

Invisible Ghost

Invisible Ghost is a 1941 American horror film starring Bela Lugosi and directed by Joseph H. Lewis. It was the first of the nine movies interpreted by Bela Lugosi for Sam Katzman at Monogram Pictures.^[1]

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Plot

Charles Kessler (Bela Lugosi) is plagued by homicidal urges. His wife (Betty Compson), who had left him for another man, gets into a car accident that leaves her brain damaged and is kept in a cellar in secret, by Kessler's gardener. When an innocent man, Ralph Dickson, is executed for a murder Kessler committed in the house, his twin brother, Paul Dickson, visits and tries to unravel the mystery. Paul Dickson discovers that Kessler is the killer; but, Kessler doesn't know he is the murderer because he commits the crimes while in a trance-like stupor. Paul Dickson subdues him and contacts the police, who arrest Kessler.

Cast

- Bela Lugosi - Dr. Charles Kessler
- Polly Ann Young - Virginia Kessler
- John McGuire - Ralph Dickson and Paul Dickson
- Clarence Muse - Evans the Butler
- Terry Walker - Cecile Mannix
- Betty Compson - Mrs. Kessler
- Ernie Adams - Jules Mason
- George Pembroke - Police Lieutenant Williams
- Ottola Nesmith - Mrs. Mason (as Ollola Nesmith)
- Fred Kelsey - Detective Ryan

<i>Invisible Ghost</i>	
	
A promotional film poster for "Invisible Ghost."	
Directed by	Joseph H. Lewis
Produced by	Sam Katzman
Written by	Al Martin Helen Martin
Story by	Helen Martin Al Martin
Starring	Bela Lugosi Polly Ann Young John McGuire
Music by	Johnny Lange Lew Porter
Cinematography	Harvey Gould Marcel Le Picard
Edited by	Robert Golden
Production company	Monogram Pictures Banner Pictures Corporation
Distributed by	Astor Pictures Corporation

- Jack Mulhall - Detective Tim

Release date	April 25, 1941
Running time	64 min
Country	United States

Production

It was originally known as *Murder by the Stars* then *The Phantom Monster*.^[2] During filming it was called *The Phantom Killer*.^[3]

Filming took place from 20 March to April 1941.^[4] As soon as the film was completed it was announced Lugosi and Katzman would make two more films together;^[4] they eventually wound up making nine in all.

Reception

The *Los Angeles Times* said the film was "head and shoulders above the average horror picture. It's superiority is based on the fact that spine-tickling qualities stem from a psychopathic and psychological situation rather than a purely physical one, imparting a Poe-ish flavour... Lugosi is, of course, superb in his work, being master of all the horror tricks but never overdoing them".^[5] Author and film critic Leonard Maltin awarded the film two out of a possible four stars, calling it "Better written and directed than most of Bela's 1940s cheapies, but still a far-cry from *Dracula*".^[6]

L. to R.: Polly Ann Young, Bela Lugosi, and Clarence Muse in *Invisible Ghost* - cropped screenshot

See also

- Bela Lugosi filmography
- List of films in the public domain in the United States

References

1. Gary D. Rhodes, "A House Where Anything Can Happen and Usually Does", *The Films of Joseph H Lewis* p 81-97 (https://books.google.com.au/books?id=JYjY-9Fy0C4C&pg=PA85&lp_g=PA85&dq=%22invisible+ghost%22+lugosi&source=bl&ots=gPDolWuILF&sig=zuWKWW0Czlg4nXZTyagPfmXHUEg&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjkt9jS7fTLAhUIxqYKHWZ1Cr44ChDoAQgpMAU#v=onepage&q=%22invisible%20ghost%22%20lugosi&f=false)
2. Of Local Origin New York Times (1923-Current file) [New York, N.Y.] 14 Mar 1941: 17.
3. Lugosi-Katzman Los Angeles Times (1923-Current File) [Los Angeles, Calif] 02 May 1941: 29.
4. Tom Weaver, *Poverty Row Horrors! Mongram, PRC and Republic Horror Films of the Forties*, 1993 p 26-35
5. Lugosi Opus Real Thriller G K. Los Angeles Times (1923-Current File) [Los Angeles, Calif] 12 Apr 1941: A9
6. Leonard Maltin (2015). *Classic Movie Guide: From the Silent Era Through 1965* (<https://books.google.com/books?id=6MIBDAAAQBAJ>). Penguin Publishing Group. p. 331. ISBN 978-0-14-751682-4.

External links

- *Invisible Ghost* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0033760/>) on IMDb
- *Invisible Ghost* (<https://archive.org/details/TheInvisibleGhost>) is available for free download at the Internet Archive

- [Invisible Ghost \(https://www.allmovie.com/movie/v25330\)](https://www.allmovie.com/movie/v25330) at [AllMovie](#)
 - [Joe Dante on Invisible Ghost \(http://trailersfromhell.com/invisible-ghost/\)](http://trailersfromhell.com/invisible-ghost/) at [Trailers from Hell](#)
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