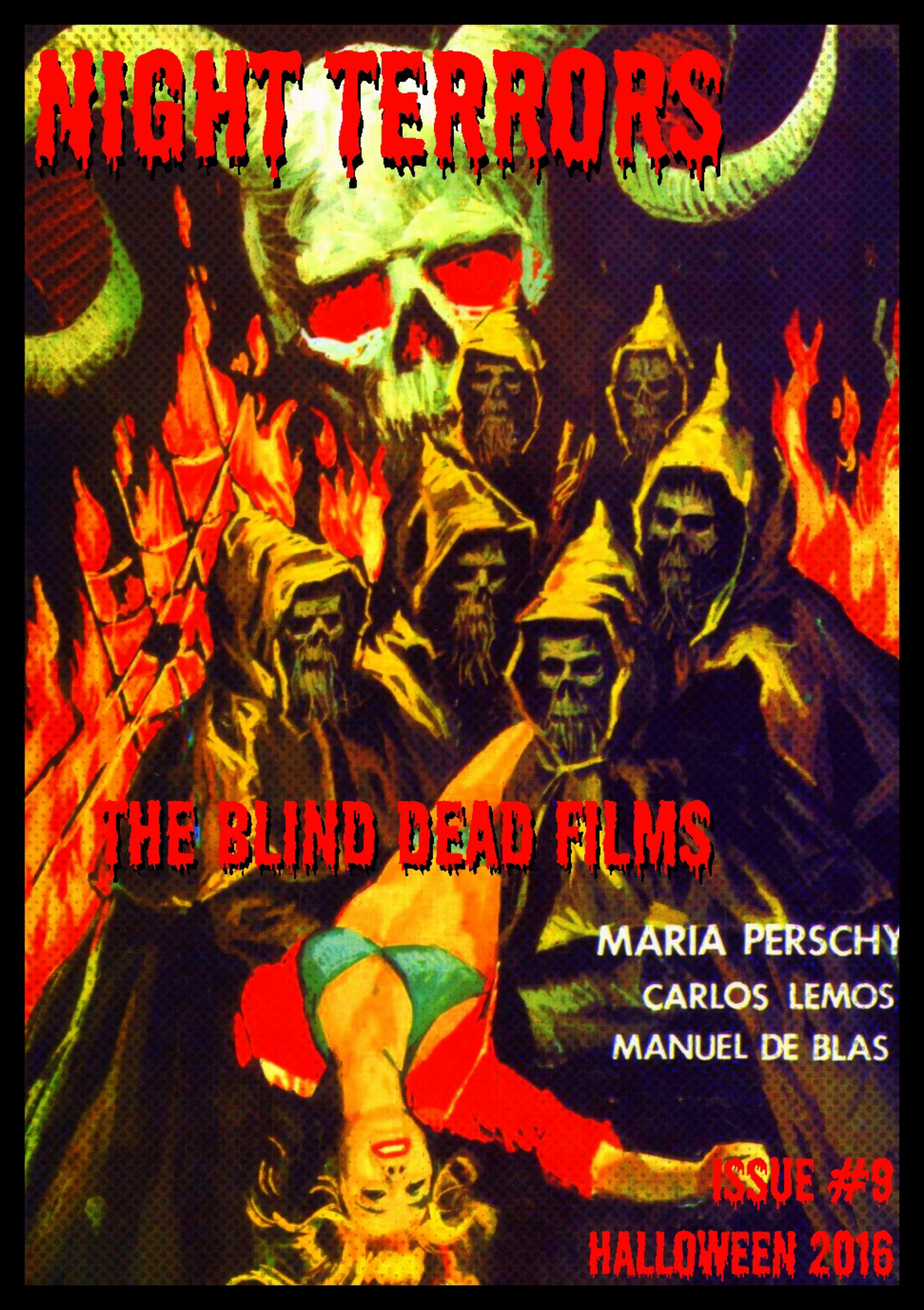


NIGHT TERRORS



THE BLIND DEAD FILMS

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GREETINGS!

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE THE LAST ISSUE. REAL LIFE GOT IN MY WAY OF PRODUCING ANY NEW ISSUES. SINCE THIS IS A HOBBY AND NOT A JOB, IT HAD TO BE PUT ON THE BACK BURNER. HOWEVER I DEFINITELY WANTED TO GET AN ISSUE OUT BEFORE HALLOWEEN, SO HERE IT IS!

