

# Dracula Meets Frankenstein

By **Alexander Baron** - Jun 17, 2015

---

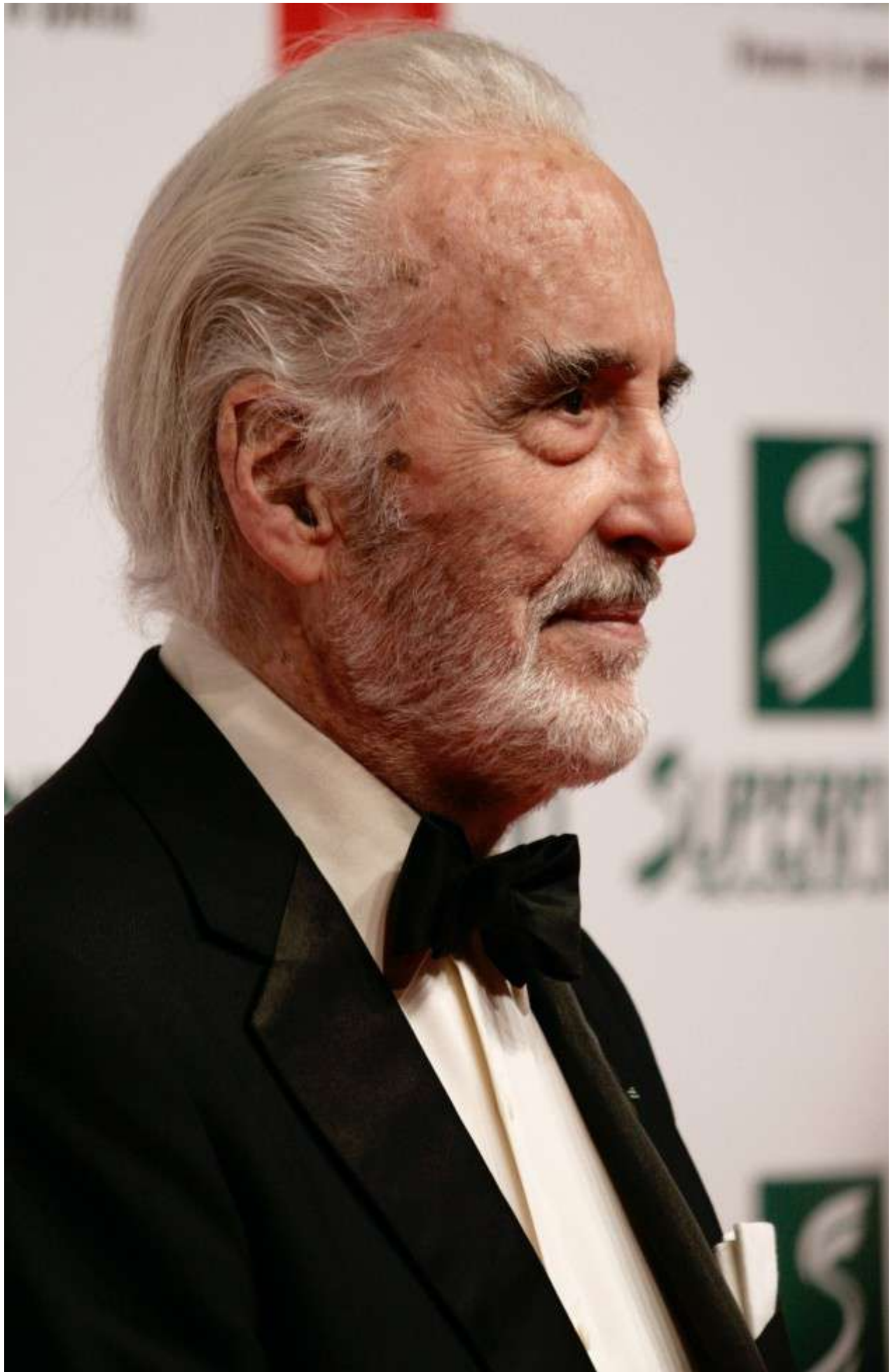


**84**  
SHARES

One of the giants of the English cinema has passed on, a giant in every sense, because Christopher Lee who died last week stood 6 feet 5 inches tall; his death also marks the end of an era. Lee's long career saw him playing a Bond villain, starring in fantasies like *The Lord Of The Rings...* and *Star Wars...*, he even recorded a heavy metal album at the age of 90, but for those of a certain generation, Christopher Lee will be remembered first and foremost as the Prince of Darkness, the quintessential evil essence of Count Dracula.

Lee first played the Count in the 1958 film *Dracula* having starred alongside Peter Cushing the previous year in *The Curse Of Frankenstein*; he played the Monster while Cushing played the ill-fated Baron. Hammer Films had been around in one form or other almost since the birth of the modern (talking) cinema, but the era of Hammer Horror began only

in the 50s; the on-screen partnership of Lee and Cushing rapidly becoming an integral part of it, although they actually appeared in the same film as early as 1948 when Cushing played the part of Osric in *Hamlet* while Lee was uncredited as a spear carrier.





*Christopher Lee dies at the age of 93*

The men remained friends up until the older man's death in 1994 when they last appeared in public together. Cushing also starred notably as Sherlock Holmes on the small screen as well as the silver one; in 1970, Lee played the legendary detective's brother Mycroft opposite Cushing in *The Private Life Of Sherlock Holmes*. Cushing's film work earned him an OBE; Lee's a knighthood in 2009.

The official [Christopher Lee website](#) was off-line recently but will doubtless be up if not today then shortly. There is also a dedicated [Peter Cushing website](#) – more than one in fact! And you can find much footage of these departed giants on YouTube, the video hub of the world, both on screen and off.

**84**  
SHARES