a grandmotherly Laurie Strode again played by Jamie Lee Curtis, with Michael out for revenge on the perfect night, Halloween.

Laurie, who has been haunted by Michael her entire life, no longer fits the role of the victim – empowerment comes to mind. The hunted becomes the hunter. Laurie lives in a secure compound in the middle of nowhere complete with a hidden panic room filled with every type of firearm imaginable and she knows how to use them. She worries about the safety of her daughter and granddaughter with Michael on the loose. He must be stopped and they must be protected.

“Halloween” offers the audience an up-to-date version of the original slasher movie. It is gory, bloody and full of tension as we watch to learn the fate of Laurie Strode and Michael Myers. On a scale of one to the four Hart Beats I give “Halloween” TWO 1/2 HARTS. If you’re a Michael Myers fan or into “Halloween” horror movies, you’ll enjoy this one – watch out for the knives.