



**BAM presents *John Carpenter: Master of Fear*, a tribute to the legendary director and composer, Feb 5—22**

**Opens with a one-night-only conversation  
*John Carpenter: Lost Themes*  
with Brooke Gladstone**

**Followed by a BAMcinématek retrospective of all of Carpenter's feature films**

**In conjunction with the release of Carpenter's debut solo album,  
*Lost Themes*, out Feb 3**

***John Carpenter: Lost Themes***

**with Brooke Gladstone**

**BAM Howard Gilman Opera House** (30 Lafayette Ave, Brooklyn)

Feb 5 at 8pm

Tickets: \$25, 35, 50

***John Carpenter: Master of Fear* film retrospective**

**BAM Rose Cinemas** (30 Lafayette Ave, Brooklyn)

Feb 6—22

Tickets: \$14 general admission, \$9 for BAM Cinema Club members

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**Brooklyn, NY/Dec 15, 2014**—Renegade auteur John Carpenter makes a rare New York appearance at BAM on Thursday, February 5 to discuss his legendary career and celebrate the release of his first solo album, *Lost Themes*. Boasting “one of the most consistent and coherent bodies of work in modern cinema” (Kent Jones, *Film Comment*), Carpenter injects B-movie genres—horror, sci-fi, action—with the bravura stylistic technique of classical Hollywood giants like Howard Hawks, John Ford, and Alfred Hitchcock, and composes the scores for nearly all of his films. He will be joined by Brooke Gladstone, host of NPR's *On the Media*, for a wide-ranging discussion of his film and music. *Lost Themes* will be released in conjunction with the event on February 3 through Sacred Bones Records. Tickets, priced at \$25, \$35, and \$50, go on sale December 18 (Dec 16 for Friends of BAM and BAM Cinema Club members). For ticket information, call BAM Ticket Services at 718.636.4100 or visit [BAM.org](http://BAM.org).

From Friday, February 6 through Sunday, February 22, BAMcinématek presents ***John Carpenter: Master of Fear***, a complete retrospective of the director's feature films. The series opens with his breakout hit ***Halloween*** (1978), one of the most profitable independent films ever made, which introduced audiences to iconic horror villain Michael Myers. Other series highlights include horror masterworks ***The Thing*** (1982—Feb 7), ***The Fog*** (1980—Feb 8), and ***Prince of Darkness*** (1987—Feb 11); Carpenter's debut feature ***Dark Star*** (1974—Feb 12); films featuring frequent collaborator Kurt Russell such as ***Escape from New York*** (1981—Feb 21) and ***Big Trouble in Little China*** (1986—Feb 13); the cult dystopian film ***They Live*** (1988—Feb 20) and sci-fi romance ***Starman*** (1984—Feb 22); and more.

The retrospective also features **Carpenter Selects**, a sidebar showcasing three films with exceptional scores that the director has cited as influences on his work: William Friedkin's **Sorcerer** (1977—Feb 16), Sam Peckinpah's **Straw Dogs** (1971—Feb 15), and sci-fi classic **Forbidden Planet** (1956—Feb 17). See below for the complete lineup, schedule, and film descriptions.

