



Adrienne King appearing in 1980 cult horror film *Friday The 13th*



Art got cult horror film star back on her feet

FILM-LOVERS have the chance to see a cult classic with a star of the silver screen on Saturday when an actress launches an exhibition of her artwork.

Adrienne King was immortalised in the horror hall of fame after she starred in *Friday The 13th*. But in recent years, the US actress has turned increasingly to her second love of art and has been exhibiting her work across the globe.

She has exhibited pieces before at the Misty Moon gallery at the Ladywell Tavern in Ladywell Road, Lewisham, but this will be her first solo show in the UK.

It is part of Adrienne's renewed confidence of stepping into the spotlight following 15 years out of the public eye after a stalker made her life a misery.

Adrienne, who starred in the cult horror film as Anne Hardy, a children's camp counsellor whose friends are picked off and killed one by one, has flown over from Oregon in the US to attend the launch of her exhibition.

And the studio has a limited number of tickets available for people who would like to see the screening and see her artwork.

The actress told *The Mercury*: "I was blessed with two passions in my life: painting and acting.

"My dark art didn't come about until after the release of the original *Friday The 13th* movie opened in the States in May 1980.

"It broke all records as the biggest moneymaker that year for Paramount Studios. But not too long thereafter I encountered a stalker before stalking was taken seriously or was considered a crime.

"As the year wore on my paintings became my therapy as the stalking intensified and the authorities would do, and did, nothing.

"It's not so much that I was drawn to the sinister aspect of life as that I was thrust into it. What's in one's life is what I personally feel makes a painting rich, deep, full and alive, even if it is grotesque in some ways, because sometimes life is very ugly.

Beautiful

"My paintings reflect where I am in my life. I'm happy to say I paint a lot of beautiful nature and river scenes now."

Adrienne started acting at a very young age, making her screen debut in an Ivory soap advertisement when she was just six months old.

Following the epic horror film release she studied at RADA in London, but her first stab

By HENRY ELLIS

at higher education was as a fine art student in her native New York.

Following her ordeal at the hands of the stalker, Adrienne shrank away from straight acting and seemed to disappear from film and television altogether.

However, she was instead doing voice-overs or "looping", as it is known in the trade, while continuing to paint in her spare time.

Over the past decade, she has increasingly started to meet fans of *Friday The 13th* and talked about her career.

She said: "Peter Bracke, the author, tracked me down in LA where I had a successful voice-over career before 'retiring' to Oregon and the river, and made me realise that the fans loved me and needed to know why I felt like I had to go underground or at least not on camera, but instead chose a career on the sound stage.

"He, being an incredible F13 fan himself, made me realise that I didn't need to hide anymore. I'd become strong enough over the years to share my story and embrace my fans and not allow one stalker from so long ago to still have a mental hold on me.

Amazing

"After one amazing convention in New Jersey in 2004 I knew what he meant and then the book came out and the kids that loved and grew up with my films in the 1980s are now the writers, directors and movie producers and they've brought me back to acting again. And my art has co-starred in some of my upcoming films, too.

"I do love horror and the independent films - they allow me to play some incredible characters.

"Painting has always been a joyous part of my life, but I have to acknowledge that my commercial success is directly tied to my three-generation global diehard fan base that has literally resurrected me from the dead.

"I've never watched *Friday The 13th* in such an intimate and unique setting as will be created at the Misty Moon Exhibit at the Tank Gallery.

"Stuart Morriss, Mr Misty Moon himself, has a vision of combining fine art, a film experience with thrills and chills galore and then the bonus of me being able to interact with all my *Friday* fans, Facebook friends and art lovers who want a sense of something

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Adrienne King as she is today, holding a bottle of the wine she produces

very unusual. This is an absolute first for me and brilliant of Stuart.

"There's nothing more fun or scarier than watching the original *Friday The 13th* with an audience, at this time of the year especially.

"It's like the ultimate roller coaster ride with the fingernail-biting, closing your eyes, holding on tight and trying not to scream.

"But you can't help yourself, you keep on coming back for more. I'm so proud to say my F13 still holds up brilliantly. Even after all these years it really packs a punch!"

Grandmother

"I always remember my grandmother, Maggie Sweeney, who moved to the States during the Depression, used to worry terribly about me when I would visit her on the weekends.

"She'd say, 'You must think about your future, Adrienne, you need a proper career, not art, not acting, you need something solid, something you can fall back on'.

"She was afraid for me and wanted to protect me after what she'd gone through trying to make ends meet.

"I loved her so very much. I know she watches over me - she's one of my angels and the wonderful thing is, I don't think she's worried anymore."

● **Tickets for Saturday's event cost £25. Screenings will take place at 6pm and 8pm. Visit www.mistymoon.net for more information and to buy tickets.**

How tea was linked to opium

A NEW exhibition exploring turbulent early trading ties between Britain and Asia is due to open next Wednesday. The Traders: The East India Company and Asia, will be based at the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich. It will illustrate a compelling chapter in the history of maritime exploration through the lens of the East India Company. Established by a group of London merchants, the East India Company was given its first royal charter by Queen Elizabeth I in 1600. By the time it was abolished 250 years later, Queen Victoria was reigning. The East India Company took on pirates, princes and rival traders in its pursuit of profit. The exotic spices the firm imported brought exciting new flavours to Britain.

The calicos, muslins and silks carried on its ships shaped fashions, clothing rich and poor alike. But the company's greatest success was tea, which it helped transform from an expensive luxury to a national drink.

But the British cup of tea had a darker side: opium. This illegal drug trade was interwoven with the company's business, resulting in war with China on two separate occasions.

At its height, the company minted its own currency. It had its own navy, the Bombay Marine, and had 250,000 soldiers at its command. Regarded by the British establishment as too big to fail, the company was repeatedly bailed out and ended its days shrouded in controversy.

The exhibition is set to include Japanese, Chinese and Burmese swords, ship models and navigational instruments, Nelson's Japanese-patterned breakfast service; Victoria Crosses awarded during the Indian Mutiny; and journals kept by company sailors.

● **Visit www.nmm.ac.uk for more information.**

Apple day will pack a crunch

WOODLANDS Farm in Shooters Hill is set to celebrate National Apple Day. It will stage a family fun day on October 23, from 11am to 4pm, to mark the occasion. Activities being organised include a treasure hunt, stalls selling farm honey and home-made jams and an apple-pressing session. Entry is free but donations are welcome. All money raised goes towards caring for the animals.