

# NIGHT TERRORS

ISSUE #2

THE CANDYMAN TRILOGY

STAGEFRIGHT (2014) REVIEW & MORE!



# NIGHT TERRORS

ISSUE #2 - AUG/SEPT 2014

WELCOME TO THE SECOND ISSUE OF NIGHT TERRORS! THIS ISSUE FEATURES A LOOK BACK AT THE CANDYMAN TRILOGY. THE FIRST FILM OF THE SERIES IS A CLASSIC OF THE GENRE. IT IS ONE OF THOSE EXAMPLES WHERE THE MOVIE IS BETTER THAN THE ORIGINAL STORY IT IS BASED ON. THIS ISSUE ALSO FEATURES REVIEWS OF THE NEW MUSICAL STAGEFRIGHT, THE AUSTRALIAN HORROR FLICK FAIRGAME, THE CAMPFIRE ANTHOLOGY THE WILLIES AND OTHERS. THE NEXT ISSUE WILL BE THE HALLOWEEN SPECIALIZED ISSUE, DUE OUT AROUND THE END OF OCTOBER. IT WILL NOT FEATURE A RETROSPECTIVE ON THE HALLOWEEN SERIES BUT RATHER DISCUSS FILMS THAT RELATE TO THE HOLIDAY OF HALLOWEEN, SANS MICHAEL MYERS. A MICHAEL MYERS RETROSPECTIVE WILL HAPPEN, BUT LATER ON DOWN THE LINE. AFTER THE HALLOWEEN ISSUE, THERE WILL BE A CHRISTMAS THEMED ISSUE WITH A RETROSPECTIVE ON THE SILENT NIGHT, DEADLY NIGHT SERIES! I AM VERY MUCH LOOKING FORWARD TO THAT ISSUE!

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**HAPPY NIGHTMARES!!!!**

**- BILL PIPER (EDITOR)**

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## Candyman, Candyman, Candyman, Candyman .....CANDYMAN.

Oh how I love Candyman! I used to refer to this film as a modern classic, but now it's just a "classic." Yes it has been 20 years since this film graced the silver screen! The film is based on Clive Barker's short story "The Forbidden." Like all adaptations, some changes were made. The short story took place in the U.K. (actual location escapes me at the moment as it's been a few years since I last read it) while the movie is centered in Chicago, IL. Also the character of Candyman was a white male, not a black man who was the son of a slave. These changes were more than welcomed and actually improved the story a great deal.

For those few who have not seen the film, it starts out with two college women doing a thesis on urban legends. One of the women, Helen, hears of a local urban legend called "Candyman." This legend is credited with some of the murders and mysterious happenings in the Cabrini Green housing project of Chicago, a poor neighborhood that has seen better days. Both women head to the site of a recent murder to investigate. Helen would later come back to the neighborhood on her own to do more research which results in her running into a local thug by the name of "Candyman." This assault results in her getting beaten up



pretty bad and this is where the film can go two ways. Let me explain...

You can now watch the movie either:

- 1) The ghost of Candyman is real and haunting Helen. He is pissed that Helen is causing doubt in the mind of his “followers” and wishes to renew their faith by cursing her. OR...
- 2) Helen IS the Candyman! The assault she received finally pushes her over the edge. This results in her blacking out at times and assuming the role of Candyman.

Personally I prefer number 2. In my opinion this makes the film even more interesting. Now if you go that route the sequels are null-void, but who cares!!?! There is evidence



during the film that makes either method possible. Very few films present themselves like this so I give kudos to the creative team for doing this with Candyman.

Tony Todd stars as the Candyman. His screen presence really pulls in the viewer. The deep reverb audio effects that were

added to his voice really gives him this other worldly feel. The look of the Candyman is simple but extremely effective. A tall man wearing a coat and a hook for a hand. Let’s not forget about the bees! The Candyman has such a great back story that is perfect for urban legend lore. A son of a slave who had a forbidden love affair with a white woman which resulted in him getting his hand cut off, covered with honey and stung to death by a swarm of bees. Tragic indeed!