#### About the artists

Originally from Carthage, NY, **John Carpenter** attended Western Kentucky University followed by the USC School of Cinema in Los Angeles. While attending USC, Carpenter began work on *Dark Star*, a science fiction comedy short that was later expanded into a feature length film and released theatrically in 1975. His second feature, *Assault on Precinct 13* (1976), was partially an homage to his idol, Howard Hawks, reimagining *Rio Bravo* in an urban setting. Carpenter's breakthrough film was *Halloween* (1978), the seminal horror film which to date has spawned several sequels. Other works include *The Fog* (1980), *Escape from New York* (1981), *The Thing* (1982), *Christine* (1983), *Starman* (1984), and *Big Trouble in Little China* (1986), many of which he also scripted and scored. To retain a greater degree of control, Carpenter reverted to making independent films in the late 80s with *Prince of Darkness* (1987), *They Live* (1988), *In the Mouth of Madness* (1994), and *Vampires* (1996). Carpenter also directed such TV movies as *Someone's Watching Me* (1978) and *Elvis* (1979), as well as two episodes of Showtime's *Masters of Horror* series and the trilogy *Body Bags* (1993), also for Showtime. He won the Cable Ace Award for writing the HBO movie *El Diablo* (1990) and was awarded an honorary doctorate from his alma mater WKU in 2007. Carpenter has been responsible for much of the horror genre's most striking soundtrack work in the 15 movies he's both directed and scored. Carpenter's debut solo album, *Lost Themes*, marks his first time composing music without a specific film in mind. He said this new process was creatively liberating, and that he hopes the album will inspire people to make their own movies using these new themes.

**Brooke Gladstone** is the host and managing editor of NPR's *On the Media*. She was an NPR Moscow-based reporter, its first media reporter, senior editor of *All Things Considered*, and the senior editor of *Weekend Edition* with Scott Simon. Gladstone is the recipient of two Peabody Awards, a National Press Club Award, and an Overseas Press Club Award. She also is the author of *The Influencing Machine* (W.W. Norton), a media manifesto in graphic form, listed among the top books of 2011 by *The New Yorker*, *Publisher's Weekly*, *Kirkus Reviews*, and *Library Journal*, and among the "10 Masterpieces of Graphic Nonfiction" by *The Atlantic*.

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#### Schedule

##### Thu, Feb 5

8pm: John Carpenter: *Lost Themes*  
with Brooke Gladstone

##### Fri, Feb 6

3, 5, 7:30, 10pm: *Halloween*

##### Sat, Feb 7

7, 9:30pm: *The Thing*

##### Sun, Feb 8

6:30, 8:30pm: *The Fog*

##### Mon, Feb 9

5, 7:15, 9:30pm: *In the Mouth of Madness*

##### Tue, Feb 10

5, 7:15, 9:30pm: *Memoirs of an Invisible Man*

**Wed, Feb 11**

5, 7:15, 9:30pm: *Prince of Darkness*

**Thu, Feb 12**

7:30, 9:30pm: *Dark Star*

**Fri, Feb 13**

2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45pm: *Big Trouble in Little China*

**Sun, Feb 15**

2, 6:30pm: *Assault on Precinct 13*

4, 8:30pm: *Straw Dogs*

**Mon, Feb 16**

2, 7pm: *Christine*

4:30, 9:30pm: *Sorcerer*

**Tue, Feb 17**

5, 7:15pm: *Forbidden Planet*

9:30pm: *Vampires*

**Wed, Feb 18**

5, 9:40pm: *Village of the Damned*

7:30pm: *Vampires*

**Thu, Feb 19**

5, 7:15pm: *Ghosts of Mars*

9:30pm: *The Ward*

**Fri, Feb 20**

2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45pm: *They Live*

**Sat, Feb 21**

2, 7pm: *Escape from New York*

4:30, 9:30pm: *Escape from L.A.*

**Sun, Feb 22**

4:30, 7, 9:30pm: *Starman*

**Film Descriptions**

*All films in 35mm unless otherwise noted.*

***Assault on Precinct 13* (1976) 91min**

*With Austin Stoker, Darwin Joston, Laurie Zimmer.*

Carpenter's lean, mean second feature puts a gritty exploitation spin on Howard Hawks' *Rio Bravo*, transposing the story to an LA police station under siege by a marauding street gang. The baddies are portrayed as zombie-like killing machines straight out of *Night of the Living Dead*, the notorious ice cream truck scene is still a shocker, and Carpenter keeps the tension mounting with his own pulse-poundingly iconic synth score. *DCP.*

**Sun, Feb 15 at 2, 6:30pm**

***Big Trouble in Little China* (1986) 99min**

*With Kurt Russell, Kim Cattrall, Dennis Dun.*

Carpenter goes kung-fu with this breathlessly imaginative martial-arts spectacular in which a truck driver (Russell) must infiltrate the fantastical underworld of San Francisco's Chinatown in order to rescue his friend's fiancée from the clutches of a 2,000-year-old sorcerer. Kurt Russell does an irresistibly goofball send-up of John Wayne-style machismo, while Carpenter revels in taking every chopsocky cliché in the book to delirious new heights. *DCP*.

