

Mark of the Wolf Man

Spain / West Germany | 1968 | 93 minutes

Credits

Director	Enrique López Eguiluz
Screenplay	Paul Naschy
Photography	Emilio Foriscot
Music	Ángel Arteaga

Cast

Count Daninsk	Paul Naschy
Countess Aarenberg	Dyanik Zurakowska
Rudolph Weissmann	Manuel Manzanique
Nascha	Rosanna Yanni

In Brief

When a werewolf is accidentally revived by greedy gypsies, two romantic rivals join a hunting party looking for wolves. When the werewolf attacks one of them, the other one destroys it, but not before being bitten himself. Upon discovering that he has now inherited the werewolf curse, he has his rival lock him in a cell in an abandoned monastery. The rival then contacts a doctor who is believed to have cure for lycanthropy, but it turns out the doctor is actually a vampire. Complications ensue.

The first outing as werewolf Waldemar Daninsky from one-man Spanish horror factory Jacinto Molina / Paul Naschy – a weightlifter who only took up the role after Lon Chaney Jr. turned it down – this impressively mounted monster-fest, also known as *Frankenstein's Bloody Terror* and *The Wolfman of Count Dracula*, was originally originally shown in 70mm with quadraphonic sound and precipitated a whole cycle of Spanish horror films in the late 1960s and early 1970s, within which Naschy played *Dracula*, *The Mummy*, *The Hunchback*, *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* and just about all the other classic monsters.

Paul Naschy

Paul Naschy (born Jacinto Molina, September 6, 1934, Madrid – November 30, 2009, Madrid) was a Spanish movie actor, screenwriter, and director working primarily in horror films. His portrayals of numerous classic horror figures—the wolfman, a hunchback, Count Dracula, a mummy—have earned him recognition as the Spanish Lon Chaney. He was also known as the "Boris Karloff of Spain" and he had one of the most recognizable faces in Spanish horror film. King Juan Carlos I presented Naschy with Spain's Gold Medal Award for Fine Arts in 2001 in honor of his work. Paul Naschy died in 2009 from pancreatic cancer.

Naschy's most famous characters

The werewolf Waldemar Daninsky is without a doubt Paul Naschy's most famous horror character, since he played Daninsky in 12 different films. In fact, Naschy holds the record for playing a werewolf the most number of times, easily beating out the great Lon Chaney Jr. (who played a *Wolf Man* only seven times during his career).

Unlike the Chaney Universal films, however, which formed a somewhat chronological storyline from picture to picture, Naschy's Daninsky films were not connected to each other plotwise. Each film was more or less a free-standing story that was not meant to relate to the other films in the series the way the old Lawrence Talbot movies often interconnected. Daninsky's lycanthropy had a different origin in each film (which many Naschy film buffs find confusing). This was probably for the best, since in the 1970's, Euro-horror films were often theatrically distributed years after they were completed, and they probably would've all been released out of chronological order anyway.

Only eleven of the 12 "Hombre Lobo" films actually exist today. All traces of the 1968 "Nights of the Wolf Man" apparently vanished before the film was ever released, and it remains a mystery to this day whether or not the film ever really existed at all in a completed form. (The producer of the film, one Rene Govar, is said to have died in a car accident in Paris a week after the film was completed, and no one ever picked up the lab bill that was outstanding. Hence it is thought the people who owned the lab may have confiscated the film print. Naschy claimed he only became aware decades later that the film had never been released anywhere.) Some Naschy fans



think the film was scrapped by the producer before it was completed and the script was later rewritten to become the 4th film in the series, "Fury of the Wolf Man" (1970). This is possible since Naschy himself vaguely remembered both films as having almost the same exact plot!

Naschy's only other recurring character was the villainous medieval warlock Alaric de Marnac (who appears in Naschy's *Horror Rises From the Tomb* (1972) and returns to life again in *Panic Beats* (1982)). Naschy claims he based this character on a real-life medieval nobleman named Gilles de Rais, a bizarre serial killer on whose life story Naschy also based the lead character in his 1974 film *The Marshall From Hell*.

Mark of the Wolf Man



The Hombre Lobo series (featuring the Waldemar Daninsky character)

Naschy's twelve "Hombre Lobo" movies are not a series in the strictest sense. They seem to be a collection of unrelated plotlines, but all of which involve a werewolf named Waldemar Daninsky. Both "Fury of the Wolfman" and "Curse of the Beast" refer to an origin involving Waldemar's being bitten by a yeti, but other films present him with entirely different origin stories. The fact that these films have also been retitled by the various film distributors many times over the years only adds to the confusion. Despite the numerous plot inconsistencies and convoluted flashbacks, however, Naschy's Wolf Man series as a whole is still considered his most famous work by most of his many fans.

In order of production, the "El Hombre Lobo" films are as follows:

1. La Marca del Hombre Lobo/ "Mark of the Wolf Man" (1968) (aka "Frankenstein's Bloody Terror" and "Hell's Creatures") – originally filmed in 3-D
2. Las Noches del Hombre Lobo/ "The Nights of the Wolf Man" (1968) – this is apparently a lost film today, but Naschy insisted that it was made; some film historians think perhaps that it was never completed.
3. Los Monstruos del Terror/ "The Monsters of Terror" (1969) (aka "Assignment Terror", aka "Dracula Vs Frankenstein", aka "The Man Who Came From Ummo")
4. La Furia del Hombre Lobo/ "Fury of the Wolf Man" (1970) released in 1972
5. La Noche de Walpurgis/ "Walpurgis Night" (1970) (aka "The Werewolf vs. the Vampire Woman", "Blood Moon", or "Werewolf's Shadow") – This was Naschy's most famous (and highest-grossing) horror film
6. Dr. Jekyll y el Hombre Lobo/ "Dr. Jekyll and the Wolf Man" (1971)
7. El Retorno de Walpurgis/ "The Return of Walpurgis" (1972) (aka "Curse of the Devil")
8. La Maldicion de la Bestia/ "Curse of the Beast" (1975) (aka "Night of the Howling Beast", "The Werewolf and the Yeti" or "Hall of the Mountain King")
9. El Retorno del Hombre Lobo/ "Return of the Wolf Man" (1980) (aka "The Craving") – One of Naschy's favorite werewolf films
10. La Bestia y la Espada Magica/ "The Beast and the Magic Sword" (1983)
11. Licántropo/ "Lycantropus: The Moonlight Murders" (1996) (aka "The Full Moon Killer")
12. Tomb of the Werewolf (2004) – This film was shot in Hollywood by Fred Olen Ray & co-starred Michelle Bauer

Death

The only horror film actor who ever portrayed Dracula, The Mummy, Frankenstein, Fu Manchu, the Hunchback, Rasputin, a Warlock, a Zombie, a medieval Inquisitor and a Serial Killer (not to mention a Werewolf in 15 different films!), died on November 30, 2009 from pancreatic cancer in Madrid. Paul Naschy will surely be remembered as one of the most prolific and truly dedicated horror film actors in cinematic history.

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