Virginia Madsen who plays Helen does an excellent job. Her obsession over the Candyman clouds her judgment and causes her to do things a normal person would not. Her classmate/friend, Bernadette, played by Kasi Lemmons, portrays the common sense aspect of the duo. Helen’s



willingness to put her own life in danger simply for a college thesis makes one wonder if she does have a mental problem. This would tie into the method #2 I spoke of earlier. Perhaps all the stress in her life takes it toll, plus the fact she knows of her husband's extramarital affair, just causes her to snap and assume the role of Candyman. I like to think so!



Major props to Philip Glass for the AMAZING soundtrack he did for the film! It is one of my all time favorite scores. I love how some themes are very simple piano tracks while others are full blown organs with a haunting melody and backing chorus. You can purchase the soundtrack on Amazon, but be aware, it is a re-recording and not the original tracks. They are close enough, but being a purist, I really wish the original tracks were available.

If you have never seen the movie via the second method I mention, please do so! It shines a new light on this phenomenal movie!





## Candyman 2: Farewell to the Flesh

Like all popular horror films, a sequel was inevitable! Thus comes “Candyman: Farewell to the Flesh.” And like other sequels in a horror franchise, this movie attempts to explain the motive and back story of the Candyman. The film is not on par with the original but it is a decent follow up. On a side note, this was the very first R rated horror film I saw in theaters without parental permission. I was 14 years old at the time and went with a group of friends to see the movie. Memories....

The story picks up a few years later after the original but this time in New Orleans. The main character is Annie Tarrant. Years earlier her father was killed in Candyman fashion. When Professor Purcell (minor character from the original who now appears in the pre-credits sequence) gets killed the same way, the police



accuse her brother whom is seen threatening the professor just minutes earlier. The professor was approached by their father some time earlier to help against the Candyman but his calls were unanswered. As the film progresses, you find out that the Tarrant family has a connection with the Candyman. Annie’s mom is a descendent of the Candyman aka Daniel Robitaille and his lover Caroline Sullivan. Daniel is Annie’s great-great-grand father. The film follows Annie as she tries to stop her ancestor!



The movie features a flashback towards the end in which Daniel shows Annie how he became the Candyman. I like this sequence but at the same time it takes away the mystery of the Candyman. He is no longer a figure to terrify people but rather a tragic victim. This was hinted on in the original though it was kept to a minimum. Knowing too much breaks down the ambiguity of the character.

The location change to New Orleans definitely gives the film a different feel. I liked it but it is definitely no Chicago. The music is once again scored by Philip Glass. He reuses music from the first along with some new cues. His score has been lowered in the mix compared to the original. This was a HUGE mistake IMO. His music just added to the original and having it blasting during key scenes really amplified the terror of the moment. In the sequel you can barely hear the music a lot of the time. Another missed opportunity.

It may sound like I am bashing the film but I do enjoy it as a sequel. The movie does fall into the sequel trap and presents things that greatly bring it down from the level of greatness that is the original.





## Candyman 3: Day of the Dead

The Candyman trilogy ends with “Day of the Dead.” The story now takes place in East Los Angeles. Caroline, the daughter of Annie Tarrant from the previous film, is grown up. Her mother Annie had died years earlier due to calling upon the Candyman. Apparently Annie was still obsessed with her great-great grandfather despite over coming him in the last film. Caroline has in her possession paintings done by her g-g-g grandfather (despite the movie calling him her g-g granddaddy, apparently the writer didn’t bother paying attention to the last movie!) and has loaned them to a friend for an art exhibit. During the exhibit, her friend cons her into saying the Candyman’s name 5 times in the mirror to give his show a bit of drama. Daniel Robitalle hears the call and comes back to stalk the last descendent of his.