**Fri, Feb 13 at 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45pm**

***Christine*** (1983) 110min

*With Keith Gordon, John Stockwell, Alexandra Paul.*

Auto-erotic: a high school nerd's possessive 1958 Plymouth Fury goes on a killing rampage in Carpenter's sleek horror joyride. One of the all-time best Stephen King adaptations, *Christine* blends 1950s Americana (the car's preferred soundtrack to murder is vintage rock 'n' roll), car fetishism, and hair-raising atmospheric into a smart and stylish pop confection. *DCP*.

**Mon, Feb 16 at 2, 7pm**

***Dark Star*** (1974) 83min

*With Brian Narelle, Cal Kuniholm, Dre Pahich, Dan O'Bannon.*

A group of astronauts is assigned the tedious task of exploding planets to make way for the human colonization of space. Their job gets exciting when an overly self-aware bomb refuses to drop from the bomb bay, threatening to self destruct and blow them all to kingdom come. This very funny sci-fi flick, co-written, starring, and edited by O'Bannon (who went on to write *Alien* and other horror/sci-fi classics), features a mischievous alien that looks like a beach ball, a sexy computer, and a bomb with a God complex.

**Thu, Feb 12 at 7:30, 9:30pm**

***Escape from L.A.*** (1996) 101min

*With Kurt Russell, Steve Buscemi, Stacy Keach.*

Eye-patch-sporting anti-hero Snake Plissken (Russell) returns, this time on a kamikaze mission through the post-apocalyptic wasteland that is L.A. in 2013. Along the way Carpenter unleashes a barrage of eye-popping thrills (including Plissken surfing a wave down Wilshire Blvd.) and oddball, comic-book-style characters (played by Steve Buscemi, Pam Grier, and Bruce Campbell) in this "poetic pulp movie made with joy" (Jonathan Rosenbaum, *Chicago Reader*).

**Sat, Feb 21 at 4:30, 9:30pm**

***Escape from New York*** (1981) 99min

*With Kurt Russell, Lee Van Cleef, Ernest Borgnine.*

New York City, 1997: the floating cesspool of Manhattan is now a maximum-security prison. When Air Force One crashes on the island, grizzled convict Snake Plissken (Russell) has twenty-four hours to rescue the president—or that explosive implanted in his neck goes off. With its staggering CinemaScope visuals, ultra-tight narrative economy, and rat-a-tat action, this gritty dystopian nightmare is a virtuoso showcase for Carpenter's stylistic chops. *DCP*.

**Sat, Feb 21 at 2, 7pm**

***The Fog*** (1980) 89min

*With Adrienne Barbeau, Hal Holbrook, Janet Leigh, Jamie Lee Curtis.*

Carpenter backs away from the horror shocks of *Halloween* for this ridiculously underrated chill-fest. Set in a small seaside town, where a supernatural fog sweeps in to cause a little mayhem, soon the political and social mores of the town are turned upside down by some good old-fashioned zombies. It's also the only film featuring the mother-daughter team of Janet Leigh and Jamie Lee Curtis!

**Sun, Feb 8 at 6:30, 8:30pm**

***Ghosts of Mars*** (2001) 98min

*With Ice Cube, Natasha Henstridge, Pam Grier.*

Dispatched to an abandoned Martian mining town to retrieve a serial killer (Ice Cube), a band of cops make a horrifying discovery: a phantom force that turns victims into goth-like zombies. Rife with winking

allusions to Carpenter's past oeuvre (especially *Assault on Precinct 13*), *Ghosts of Mars* giddily combines sci-fi, western, horror, and police movie tropes into a pure pleasure pulp shoot-em-up.