THIS ISSUE IS DEDICATED TO THE BLIND DEAD MOVIES. I LOVE THESE SPANISH ZOMBIE FLICKS AND WANTED TO SHARE MY ENTHUSIASM. I REALLY HOPE THESE TITLES HIT BLU-RAY ONE OF THESE DAYS BUT THE CURRENT BLUE UNDERGROUND DISCS ARE PRETTY DAMN GOOD. I AM NOT SURE IF I WILL GET ANOTHER ISSUE OUT BY THE END OF THE YEAR. I DO NOT LIKE TO RUSH ISSUES BUT RATHER TAKE THE TIME TO DO THEM RIGHT.

NEXT YEAR I AM THINKING OF EXPANDING TO OTHER GENRES, MAINLY EXPLOITATIVE FILMS. I LOVE THAT TYPE OF MOVIE AND WANT TO SHOW SOME LOVE TOWARDS IT AS WELL. HORROR WILL ALWAYS BE FOREMOST BUT THERE IS ROOM FOR SOME SLEAZE AS WELL! AS ALWAYS, IF YOU ARE READING THIS, THANK YOU. HOPE YOU ENJOY THE ISSUE!

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THE BLIND DEAD SERIES RETROSPECTIVE

Knight Templar zombies terrorizing the living. What a great concept that is! Despite being a life long horror fan, I have never heard of these films until around the early 2000s. I was a big fan of the (now defunct) Brentwood releases that were typically a 4 movie package of various VHS/laserdisc transfers of oddball movies. Some of the releases were questionable in their legality (I doubt they obtained any "rights" for the movies) but boy did it introduce me to movies I never would have imagined coming across. The first set I bought with a blind dead movie in it was titled "Horror Rises from the Grave." It featured the Paul Naschy flick "Horror Rises from the Tomb", a movie I plan on covering some day when I do an issue on Paul Naschy. The second movie was titled "Zombie Flesh Eaters." This movie is actually the third Blind Dead movie, "The Ghost Galleon." The third movie was "Zombie Hell House" (aka "House by the Cemetery") and the fourth movie "Night of the Ghoul" (aka "The Ghoul"). Holy shit what an incredible set!!! This set also introduced me to one of my favorite actors of all time, Paul Naschy. I look forward to the day I do an issue on that incredible actor. When I watched "The Ghost Galleon", I had mixed feelings on the film but it did cause me to seek out other blind dead movies. I would find the fourth blind dead movie, "Night of the Seagulls" on a Brentwood set titled "Pray for Death" but the movie would be titled "Night of the Death Cult." This movie ended up being my favorite of the blind dead films. I eventually got a hold of the Anchor Bay double feature of the first two blind dead movies thus finally completing the series. Years later I purchased all four movies on the Blue Underground released DVDs. They were such a revelation in terms of quality. It made my appreciation for the movies grow even more. Let's take a look at each of these awesome zombie movies.



Let it be known that I am reviewing the original Spanish versions of these films. Some of the movies were heavily censored when they came to the US, so for this issue, I will be reviewing the original versions.



Tombs of the Blind Dead (aka La Noche Del Terror Ciego)

The movie starts off at a resort swimming pool where we meet Bette and Virginia. These two old friends meet up and begin a conversation. In the meantime, Bette's friend, Roger, shows up and asks the women about going out for a vacation in the country. They agree and soon they head off on train to their destination. On the train ride, Bette and Roger flirt around which causes some grief towards Virginia. Apparently Virginia and Bette had a small fling back in school and Virginia still has feelings for her. Virginia gets upset

and wants to get off the train. She decides to jump off the train (!) and her two comrades see her do this. Virginia spots a castle in the distance and decides to head towards it. Despite the castle being in ruins, she decides to roam around. She spends some time exploring the ruins hoping to find someone living there. Coming up empty handed, she decides to set up camp for the night. I forgot to mention



that the castle is home to a cemetery! Once night time rolls around, Virginia gets settled in to sleep while listening to a radio and reading a book. Unbeknownst to her, a mist starts rising from the graves. The undead begin to wake up! The blind dead are quite unique. For one, they do not move very fast. I realize the "fast" zombie really didn't begin until "Return of the Living Dead" but these guys move pretty damn slow. Then again, they should! They are walking corpses. Well, corpses that ride horses! Yes you read that right. The scenes with them on horseback are shown in slow motion, giving them an eerie feel. The blind dead soon find Virginia. She does not put up much of a



fight but rather screams and attempts to run away from them. She eventually escapes the castle and jumps onto one of the horses. The blind dead soon follow on horse back and a chase ensues throughout the country side. They eventually catch up with her and pull her off the horse she was riding. We see the blind dead circle around her as she starts to scream.