Candyman 3 is a direct-to-video release that came out in 1999. Once again the rights of the Candyman franchise changes studios. The first film was done by Sony / Columbia, the second film by MGM and the third from Artisan (now owned by Lionsgate). With each new entry into the series, the quality keeps dropping. The DTV stigma turns off many people as it is, especially modern day DTV, but I have always had a soft spot for ‘90s DTV. They still look and fell like movies unlike the DTV stuff today that looks cheap due to the HD cameras. The main actress in

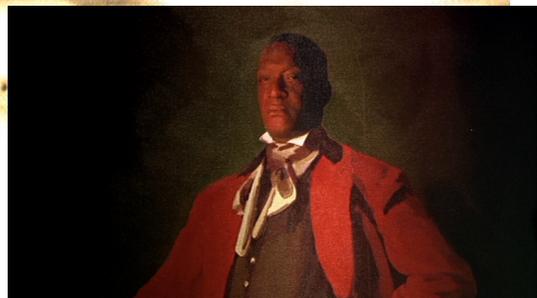


Candyman 3 is Donna D'Errico of "Baywatch" fame. I was never a fan of the show as the actors/actresses were basically eye candy with no acting skills. Donna does a pretty poor job in this movie especially compared to the previous two movies' main actresses. The story itself is not the greatest. It sort of mimics an Amityville sequel in that an object is haunted and plays as the central piece in the film. Where were these paintings in the previous film? Taking place in East LA, the story centers in a Hispanic community. I appreciate the change of cultures and the movie does a decent job in exploiting that factor.



A major disappointment in this film is that Philip Glass is not the composer of the soundtrack! Gone are the haunting organs that played through out the first two films. Philip Glass' score is just a part of Candyman as is Tony Todd!! It does not feel the same without them. The soundtrack here is pretty much standard DTV fare with no memorable tracks.

Candyman 3 is universally disliked by the horror community. Even Tony Todd himself stated it's his least favorite of the series and that if a fourth one gets made, it will ignore this one as well as the second film. That is fine by me! Here's hoping Clive Barker can get the rights back to the Candyman franchise so he and Tony Todd can resurrect the Candyman one more time! Perhaps if we all call his name 5 times, he will re-appear? -bP



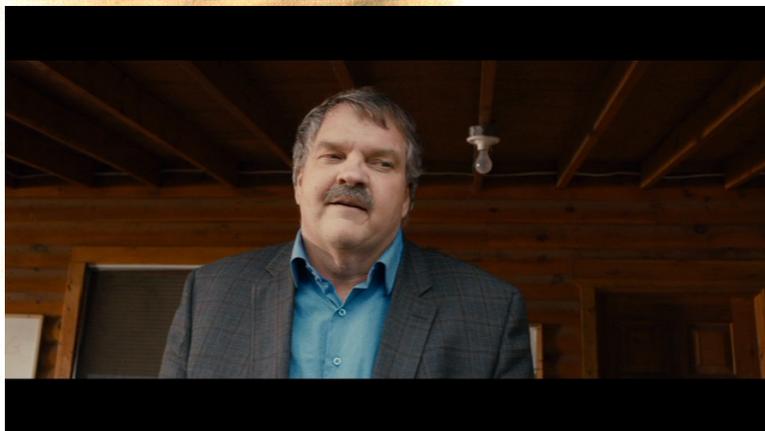
## Modern Review: **Stage Fright**

A slasher musical. When I first heard of this, I was not sure what to make of that combination. I am not a big fan of musicals but decided to give it a shot. I am glad I did as I enjoyed this interesting mesh up of genres.



The movie follows Camilla Swanson (Allie MacDonald) as she attends a summer musical camp ten years after the brutal murder of her mother. Kylie Swanson (Minne Driver) was a prominent singer in the theater and after one of her performances, she was killed back stage. In true slasher form, this incident serves the back story for the film. Camilla's brother, Buddy (Douglas Smith), attends the camp as well, which is ran by Roger McCall (Meat Leaf!). Roger had worked with Kylie Swanson back when she was murdered. At this particular summer camp, they plan on doing a rendition of "The Haunting of the Opera", the same musical that Kyle Swanson had performed before she was killed. All the clichés of a slasher are falling into place! Of course this attracts Camilla as she wants to honor her mother by going after the lead role of Sofia. Typical teenager competitiveness ensues as Liz (Melanie Leishman) is also going after the Sofia role. In the midst of this, Roger is trying to draw attention to this show as he is up to his neck in debt. The killer, who wears a kabuki mask (the same as the "phantom" of the production), is trying to stop the musical. If you pay close attention, the identity is not a big secret. The killer's motive is quite clear thus no surprises there.