**Thu, Feb 19 at 5, 7:15pm**

***Halloween*** (1978) 91min

*With Jamie Lee Curtis, Donald Pleasence, Nancy Loomis.*

Masked knife-wielding maniac Michael Myers stalks a suburban babysitter (Curtis) on Halloween night in the auteur's breakout commercial hit. Picking up where *Psycho* left off, this ultra-influential indie—made on a shoestring budget—is a master class in visceral suspense, generating sheer terror from shadowy lighting, framing that keeps the audience wondering what's lurking just off screen, and Carpenter's famously ominous, tinkling piano theme. *DCP.*

**Fri, Feb 6 at 3, 5, 7:30, 10pm**

***In the Mouth of Madness*** (1995) 95min

*With Sam Neill, Julie Carmen, Jürgen Prochnow, David Warner, John Glover.*

Investigating the disappearance of popular horror novelist Sutter Cane, insurance investigator John Trent (Sam Neill) follows Cane's trail into a remote town that uncannily resembles the setting of his books. The capstone of John Carpenter's Apocalypse Trilogy (*The Thing*, *Prince of Darkness*) finds the director hewing close to his inspiration, the work of H.P. Lovecraft, peeling back the everyday to reveal the darkly fantastic beneath.

**Mon, Feb 9 at 5, 7:15, 9:30pm**

***Memoirs of an Invisible Man*** (1992) 99min

*With Chevy Chase, Daryl Hannah, Sam Neill.*

When a lab accident renders him invisible, a stock-analyst (Chase) must go on the run from the CIA, intent on using him as an espionage tool, in this sci-fi comedy. Carpenter makes spectacular use of a \$40 million dollar budget to unleash a torrent of breathtaking special effects: the invisible man chews bubble gum; his disembodied pants skitter down the street; and, in one particularly dazzling scene, his figure is outlined in shimmering raindrops.

**Tue, Feb 10 at 5, 7:15, 9:30pm**

***Prince of Darkness*** (1987) 102min

*With Donald Pleasence, Jameson Parker, Victor Wong.*

Carpenter returned to his indie horror roots with this atmospheric chiller in which a Catholic priest uncovers the long-dormant spawn of Satan deep within the bowels of a Los Angeles church. "Carpenter's most underrated, possibly best feature" (*Slant*) deploys dramatic camerawork, one of the director's finest scores, and head-spinningly surreal imagery worthy of Buñuel to generate a relentless mood of creeping terror.

**Wed, Feb 11 at 5, 7:15, 9:30pm**

***Starman*** (1984) 115min

*With Jeff Bridges, Karen Allen, Charles Martin Smith.*

Stepping outside the realm of horror-thrillers, Carpenter turned in this surprisingly sensitive sci-fi road movie/romance featuring an Oscar-nominated Jeff Bridges as a genial alien. Visiting Earth on a peace mission, he soon finds himself on the run from the government, aided by a sympathetic widow (Allen). The wondrous special effects are courtesy of George Lucas' Industrial Light & Magic.

**Sun, Feb 22 at 4:30, 7, 9:30pm**

***They Live*** (1988) 94min

*With Roddy Piper, Keith David, Meg Foster.*

The ultimate Reagan-era rebuttal, Carpenter's sci-fi satire follows a drifter (Piper) who discovers that America is being controlled by yuppie aliens using advertising to spread subliminal messages to "OBEY"—the main inspiration for Shepard Fairey's clothing line—"CONSUME," and "CONFORM." This anti-establishment classic boasts an infamously epic, nearly six-minute fight scene, as well as the immortal line: "I have come here to chew bubblegum and kick ass...and I'm all out of bubblegum."