The movie switches to Bette and Roger having morning coffee. They discuss Virginia not being heard from since her train hopping incident. Roger asks the waitress regarding any small towns in the area where Virginia jumped off. The waitress tells him of a small medieval town and is started to learn that Virginia spent the night there. She hints towards rumors about the area but does not go into detail. The town's name is Berzano.

The next day when the train passes that area, Virginia's body is spotted in the field. The engineer decides not to stop (obviously aware of the legend surrounding the area).

Meanwhile Bette and Roger ride horseback to the abandoned town of Berzano but do not find Virginia there. The two stop and get off their horses, which gives the horses time to run off. Apparently the animals can sense the evil in the area. Roger and Bette come across a tombstone with an unusual cross and Roger mentions that it was used in Satanic rites during the middle ages. Doing some investigation, they come across a room that has some of Virginia's stuff. They begin to call out for her only to find two police officers answering them. The police begin to inform the two of finding Virginia murdered. They bring both of them to the local morgue to identify the body. A doctor informs the group that Virginia was bitten by several people, hinting towards some sort of satanic ritual. Roger quickly dismisses the idea. The movie switches to



Bette at her place of work. She is with her assistance, Nina, when Roger arrives. Bette knows that her assistant lived near the area where Berzano is located and begins questioning her about the legend surrounding the town. Nina tells of a legend that the town belonged to knights that worshipped the devil. And that the knights come out at night to devour human beings!



Meanwhile at the morgue, Virginia comes back alive! Well, not technically alive, as now she's part of the undead. She kills the mortician with a huge bite on his neck.

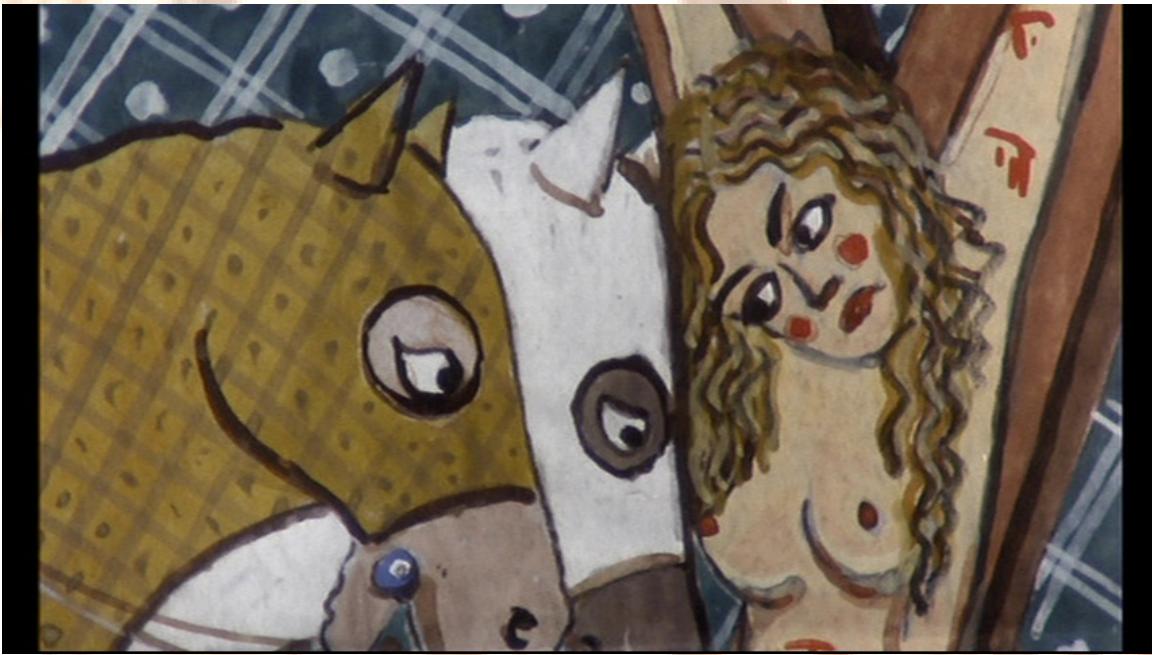
Bette and Roger go see a local professor to ask about the legend of Berzano. The professor seems a bit delighted to hear that the knights have returned. He informs them of the back story of the knights. They were knights that brought riches to the area but also witchcraft. They were feared and hated by the locals. The knights practiced human sacrifice in their castle in hopes of becoming immortals. Apparently they got their wish, just not exactly as they had hoped. The professor tells of how the knights were eventually put on trial and hung for their crimes, with the crows pecking out their eyes. The professor goes on about how the knights became immortal through death and that they are blind, only finding their victims through sound. His speech is interrupted by one



