Halloween Picks: The scariest movies ever
By Jodi Cantor
Staff Writer
The somewhat awaited Scary Movie 3 premiered in theaters last Friday. It debuted with $40.7 million in sales, making it both number one at the box office over the weekend and the highest debut for a film in October. This is a great improvement over the mediocre opening Scary Movie 2 had of $20 million in July of 2001 but isn’t too far off from the $42 million the first film took in the year prior. But who cares about numbers? Did people rush out to see a great scary movie parody over the weekend or did they just waste their money?

The third installment of the widely received horror movie parodies was made under new management. While the first two films were written by brothers Shawn and Marlon Wayans and directed by their other brother Keenan Ivory Wayans, the third film is directed by David Zucker of the Airplane and the Naked Gun films and written by one of the Naked Gun and Hot Shots screenwriters, Pat Proft. Actors Leslie Nielsen and Charlie Sheen were recruited from these films to star along with Anna Faris, who reprises her role as Cindy Campbell, to find out why weird crop circles are appearing in farms outside of Washington, D.C.

The tone of this newest film is much different from the others. While the first two Scary Movies were rated R, edging on NC-17, the third film is more teen friendly with a PG-13 rating. On one hand, the film loses the raunchiness which drove away many viewers from the first two films, which is good. The realistic of King’s resume, depicts the terror of an obsessive fan in her quest to bring destruction to her novelized idol. This film’s scariest element is undoubtedly Kathy Bates, whose portrayal of Annie Wilkes is enough to make any writer consider a different profession.

7. The Evil Dead (1981) – An example of how funny sequels can make people forget just how scary the original was. The Evil Dead is a truecalcocide with zombies, people to kill and oh yeah, if that’s not enough, there’s also a creepy book bound in human flesh and inked in blood with evil incantations that raise the dead, turn, your friends against you and make trees rape you. Enjoy.

6. Spice World (1997) – The songs, the outfits, the girls, the bus: madness.

3rd ‘Scary’ time’s a charm
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This Halloween when you’re at the video store fishing through the horror section for the perfect film to play at your party, you will likely find a lot of corny dressed like Leprechaun in the Hood made intentionally to waste your money. However, for those looking for a true night of terror, this list of the 10 scariest movies on the shelves has been compiled.

10. The Ring (2002) – This psychological thriller about a videotape that kills anyone who watches it is based on an apparently even scarier Japanese movie titled Ringo. It confuses and disturbs but always stays one step ahead of its viewers and, in the end, leaves them wondering just what they saw.

9. Scream (1996) – Any horror movie made after 1995 is likely to have been in some way influenced by Scream. The film revitalized the failing genre by tying it into the teen market, changing the face of horror over the next decade. A creepy movie to begin with, John Carpenter’s signature theme took a simple film about a baby sitter hunted by a madman and made it legendary.

8. The Silence of the Lambs (1991) – More psychological than shocking, Silence terrified audiences and critics alike, earning it all of the primary Academy Awards. Whether Silence scares us because we fear for the life of one of cinema’s only real female protagonists, or because Hannibal Lecter never gave us a reason why he liked eating all those livets with his Chianti, the complexities of Silencer make it hard to walk away unfazed and will continue to frighten and disturb audiences forever.

3. The Blair Witch Project (1999) – It’s been said that Blair Witch was scary because it left more questions than answers, that for a generation jaded behind camera lenses, the first person perspective hit closer to home. But really, while it’s common to see people killed in a horror film, it’s rare to see where people truly systematically break down into a state of madness. Unfortunately, the style of this one is hit or miss. People will find they’re either terrified by Blair Witch or not affected at all.

2. Psycho (1960) – Hitchcock’s greatest piece took viewers on a roller-coaster of fear, toying with the emotions of moviegoers and scaring people away from showers for years. Nearly a half-century later, Psycho is just as disturbing as the day of its release. Just don’t pick up the embarrassing 1998 remake.

1. The Exorcist (1973) – Forget the 2008 special edition, the original masterpiece remains widely regarded as the scariest movie ever conceived. In a time where horror has blended with teen movies, it’s nice to see a film about the true power of evil, uncompromised. You can kill guys like Leatherface, but The Exorcist won people over with an evil so powerful, you couldn’t dream of stopping it, only of driving it away.