

by Marcie Taylor

# Halloween movies to watch with your family

These gems aren't too scary, but just the right amount of spooky fun



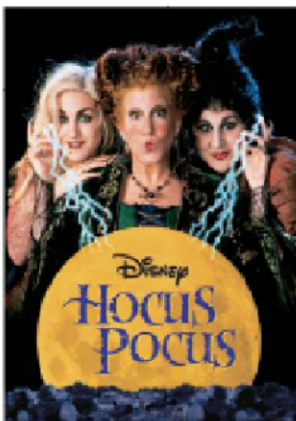
## *'It's The Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown' (1966)*

If dark, gothic tales are not to your liking, then this Halloween classic is right up your alley. "It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown" first aired on television in 1966. Based on Charles M. Schulz's "Peanuts," this special features Charlie Brown and his friends. Your younger kids will enjoy this one — there is nothing scary about it, just Linus waiting for the Great Pumpkin while all the other kids go trick-or-treating.



## *'Paranorman' (2012)*

For those who prefer something a little edgier, with a bit of a scare, the 3D stop-motion comedy thriller "Paranorman" fits the bill. The story revolves around a misunderstood kid, Norman, who is able to speak with the dead. Watch as the town comes under siege by zombies. Fair warning: There are some frightening scenes and the tone is pretty intense for young kids.



## *'Hocus Pocus' (1993)*

This Disney classic stars Bette Midler, Kathy Najimy and pre-"Sex and the City" Sarah Jessica Parker as the Sanderson sisters, a trio of witches who sing and dance and like to eat children in order to stay young. They are brought back to life for one night 300 years after their deaths in Salem. That's when the fun — or should we say the scares — begin. You can't get this movie streaming right now, but Netflix has it on DVD. It's also a staple on the Disney Channel's Halloween programming. Be warned that this film is rated PG. There are some curse words and mild scary scenes with zombies and witches.

## *'The Nightmare Before Christmas' (1993)*

This is the story about an attempt by Jack Skellington, representing Halloween, to take over Christmas. It's dark and scary at times, but also moving and musical, strange and haunting, and it's all told through stop-motion animation. Like other Halloween classics, this movie will surely play on TV this season, though we highly recommend owning the DVD, because the movie — created by Tim Burton, directed by Henry Selick and with music by Danny Elfman — is definitely worthy of your personal library.



## *'Frankenweenie' (2012)*

This movie about a boy and his dog is entirely filmed in black-and-white. The movie pays homage to "Frankenstein" and is a heartwarming horror movie spoof that any kid with a pet will surely appreciate.

## *Now for something new!*

R.L. Stine's beloved book series "Goosebumps" comes to the big screen this month. In this movie, a teenager named Zach, played by Dylan Minnette, is upset about moving from a big city to a small town. He meets a girl named Hannah, played by Odeya Rush, who happens to be the daughter of the mysterious "Goosebumps" author R.L. Stine, played by Jack Black. Creatures from the books come to life, and that's when things take a turn for the weird. Adventures ensue with such characters as Slappy the Dummy, gnomes, monsters and more. This film has been rated PG for scary and intense creature action and images, and some rude humor. ☹️