

Bram Stoker's Dracula a film by Francis Ford Coppola

① Previous vampire films: more than 200 films...

- Nosferatu the Vampire, 1922, by Murnau, starring Max Schreck. Names are changed for copyright reasons. Nevertheless, Stoker's widow sued Murnau for copyright infringement. Most reels were destroyed. A few reels were secretly saved, reappeared in after the death of Stoker's wife.

Expressionist aesthetics: emphasis on contrasts, expressive performance of the actors, surrealist atmosphere.

Impact on Coppola's film: Nosferatu's elongated hands, his shadow on the wall.

- Dracula, 1931, by Tod Browning, with Bela Lugosi. Sound film → Lugosi's foreign accent was terrifying. Dracula appears as a gentleman, wearing a black cape → he turns into a bat

Impact of Coppola's film: "I bid you welcome." "I never drink ... wine."

- Dracula movies, by the Hammer production, 1958-1974: 9 films with Christopher Lee (except the last film). Colour films → blood, red eyes.

Impact on Coppola's film: none (?)

- Nosferatu the Vampire, 1979, by Werner Herzog, with Klaus Kinsky and Isabelle Adjani.

Impact on Coppola's film: Dracula falls in love with Harker's wife when he sees her photo.

② Francis Ford Coppola (born in 1939)

Childhood: in a family of musicians, he spends most of his childhood in bed, due to his bad health. At home, he develops his imagination with a puppet theatre.

First success: The Godfather, 1972, with Marlon Brando and Al Pacino, in collaboration with George Lucas. The Godfather 2 (1974) was another hit. The Godfather 3 was less successful.

Apocalypse Now, adapted from Heart of Darkness, a novel by Joseph Conrad. The film was released in 1979, the shooting took 18 months and the postproduction lasted 3 years. Viet Nam war.

Tetro, 2009: black and white film, autobiographical elements.

③ Coppola's Dracula 1992

The film was commissioned by Columbia Pictures, Coppola needed money after The Godfather 3.

Coppola's intention: to make a real adaptation of Stoker's novel, contrary to the other previous films. He and the actors spent several days reading the novel before the shooting.

Coppola decided not to use computer-generated effects, and relied on traditional special effects.

The film was greeted with generally positive reviews from critics.