

Terminator @40: Origins and Legacies

A symposium hosted by The Centre for Film, Television and Screen Studies, Bangor University, Wales

18 & 19 June 2024

Keynote Speaker: Gale Anne Hurd

We are delighted to welcome Gale, who in addition to co-screenwriting and producing *The Terminator*, also produced *Aliens*, *The Abyss* and *Terminator 2: Judgment Day*.

The Terminator franchise has left an indelible mark on popular culture. In 1984, James Cameron's dark vision of the future created a cultural shock that continues to resonate to this day not only in cinema but also in literature, art, design, gaming, and critical theory and is even credited with having spawned several aesthetic trends, such as tech-noir. What started as a film has now become a multi-media universe consisting of sequels, a television series, web series, comics, video games, board games, novels and theme park rides. The franchise is also frequently cited in debates related to multinational corporations, robotics, biopolitics, post- and transhumanism, artificial intelligence, and nuclear apocalypse.

Hosted by the Centre for Film, Television and Screen Studies at Bangor University in North Wales, this symposium proposes to bring together scholars from diverse disciplinary backgrounds – such as cultural and screen studies; the history of art, design, fashion and architecture; musicology; philosophy; political sciences; computer science and robotics; literature; urban and ecological studies; and race, gender, queer and sexuality studies - to explore *The Terminator* forty years after its release, explore its origins and legacies and consider its position within wider visual culture.

We welcome contributions from any perspective such as (but not limited to) the following:

The Terminator and its origins, influences, production, publicity, reception and afterlife

The Terminator and aesthetics

The Terminator and biopolitics, posthumanism and urban planning.

The Terminator and capitalism, neoliberalism, post-industrialism and multinational corporations

The Terminator and design

The Terminator and ecological studies

The Terminator and fandom and 'cult'

The Terminator and gender

The Terminator and James Cameron

The Terminator's multi-media franchise (sequels, television, web series, comic books, video games, board games, novels and theme park rides)

The Terminator and psychoanalysis

The Terminator and race, ethnicity and/or the "Other"

The Terminator and robotics, artificial intelligence, cybernetic organisms, the transhuman and post-human

The Terminator and sci-fi
The Terminator and sexuality
The Terminator and stardom
The Terminator and tech noir, retrofuturism, future noir, and cyberpunk.

Keynote Bio:

Gale Anne Hurd is a multi-award-winning producer and the founder of Valhalla Entertainment, most recently known for the global cultural phenomenon, Emmy®-winning and record shattering TV series, *The Walking Dead*, and its multiple spin-offs, including *Fear the Walking Dead*, *Dead City*, *Daryl Dixon*, and *The Ones Who Live*, among others. Hurd's feature, *The YouTube Effect*, is an eye-opening documentary, directed by Alex Winter, which presents a thoughtful, troubling look at YouTube, a site with humble origins that has gone on to change how we experience the world. The film premiered at the prestigious Tribeca Film Festival and was released theatrically in the US by Alamo Drafthouse Films. Her additional producing credits include *Mankiller*, a multiple award-winning documentary on the late Wilma Mankiller, the first woman to be elected Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation, Sundance Audience Award winner *The Waterdance*, and such iconic classic feature films as *Aliens*, *The Abyss*, *Armageddon*, *Tremors*, *Alien Nation*, *The Ghost and the Darkness*, *The Terminator* and *Terminator 2: Judgment Day* -- which was recently added to the National Film Registry by the US Library of Congress, joining *The Terminator*, which was added in 2008.

Additionally, Hurd is a highly sought-after speaker on such topics as the status of the entertainment industry and gender equality. She has spoken at the Berlin, Deauville, Locarno and Toronto Film Festivals, the Milken Global Summit Conference and countless other programs worldwide. She has been featured on numerous podcasts, including "WTF with Marc Maron" and Deadline's "Strike Talk." Hurd's prestigious honors include the 2022 Locarno Film Festival's Best Independent Producer Award, the Cartier Award from the Deauville American Film Festival, Women in Film's Crystal Award, the Producer's Guild's David O. Selznick Best Feature Film Producer Award, the Visual Effects Society's Lifetime Achievement Award and, most recently, the 2024 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Online Film Critics Association.

How to Participate:

The British Association for Film, Television and Screen Studies is generously underwriting postgraduate and unwaged participation.

Please submit an abstract [here](#) by 15 April 2024.

For further information, please contact the organisers Professor Nathan Abrams (Bangor University) and Dr Elizabeth Miller (Bangor University) at TerminatorConference@gmail.com