

Halloween III: Season of the Witch

US : 1983 : dir. : min
 prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:
[Bradley Schachter](#)
 Adult cast; two lines

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Excerpt from **The Moving Picture Boy** entry on Nirumand, who starred the previous year in Naderi's "**DAWANDEH**" (or "The Runner"):

"He kept on running in Naderi's "**AAB, BAAD, KHAK**", a drama of drought set in the parched land of the Iranian-Afghan border. But the Iranian authorities, who had already castigated "**DAWANDEH**" as a slur on their country, and had failed to get Naderi to apologise for it, now banned the showing of both films. Naderi was granted political asylum in the USA, and Majid and his elder brother Mansur Nirumand fled into Pakistan."

[no listing in "Halliwell's Film Guide", "Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 2001", "Speelfilm Encyclopedie", "The Critics' Film Guide", "The Good Film and Video Guide", "Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89", "Rating the Movies (1990)", "The Sunday Times Guide to Movies on Television", "The Time Out Film Guide", "TV Times Film & Video Guide 1995", "Variety Movie Guide 1993", "Video Movie Guide 1993" or "The Virgin Film Guide"]

Horror film plotlines – even the better ones – usually fall apart at the seams as they approach the final reel. But try this one for size: crazy US toy manufacturer of Irish descent steals a lintel from Stonehenge and uses its strange powers to manufacture a popular line of Halloween masks which can be triggered by television signal to reduce the heads of their wearers to a mess of rattlesnakes and cockroaches. His latex factory is guarded and run by clockwork android employees, and his Grand Scheme – Blofeld fashion – is to return the world to the good old days of pre-Christian beliefs and practices (including child sacrifice) as ordained by the planets. Sound chillingly plausible? Off we go then.

John Carpenter did not direct this title, but his imprint on it is unmistakable, right down to the repetitive electronic score, the absence of star names, and the resolutely B-movie budget and scope. It pays gratuitous homage to Carpenter's original film, having one TV station announce it as "a classic", and towards the climax we even have the hero strapped into a chair and made to watch scenes from it (the only way you would get *me* to sit through "HALLOWEEN").

Somewhere in the annals there must be a film with a "3" in the title that was every bit as good as its predecessors, but I'm bound to say I can't think of one. Having recently reviewed "**PHANTASM III**" (a turkey) and "**THE NEVERENDING STORY III**" (a turkey), I'd have to say this one at least is no worse than the cheap and cheerful teen-slasher pics that went before it, but its just too silly for words, and breaking covenant with the franchise didn't win it any fans.

See also "**BADKONAK-E SEFID**" and "**BASHU**" - both recent Iranian films, and subject index under **ARAB WORLD / MIDDLE EAST**.

