

# Blood & Love: A Collection of Queer Vampire Films for Young Adults

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**Abstract:** *The "Blood & Love" film list is a collection of YA queer vampire films that explore themes of identity, power dynamics, and desire. These films offer a unique blend of horror, romance, and coming-of-age elements that provide representation and inclusivity for queer audiences.*

## Kiss Me Deadly (1955) NR

**\*Parental Guidance: Violence, Gore, Alcohol, Drugs, Smoking, Sex, Nudity**

"Kiss Me Deadly" is a noted film noir known for its gritty and violent tones. Directed by Robert Aldrich, it is based on a novel by Mickey Spillane. The movie is praised for its subversive tropes, stylish direction, tense pacing, and memorable performances. Ralph Meeker plays the private investigator Mike Hammer, who picks up a hitchhiker named Christina on the highway. Later on, they are stopped by strangers who knock Hammer out and kill Christina. Hammer decided to investigate the murder but as he delves deeper into his search, Hammer becomes involved in a web of intrigue that includes corrupt officials, femme fatales, and dangerous criminals. This film has been recognized for its major influence on the genre and is a classic example of Cold War-era paranoia.



## Let the Right One In (2008) R

**\*Parental Guidance: Sex, Nudity, Violence, Gore, Profanity**

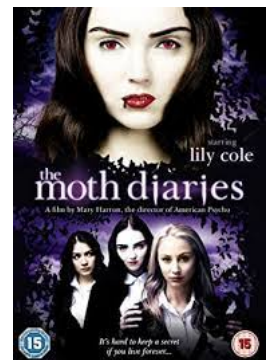
"Let the Right One In" is a Swedish horror-drama film directed by Tomas Alfredson. The story follows a 12-year-old boy who befriends a young girl, and their relationship evolves as he discovers that she is a vampire. The movie is highly praised for its atmospheric visuals, and it explores themes of love, loneliness, and the blurring of traditional gender roles.



## The Moth Diaries (2011) R

**\*Parental Guidance: Sex, Nudity, Violence, Gore**

"The Moth Diaries" is a supernatural horror film directed by Mary Harron. The story centers around a young boarding schoolgirl named Rebecca, who befriends another girl named Lucy. As Rebecca's obsession with the idea that Lucy is a vampire grows, a series of disturbing events begin to unfold. The movie is praised for its moody atmosphere and exploration of themes such as jealousy, desire, and the dangers of obsession.



### **Only Lovers Left Alive (2013) R**

**\*Parental Guidance: Sex, Nudity, Violence, Gore, Profanity, Drugs, Smoking**

"Only Lovers Left Alive" is a movie directed by Jim Jarmusch, which plays off the names of Adam and Eve. The story follows two centuries-old vampires named Adam and Eve, who have spent long periods of time apart. They are deeply in love but face the challenges of eternal life and the burden of immortality. Both are cultured, and smart, attempting to embrace music, literature and science, because of this they no longer kill for sustenance. Eventually, their peaceful existence is threatened by the arrival of Eve's sister, Ava, who is wild and uncontrollable. The film explores themes such as art, music, love, addiction, the complexities of immortality, and the nature of existence.



### **Byzantium (2012) R**

**\*Parental Guidance: Language, Bloody Violence, Sexual Content**

"Byzantium" is a British-Irish fantasy horror film directed by Neil Jordan. The story follows two female vampires named Clara and Eleanor, who seek refuge in a small seaside town. They wreak havoc on the locals while confronting their past and fighting for survival from their estranged kindred group. The movie explores themes of sisterhood, motherhood, and the fluidity of gender and sexuality. It has been praised for its visual style, cinematography, and great performances by Saoirse Ronan and Gemma Arterton.



### **Carmilla (2019) NR**

**\*Parental Guidance: Sex, Nudity, Violence, Gore**

"Carmilla" is a British romantic horror film directed by Emily Harris, and it is a modern retelling of the classic Gothic novella of the same name written by Sheridan Le Fanu. The movie follows the journey of a young woman named Lara, who lives with her parents and her strict governess, Miss Fontaine. Lara lives in isolation and is starting to experience her own sexuality but is struggling to find answers. It is until a young woman is brought into the house to recover from an accident that Lara starts to find answers. Lara becomes fascinated with her beautiful and mysterious new roommate, Carmilla. As their relationship becomes closer, Lara soon suspects that there is more to her roommate than meets the eye. Their journey leads to unsettling discoveries as they must confront the truth about Carmilla's vampiric nature and the secrets of their shared past while fighting against Miss Fontaine's controlling regime. The film has been praised for its LGBTQ+ representation and its exploration of themes such as love, desire, and the supernatural.



## **Vampires vs. The Bronx (2020) PG-13**

### **\*Parental Guidance: Violence, Language**

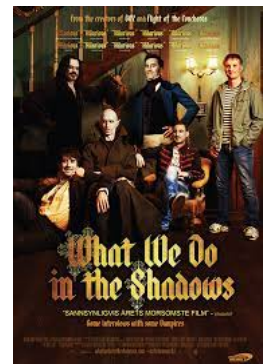
"Vampires vs. The Bronx" is a horror-comedy film directed by Osmany Rodriguez that follows a group of young friends living in the Bronx. They must band together to save their neighborhood from a group of blood-sucking vampires who are plotting to take over the suburb. They find out that the vampires are slowly buying up real-estate to take control of the Bronx and they decide they must put a stop to the vampires before they suck all the life out of the community. One of the main characters is a queer teen named Luis, who has a crush on one of his male friends. The film explores themes of gentrification, friendship, community, standing up against oppression, and also provides humorous takes on the classic vampire genre.



## **What We do in the Shadows (2014) R**

### **\*Parental Guidance: Violence, Gore**

"What We do in the Shadows" is a mockumentary horror-comedy film that follows a group of vampire flat-mates living in modern Wellington, New Zealand. The film explores the daily lives of Viago (Taika Waititi), Deacon (Jonathan Brugh), and Vladislav (Jemaine Clement) as they attempt to overcome obstacles such as being immortal vampires with a lust for blood living in the modern world. They struggle to maintain their wardrobes, pay their bills, complete modern-day chores, and cope with the nightlife in Wellington. However, their biggest challenge is getting along with each other. The film is widely praised for featuring a young bisexual vampire who has romantic relationships with both male and female vampires.



### **For more vampire film lists:**

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Lauren, S. (Producer), & Ullman, E. (Director). (2019). Carmilla [Motion picture]. Canada: Shaftesbury Films.

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