The first part of the film follows production of the musical. This section is absent of any kills and that may cause some fans of the genre to get bored with it. I



I found the movie to be campy enough to enjoy these parts without getting bored. You

will be disappointed if you are expecting a slasher that has a kill every X amount of minutes. This film also lacks nudity which is another staple in the genre.



Besides the kill in the opening of the movie, the rest of the gore does not begin to spill until 40 minutes into the film. During the last third of the film is where the kills really start to pick up the pace. The death scenes in the movie are quite gory but in a campy sort of way. They will make you squirm but laugh at the same time.

The killer in the film sings along to a heavy metal riff. The rest of the musicals in the film are more happy and poppy sounding. Obviously metal = death! The musicals sound well enough but nothing is memorable. Perhaps if one viewed the movie numerous times something will stick. Allie MacDonald does a decent job as the lead role. She has an awkwardness to her character that feels weird at times but then again, her character was traumatized by her mother's death. I really liked her makeup in the last act of the movie. That look stuck with me after viewing the movie and probably should have been utilized on the home video release (it was on the posters). Meat Loaf does a great job as always. I love seeing him in movies. I believe the last movie I saw him in was Uwe Boll's BLOODRAYNE!

If you do not like musicals, you will hate this movie. If you are expecting a bloodbath slasher film, you will hate this movie. But if you like campy films and keep an open mind about the mixing of genres, there is a good time to have with the movie! I enjoyed it and recommend checking it out.

**SCORE: 8/10**

## The Willies

How did I never hear of this movie?! I am a sucker for kids horror movies (Ernest Scared Stupid, Monster Squad, etc...) but somehow, this movie never came to my attention. While browsing on facebook, a post appeared on my newsfeed regarding this movie. I really liked the poster art and looked into it. Amazon had brand new DVD copies for \$4, with prime shipping, so I quickly ordered one and waited for it to arrive. Once it arrived the kids and I decided to make it our movie of the night.



The movie starts off really fast with 3 kids, one played by Sean Astin of Lords of the Rings fame, telling each other camp fire tales. One story involves a lady ordering a bucket of fried chicken only to find a fried rat. Another story involves an old man going through a "haunted mansion" ride and being scared to death! The final quick story involves an old woman who decides to microwave her dog to dry her off after a bath! I must admit I didn't care for this segment. It is very childish (dog explodes when the microwave goes off) but it really rubbed me the



wrong way. I love dogs and hate to see something like, even if it is fake. After the third segment the movie goes through the credits then begins it's two main tales. The first tale involves a kids who discovers a monster in the boys bathroom. The monster disposes of bullies and a mean teacher. The child finds out that the monster was using the disguise of the school janitor, Mr. Jenkins (played by James Karen of "Return of the Living Dead 1 & 2"!).

The second story involves a rather large kid by the name of Gordy who has an unhealthy obsession with collecting flies. Gordy is rather unlikable as he is a bully to other kids. One scene involves Gordy serving one of his classmates cookies with flies in them! On the way home each day, Gordy comes across a local farmer whom he steals items from daily. Farmer Spivey finally decides to play a trick on Gordy and decides to be-friend him one day. He gives Gordy some magic dirt for him to take rather than stealing. Gordy takes this dirt



home and uses it for his flies. However this dirt turns the flies into human size and the flies take their revenge on Gordy! This was Farmer Spivey's revenge on the kid. The second story drags on a bit and takes too long to get to its punch line.

This anthology is very kid friendly. Kind of seems like a Goosebumps type of movie where the stories are very childish. My kids, who currently range in age from 12 to 16, seem to enjoy the film quite a bit and I feel that is the target audience for this movie. I still enjoyed the movie and am glad I picked it up.