**Fri, Feb 20 at 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45pm**

***The Thing*** (1982) 109min

With Kurt Russell, Wilford Brimley, Keith David.

When a team of scientists stationed in Antarctica takes in a stray Husky, man's best friend turns out to be an alien capable of inhabiting the bodies of animals... or humans. In this nightmarish revision of Hawks' sci-fi thriller *The Thing from Another World*, Carpenter upped the ante—throwing in explosive effects, piling on the gore, and mining the bleak, snowbound landscape and claustrophobic interiors for spine-tingling atmosphere—alongside an eerie, doomful score by Ennio Morricone (a rare instance of Carpenter bringing in an outside composer).

**Sat, Feb 7 at 7, 9:30pm**

***Vampires*** (1998) 108min

With James Woods, Daniel Baldwin, Sheryl Lee.

Carpenter's bone-crunching horror-Western hybrid stars James Woods as a vampire slayer facing off against a powerful New Mexico Nosferatu seeking to acquire the power to walk in the daylight. Throughout, Carpenter lays waste to the image of vampires as elegantly brooding dandies; his bloodsuckers are rough-and-tumble rogues who meet their ends in spectacularly gory fashion.

**Tue, Feb 17 at 9:30pm and Wed, Feb 18 at 7:30pm**

***Village of the Damned*** (1995) 99min

With Christopher Reeve, Kirstie Alley, Linda Kozlowski.

Something sinister is afoot in a small California town when ten babies—all born on the same day—grow up to be creepily affectless, peroxide-blond demon-children with telepathic killing powers. Carpenter's remake of the 1960 horror classic injects some potent new shocks into the proceedings (including a memorable death-by-barbecue) while pulling off "one of the eeriest opening sequences in horror history" (*The New York Times*).

**Wed, Feb 18 at 5, 9:40pm**

***The Ward*** (2010) 89min

With Amber Heard, Mamie Gummer, Danielle Panabaker.

Carpenter returned from a nearly decade-long hiatus with this nerve-jangling, 1960s-set thriller, in which a teenage pyromaniac (Heard) is confined to an ominous asylum run by creepy doctors and terrorized by a ghostly presence. Throughout, Carpenter displays his mastery of old-fashioned suspense technique and eye for period detail, delivering an unabashedly retro spine-tingler. *Digital*.

**Thu, Feb 19 at 9:30pm**

**Carpenter Selects Descriptions**

***Forbidden Planet*** (1956) 98min

Directed by Fred M. Wilcox. With Walter Pidgeon, Anne Francis, Leslie Nielsen.

A rarity among 1950s sci-fi flicks, *Forbidden Planet* is a big-budget, thoughtful, and inventive film with startlingly imaginative special effects. Not to mention it marks the debut of the greatest movie robot of all time: Robby the Robot, who would appear in countless other films and TV programs. "A great 1950s space opera loosely based on *The Tempest*. Louis and Bebe Barron composed the first, still stunning electronic score" (John Carpenter).

**Tue, Feb 17 at 5, 7:15pm**

***Sorcerer*** (1977) 121min

Directed by William Friedkin. With Roy Scheider, Bruno Cremer, Francisco Rabal.

Friedkin's dream project was this loose take on Clouzot's suspense classic *The Wages of Fear*, in which he fleshes out the characters' backstories and ups the grittiness factor. Four lost souls are brought together to transport a truckload of explosive nitroglycerin across a foreboding South American jungle—and one seriously rickety rope bridge—in this palm-sweatingly tense thriller. Tangerine Dream's pulse-pounding electronic score heightens the quivering, existential dread. "An underrated masterpiece directed—Tangerine Dream's electronic score was dark and deep" (John Carpenter). *DCP*.

