

Dario Argento (Rome, 1940) started off writing about film, theater and music for several arts journals, such as *L'araldo dello spettacolo* and *Il giornale dello spettacolo*. His reviews clearly revealed his predilection for genre film, westerns and thrillers above all, breaking with the mainstream critics of the day. Four years later, he went to work at a newspaper, *Paese sera*, working his way up from being a printer to serving as the paper's film and arts critic. Before he moved on to filmmaking, he wrote numerous screenplays including Sergio Leone's masterpiece *Once Upon a Time in the West* (1968). His directing debut came in 1970 with *The Bird With the Crystal Plumage*, which opened in Turin and Milan but was a disappointment at the box office. Nevertheless, in just a few days the situation had turned around, the word of mouth was positive, and the film swiftly became a success, raking in over a billion lire, a record for the time. Riding on this success, Argento turned out *The Cat O'Nine Tails* (1971), *Four Flies on Grey Velvet* (1971) and *The Five Days* (1974). In 1975, his film *Profondo Rosso* was a runaway hit and one of the high points of his career. In December of the same year, the soundtrack for *Profondo Rosso*, composed by the Goblins and Giorgio Gaslini, topped the charts in Italy. The following year, Argento made his horror film debut with *Suspiria*, which grossed over three billion lire in Italy alone and catapulted him on the world stage, especially in the United States and Japan. In 1978, Argento co-produced *Dawn of the Dead* by his friend George A. Romero, with whom he also co-directed *Two Evil Eyes*. In 1992, he directed his daughter Asia in *Trauma*. They would pair up again for *The Stendhal Syndrome* (1996), *The Phantom of the Opera* (1998), *The Third Mother* (2007) and *Dracula 3-D* (2011), Argento's 3-D debut. He also worked with John Carpenter and John Landis on the series *Masters of Horror* (2005-2006), directing two episodes, *Jenifer* and *Pelts*.