DVD Review: Released by Echo Bridge, movie is presented in full frame format. Looks like it was taken from a tape master. Audio is on par with video. Not the greatest but it was less than \$5. Worth picking up if you find it for that price. No special features.

-bP



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## Budget DVD Mini-Review

title: **Kong Island**

company: Alpha

info: A brother and sister go 'big game' hunting in search of a "sacred monkey" (whom is later revealed to be a topless jungle woman). While camping over night, a group of radio controlled gorillas kidnap the sister. Her brother and father convince a mercenary by the name of Bert to help locate her. There are some other plot twists to this weird movie. Unfortunately it's not a very fun film as it gets quite boring at times.



video: Looks to be sourced from an EP vhs tape. At times it became unwatchable. The alpha watermark makes an appearance as well. D

audio: Sounds like its being played from another room. It's not very clear and kind of muffled. I'm thinking some noise reduction was applied. C

extras: Part of the Grindhouse Double Shock Show disc which includes another movie "The Galaxy Invader." Oddly enough, Galaxy Invader (which appears to be around the same as the Treeline Film version in terms of A/V quality) has an audio commentary!!!

overall: I can't really recommend this film, but the disc does feature the awesome movie Galaxy Invader with a commentary track!



## Hellraiser: Revelations

In order for the Weinsteins to keep the rights to the Hellraiser franchise, they needed to make a new film. The remake is in production hell thus a sequel had to get made quickly. They threw down \$300,000 and started production quickly as possible. Usually when something like this happens the end product is shit. Not enough time for preparation, effects, etc... When Doug Bradley learned of this, he declined to return as the Lead Cenobite (aka Pinhead). With all these negatives behind it, how could the movie be good?



The story for Revelations is written by Gary Tunnicliffe, who has been the special effects man for the past few Hellraiser films. He also directed the Hellraiser short film "No More Souls" which can be viewed on the net or as an easter egg on the "Hellraiser: Deader" DVD put out by Dimension, not the Echo Bridge release. The story begins with "home video" footage of two friends heading down to Mexico for some

booze and women. This trip has caused them to disappear. Jump forward a year later, and the families of the two boys get together for a memorial dinner. In possession of one of the mothers is this found footage. It's never explained how she got this footage, I'm assuming the police found the boys' bag and returned it to her before hand. Anyway, some of this footage involves the cenobites coming for one of the boys. The parents do not understand what all is going on in the video and a year later, still have questions regarding the event.

During this memorial dinner, one of the boys mysteriously arrives at the house. He is dazed and confused and doesn't provide much information at first. He claims he is being hunted by the cenobites. I don't want to go into more detail as to spoil the rest of the movie, but I did like it's "twist" in the storyline. Let's talk about the other aspects of the movie. First off, the acting is about average for a DTV sequel. Some actors/actresses do fine, while others are pretty bad. But if you're like me, you've seen numerous bad examples of acting, so I'm kind of used to it. The music was ok, nothing memorable, but it wasn't nauseating either. It did it's purpose. The special effects were rather good considering the budget. The cenobite I refer to as "Pinhead jr." looks pretty good. He and Pinhead are the only two cenobites that are fully portrayed, as the other cenobites like Chatterer are mainly kept as cameos or to the shadows. As for Pinhead, I



really wished they would not have used the character. With so many possibilities, a different lead cenobite could have been used. Just seems weird without Doug Bradley, but with the remake rearing it's ugly head, that's something we all are going have to accept as I doubt the studio will bring Mr. Bradley on board for the new series.