**Mon, Feb 16 at 4:30, 9:30pm**

***Straw Dogs* (1971) 118min**

*Directed by Sam Peckinpah. With Dustin Hoffman, Susan George, Peter Vaughan.*

Pushing the envelope with its ultra-violence, Peckinpah's polarizing dissection of tormented masculinity and marital strife features Dustin Hoffman in a harrowing performance as Professor David Sumner, a meek American mathematician who moves with his wife to her hometown of Cornwall, England. While the pastoral landscapes seem like refuge from the chaos of Vietnam War-era America, Sumner is soon forced to grapple with his disintegrating marriage and the increasingly brutal resentment of the locals. Culminating in an ever-controversial orgy of movie violence, *Straw Dogs* is driven by an Oscar-nominated score by the underrated composer Jerry Fielding, who highlights the onscreen brutality with assaults of strings and bagpipes. "A savage exploration of brutality. Jerry Fielding's melancholy score mirrors the characters' inner turmoil" (John Carpenter).

**Sun, Feb 15 at 4, 8:30pm**

Credits

Programming in the BAM Howard Gilman Opera House is supported and endowed by The Howard Gilman Foundation.

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About BAMcinématek

The four-screen BAM Rose Cinemas (BRC) opened in 1998 to offer Brooklyn audiences alternative and independent films that might not play in the borough otherwise, making BAM the only performing arts center in the country with two mainstage theaters and a multiplex cinema. In July 1999, beginning with a series celebrating the work of Spike Lee, BAMcinématek was born as Brooklyn's only daily, year-round repertory film program. BAMcinématek presents new and rarely seen contemporary films, classics, work by local artists, and festivals of films from around the world, often with special appearances by directors, actors, and other guests. BAMcinématek has not only presented major retrospectives by major filmmakers such as Michelangelo Antonioni, Manoel de Oliveira, Shohei Imamura, Vincente Minnelli (winning a National Film Critics' Circle Award prize for the retrospective), Kaneto Shindo, Luchino Visconti,

and William Friedkin, but it has also introduced New York audiences to contemporary artists such as Pedro Costa and Apichatpong Weerasethakul. In addition, BAMcinématek programmed the first US retrospectives of directors Arnaud Desplechin, Nicolas Winding Refn, Hong Sang-soo, and, most recently, Andrzej Zulawski. From 2006 to 2008, BAMcinématek partnered with the Sundance Institute and in June 2009 launched BAMcinemaFest, a 16-day festival of new independent films and repertory favorites with 15 NY feature film premieres; the sixth annual BAMcinemaFest ran from June 18—29, 2014.

#### General Information

BAM Howard Gilman Opera House, BAM Rose Cinemas, and BAMcafé are located in the Peter Jay Sharp building at 30 Lafayette Avenue (between St Felix Street and Ashland Place) in the Fort Greene neighborhood of Brooklyn. BAM Harvey Theater is located two blocks from the main building at 651 Fulton Street (between Ashland and Rockwell Places). Both locations house Greenlight Bookstore at BAM kiosks. BAM Fisher, located at 321 Ashland Place, is the newest addition to the BAM campus and houses the Judith and Alan Fishman Space and Rita K. Hillman Studio. BAM Rose Cinemas is Brooklyn's only movie house dedicated to first-run independent and foreign film and repertory programming. BAMcafé, operated by Great Performances, offers a dinner menu prior to BAM Howard Gilman Opera House evening performances. BAMcafé also features an eclectic mix of live music for BAMcafé Live on Friday and Saturday nights with a bar menu available starting at 6pm.

Subway: 2, 3, 4, 5, Q, B to Atlantic Avenue – Barclays Center (2, 3, 4, 5 to Nevins St for Harvey Theater) D, N, R to Pacific Street; G to Fulton Street; C to Lafayette Avenue  
Train: Long Island Railroad to Atlantic Terminal – Barclays Center  
Bus: B25, B26, B41, B45, B52, B63, B67 all stop within three blocks of BAM  
Car: Commercial parking lots are located adjacent to BAM

For ticket information, call BAM Ticket Services at 718.636.4100, or visit [BAM.org](http://BAM.org).