

Book Review News from Blood Moon Productions and from

# FILMS *in Review*

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Peter O'Toole

HELLRAISER | SEXUAL OUTLAW | IRISH REBEL



**PETER O'TOOLE:** Audiences loved him in *Lawrence of Arabia*. Later, he reigned as both a film star and “babe magnet” hounded, worldwide, by the tabloids, adulated in both London and Hollywood.

And now, the film historians at FILMS IN REVIEW have weighed in with their opinion of his recent biography from Blood Moon Productions. Here's the review, lifted verbatim from the much-anticipated CHRISTMAS COLUMN, 2015, as authored by film producer and cinema historian Roy Frumkes, whose biography appears below:

## **PETER O'TOOLE – HELLRAISER, SEXUAL OUTLAW, IRISH REBEL**

BloodMoonProductions.com. Writers: Darwin Porter & Danforth Prince. 620+ pages. Book Smell: subtle.

It has to be a reflection of modern technological advances, it can't be anything else: all the Blood Moon books, most of them several hundred pages in length, are written by the same two people – Porter & Prince. I mean, how is that possible? Each book should have taken two years. Well, it must be something to do with the ease of writing with WORD, combined with the extraordinarily easy access to information on the internet. I've never seen a more thorough use of these modern breakthroughs than here.

And while the book has the feeling, at times, of collage, it's never any less than fun, and it's infinitely more substantial than a mere gossip tome. I mean, I loved Kenneth Anger's Hollywood Babylon books (I had the pleasure of putting him up at my apt for a few days once, and that was fun, too), but they (and this, at first glance) are nothing more than gossip. However in their cumulative, lurid glow, like Weejee's LA photos, the O'Toole bio becomes something more than what is on the surface – much, more, certainly than what Anger gave us. O'TOOLE takes itself a level more seriously than gossip, and its text is informative, both about the British stage and the American screen.

In terms of glorious gossip, however, wait till you get (just as an example) to page 126. O'Toole is invited by Jules Buck, his friend and business partner, to join him for drinks with two other friends, who turn out to be Ava Gardner (they meet in her suite at the Savoy Hotel in London) and Burt Lancaster, neither of whom O'Toole had previously met, and both of whom had acted together in Robert Siodmak's THE KILLERS. Their unexpurgated stories that evening are absolute jaw-droppers. Lancaster's bi-sexuality and Gardner's sexual appetites are tossed away like everyday, casual knowledge. Their fast-flowing repartee and awareness of each other's sexual adventures pile on, paragraph after paragraph, story after story, and it's heady stuff. Add in some bizarre here-say out of nowhere about Evita Peron, and it's a kinetic, wonderfully written chapter. And there are plenty more to follow.

I mentioned this book to FIR's quirky film critic, Victoria Alexander, and after reading it she ordered the one on Elizabeth Taylor and said it was just as good. Blood Moon has found a winning formula.

For access to the original text of this review, click on: <http://69.195.124.61/~filmsinr/2015/12/20/christmas-column-2015/>

**Roy Frumkes**, the author of this review, followed his childhood dreams of filmmaking, and has been producing, writing and/or directing motion pictures for thirty years. Roy was a member until 2013 of the National Board of Review of Motion Pictures since he got out of college in 1966. He wrote for FIR for thirty years before purchasing the magazine from the NBR in '96 with co-owner Joe Anderson. Prior to that Roy was Managing Editor of the home theater magazine The Perfect Vision. From 1985 to 1994 Roy co-produced and co-directed the annual D.W.Griffith Awards Ceremony, working with the likes of Paul Newman, Bette Davis, William Hurt, Steven Spielberg, Kirk And Michael Douglas, Sidney Poitier, Jodie Foster and Sean Connery.

Currently, Roy teaches film history and screenwriting at The School of Visual Arts, which he considers the finest film school on the East Coast

**For More about this book, click on KNEWS, Southern California's News and Talk Radio**, which discusses the role of Peter O'Toole as the stage and screen's most enigmatic Hellraiser. Bill Feingold interviews Danforth Prince about an actor whose first and last names EACH had phallic implications <https://youtu.be/t3oUJ356dhPI>

In June of 2015, Blood Moon's biography of **Peter O'Toole** was designated by **The New York Book Festival** as Runner Up to Best Biography of The Year. **Blood Moon: Entertainment About How America Interprets Its Celebrities** [www.BloodMoonProductions.com](http://www.BloodMoonProductions.com)