Overall, I found the movie

enjoyable. Is it the best sequel? No, but it definitely kicks HellWorld's ass. The Hellraiser franchise is one of the few franchises in which I can say I enjoyed each entry. Most people bash the DTV sequels (starting with Inferno), but I enjoyed them. The DTV sequels were stories that seem like they could come from a Hellraiser comic series. They were more intimate movies than the theatrical entries. This film will be the black sheep of the series, but there's nothing wrong with that. As for extra features, the disc only has deleted scenes. An audio commentary would have been interesting. -bP





## Fairgame

I first heard of this movie while watching the Ozploitation documentary "Not Quite Hollywood." I ordered it via Netflix and gave it a spin. The movie involves Jessica (Cassandra Delaney), a loner who runs an animal refuge in the middle of nowhere in the Australian outback. While out one day she gets into a road confrontation with some poachers (one of which is played by Peter Ford) who almost cause her to wreck. She

later gets back at them and for the rest of the movie, it involves each side getting one over on the other, a cat and mouse game if you will. Plot is very thin in this movie but that does not mean it's a boring flick, quite the opposite. The movie did want me to yell at the screen and tell Jessica to STOP IT!! as she seemed to keep dragging out this confrontation. One would think she would just ignore the poachers and go her own way, but she takes great offense to what they are doing and everything just escalates until it comes to a point both sides are fighting for their lives! Decent revenge flick which does not involve a rape scene! Usually these types of films have that, so it was nice to see one not go that route. The scenery of the movie is quite nice and gives the movie great atmosphere. I also want to comment about the truck the poachers use. Wow, that truck is one of the evilest looking vehicles I've seen in a movie! It would give the Green Goblin semi from "Maximum Overdrive" a run for it's money!



The DVD I viewed had a piss poor transfer. I would love to see a proper blu-ray released one day as I definitely consider this a must buy. However, the current R1 DVD I would not purchase. It is currently out of print and extremely expensive. -bP





## Blood Night: The Legend of Mary Hatchet

2009 DTV slasher featuring Bill Moseley and Danielle Harris. This movie starts out with the story of Mary Mattock and her first menstrual experience. The incident traumatizes her and she murders her family. Mary is sent to a psychiatric hospital after the incident. The movie jumps 11 years later and shows Mary getting raped by a guard. Nine months later we see Mary giving birth but the doctor pronounces the baby as still born. This causes Mary to go on a rampage, murdering whoever gets in her way. This rampage ends when confronted with the police and she is shot.

Fast forward to present day (2008) and we see that the town has created a holiday of sorts based on Mary Mattock, whom has been nicknamed Mary Hatchet. This "Blood Night" involves the local youth playing sick pranks on people. The movie follows a group of teens who first go to the burial site of Mary Hatchet to play some Ouija board (of course!). They are interrupted by "Graveyard Gus" (played by Bill Moseley) who then tells the teens a ghost story about Mary Hatchet. The teens head to one of their houses for a party. Danielle Harris' character shows up with some other teens and the movie then goes into gratuitous mode showing partying, sex and other shenanigans. Suddenly a killer appears and starts taking out the party goers. I'll stop here to not spoil the ending but will say I saw the ending coming a mile away. Despite that, I really enjoyed the movie. The kills were extremely gory, plenty of nudity and the movie moves at a decent speed. Danielle Harris and Bill Moseley were in the movie a decent amount of time. I figured it'd be a glorified cameo as that's usually the case in these low budget DTV flicks. So I was surprised in that aspect. I recommend checking it out! -bP





## All the Boys Love Mandy Lane

This 2006 film, that finally got an US release in 2013, is a new slasher film to hit the horror genre. I have always read mixed reviews, some extremely negative but like always, I need to watch it for myself before deciding.

Mandy Lane is the most sought after girl at school. If this was an '80s sex comedy, she would be the prized score that all the guys go after. In a way this movie does resemble one of those types of films! The movie goes a bit over board in how it shows guys lusting over this girl. Almost comical in it's portrayal of these horny teens! At the beginning, Mandy and her "loner" friend Emmet go to a jock party. One of the jocks keeps attempting to flirt with Mandy, which annoys Emmet. Later on at the party, Emmet talks this drunk jock into performing a stunt for Mandy, which results in his death. The story jumps forward nine months and we see Mandy get invited out to a ranch for a weekend party. Emmet does not want Mandy to go, but she blows him off and heads to the ranch.



