
Poltergeist

Main Facts

Year Made: 1982

Production Company: [Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer \(MGM\)](#), [Amblin Entertainment](#), [SLM Production Group](#)

Directed by: Tobe Hooper

Written by: Steven Spielberg, Michael Grais

Genre: Horror, Thriller

Main Actors

1. JoBeth Williams
2. Heather O'Rourke
3. Craig T. Nelson

Major Plot Summary

A young family are visited by ghosts in their home. At first the ghosts appear friendly, moving objects around the house to the amusement of everyone, then they turn nasty and start to terrorise the family before they "kidnap" the youngest daughter.

Written by [Rob Hartill](#)

Financial Information

Budget: 10,700,000

Money Made: Gross USA: \$76,606,280

Cumulative Worldwide: \$123,606,280

Major Quotes

Carol Anne: They're here.

Steve: [*shouting in Teague's face*] You son of a bitch! You moved the cemetery, but you left the bodies, didn't you? You son of a bitch, you left the bodies and you only moved the headstones! You only moved the headstones! Why! Why!

Diane: Carol Anne - listen to me. Do **not** go into the light. Stop where you are. Turn away from it. Don't even look at it.

Diane: She just moved through me. My God. I felt her. I can smell her. It's her. It's her. Smell my clothes. It's her. She's all over me. It's her. She's on me. It's her. I felt her. It's her. It is. It's... it is... it's my baby. It's my baby. She went through my soul.

Tangina: This house has many hearts.

Dr. Lesh: Diane, the determination is to whether your home is haunted is... is not very easy. I... what I meant to say was it might very well be a poltergeist intrusion instead of a classic haunting.

Historical Significance

Originally rated R, Spielberg and Hooper appealed and got it changed to PG. PG13 wasnt coming out for two more years.

Filming Information

Filming Location: [4267 Roxbury Street, Forest Hills, Simi Valley, California, USA](#) [Simi Valley, California, USA](#)
[University of California, Irvine, California, USA](#)

Special advance made in film: The use of many special effects, lost the award to ET

Source Material: Spielberg was the primary creator of the initial screenplay.

Composition/Music

The Star-Spangled Banner

(1814) (uncredited)

Music based on "The Anacreontic Song" by [John Stafford Smith](#)

Arranged by [Arturo Toscanini](#)

[Played as TV sign-off music several times]

Night of the Beast

(uncredited)

Strings Arranged by Chris Boardman

Written, Music and Performed by [Jerry Goldsmith](#)

Night Visitor / No Complaints

(uncredited)

Written, Music and Performed by [Jerry Goldsmith](#)

Inane Trivia

[JoBeth Williams](#) was hesitant about shooting the swimming pool scene because of the large amount of electrical equipment positioned over and around the pool. In order to comfort her, director [Steven Spielberg](#) crawled in the pool with her to shoot the scene. Spielberg told her, "Now if a light falls in, we will both fry." The strategy worked and Williams got in the pool.

[Drew Barrymore](#) was considered for the role of Carol Anne, but director [Steven Spielberg](#) wanted someone more angelic. It was Barrymore's audition for this role, however, that landed her a part in [E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial](#) (1982).

During the scene where Robbie ([Oliver Robins](#)) is being strangled, the clown's arms became extremely tight and Robins started to choke. When he screamed out, "I can't breathe!" director [Steven Spielberg](#) and [Tobe Hooper](#) thought that the boy was ad-libbing and just instructed him to look at the camera. When Spielberg saw Robbins's face turning purple, he ran over and removed the clown's arms from Robbins' neck.

Both of the terrors that plague Robbie came from director [Steven Spielberg](#)'s own fears as a child: a fear of clowns and a tree outside his window.

The swirling, flickering lights coming from the closet during the rescue scene were achieved using a very simple effect by having an aquarium full of water in front of a spotlight. Then a fan blew on the surface of the water to make it swirl.

Accolades/Recognition

Winner

BAFTA Film Award

Best Special Visual Effects

[Richard Edlund](#)

Winner

Saturn Award

Best Horror Film

Best Supporting Actress

[Zelda Rubinstein](#)

Best Make-Up

[Dorothy J. Pearl](#)

Nominated for three Academy Awards, lost all three to ET