

IGNITE FILMS

CLASSICS FOR THE FUTURE

CARNIVAL OF SOULS

1962 / 84:00 / B/W / Mystery/ Horror/ Psychological

Director: Herk Harvey

Starring: Candace Hilligoss, Frances Feist, Sidney Berger, Art Ellison



SYNOPSIS:

Mary, (Candace Hilligoss) is a young organist, who gets involved in a car accident during a drag race. She mysteriously survives the accident and shortly after travels Salt Lake City. There she starts her new job as an organ player in a church and moves in to a sinister boarding house. When drawn to an abandoned carnival pavilion on the outskirts of the city, Mary encounters "the Man" (played by director Herk Harvey). This ghostly apparition is one of the most spine-chilling scenes of the film. From now on ghosts and otherworldly beings increasingly enter her life and boundaries between the real and the supernatural begin to disappear. When Mary is drawn to the sinister carnival one final time, she is spirited away by the ghouls, her body nowhere to be found. In a surprising twist the final scene shows us Mary's body in the car wreck. She was dead all along.

REVIEWS:

Unlike most of today's horror movies, "Carnival of Souls" has few special effects - some wavy lines as we pass through various levels of existence, and that's it. Instead, it depends on crisp black-and-white photography, atmosphere and surprisingly effective acting. It's impossible to know whether this movie was seen by such directors as David Lynch or George Romero. But in the way it shows the horror beneath the surface of placid small-town life, it suggests "Blue Velvet," and a

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shot of dead souls at an abandoned amusement park reminded me of the lurching undead in "Night of the Living Dead."

Roger Ebert, Chicago Sun-Times, October 27, 1989