The group that heads to the ranch is a bunch of pompous teens. All three of the guys want to be the first to have sex with Mandy, despite some of them having girlfriends along for the trip. Once at the ranch, the killings start. Unlike most slashers, this film

shows you the killer almost immediately. I do not want to spoil the film, but the killer and even the twist at the end, is predictable. If you have seen several slasher movies, you know how the formula is and this film provides nothing new. The kills in the movie are pretty decent. The knife across the eyes had me squeamish!

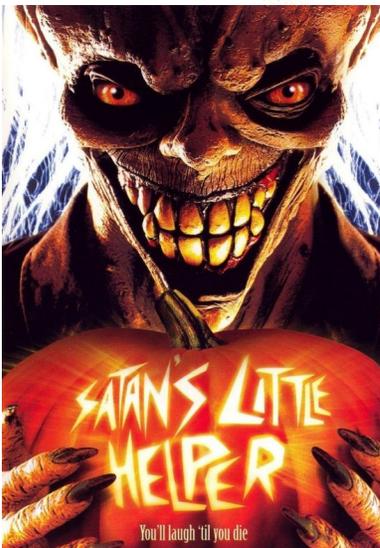
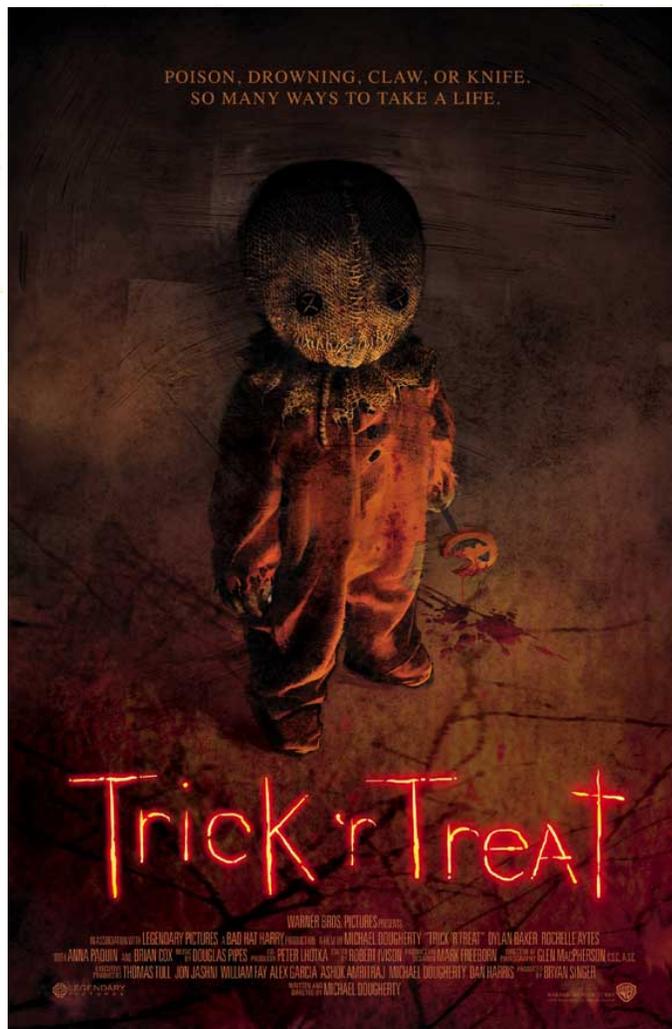
What I find interesting about this film is how it languished in limbo for seven years. The Weinsteins had sold the film to Senator Entertainment. However Senator would go bankrupt thus the film would not get released. It did receive a theatrical run in the UK back in 2008 and got a DVD release (which was playable on US DVD players). The Weinsteins were able to re-secure the US rights and thus the film finally got an official release here in 2013.



This movie was not the second coming of the slasher genre. It was nothing unique and the story was very predictable but I had fun with the movie. It is worth a viewing if you are into slashers. -bP



## COMING NEXT ISSUE:



Next issue:

Halloween edition featuring

Trick 'r Treat

Satan's Little Helper

Thanks for reading! !