of the police officers informing them all that professor's son runs a criminal ring in the area and uses the legend to his advantage to keep people away. This is to cast doubt on the legend.

Bette calls Nina and informs her that she will not be at work for some time. Meanwhile the undead Virginia is lurking in the shadows behind Nina! Sure enough, Nina is attacked by

Virginia. During the chase around the warehouse, Nina was able to set Virginia on fire, ending her undead existence.



We then see Roger and Bette arrive at a location searching for Pedro Candal (the professor's son). Without any trouble they are able to locate him. Roger questions him about Benzaro. Pedro informs him they use the area but nothing else goes on. Roger is able to convince Pedro to come to Benzaro for the night to see what's really happening. Accompanying Pedro is a lady friend of his. All four arrive at Berzano and wait out the evening. Pedro and Bette go out into the ruins to look around while the other two stay behind. Pedro and Bette end up in the cemetery part and Pedro puts advances toward her,

of which she rejects. He then forces himself onto her and rapes her. After the incident, a bell toll is heard in the ruins.

This is to signal the awakening of the blind dead!

Bette runs off leaving Pedro behind. He gets

surrounded by the zombies and taken down, becoming a meal for the undead knights. Roger spots this and begins shooting at the knights. Obviously this does nothing as they soon begin to go after him. He heads back to where the two women are though also leads the knights to the same area. The two women begin to fight in regards to letting Roger in but it's too late. The knights get to Roger before Bette can open the door. By the time she gets in him, the knights are able to come in. They attack Pedro's girlfriend (thanks to her excessive screaming) and eat her flesh. Roger dies during this time leaving





Bette alone. She tries to remain quiet but her heart begins to beat rapidly. Realizing she can't calm herself, she heads out to try and escape them. She is able to get to the train tracks and fortunately the local train is passing by. The engineer's son pulls the brake on the train to allow for Bette to get on board. Bette is basically dead weight at this point and the engineer's son can't get her on the train in time before the knights overwhelm the train and it's passengers. The train begins to move forward with the undead on board. It arrives at the next town with a surprise for the locals! FIN





Return of the Evil Dead (aka El Ataque de Los muertos Sin Ojos)

Bouzano (*sic*), a small village in Portugal, was the scene of an execution of knight templars some 500 years ago. The villagers gathered up the knights for a public burning for their crimes against humanity. Before being burned, the villagers burned the eyes of the knights to keep them from seeing their way out in case they were immortal (the head knight claimed as such). Thus starts the second Blind Dead movie. First off, the movie spells the town as Bouzano, not Berzano as it was in the first movie. It's a minor technicality but whatever. Also the origin has changed since the first movie. So really, the movie is not a sequel but a reboot if you will.

The movie fast forwards to present day in which we see a festival celebrating the execution of the knights. It's a village tradition! Slowly we are introduced to our main characters. Jack Marlowe meets with Mayor Duncan and his wife to be, Vivian. The mayor goes over what the town is doing and has hired Jack to help with the festivities.

Apparently Jack and Vivian has had a past relationship as we learn in the next scene. it's pretty obvious the two still have feelings towards each other. In the distance, the keeper of the town ruins, Murdo, is spying on the two as they make out. He interrupts the couple



and starts spouting out the legend of the knights templar. Telling them the knights promised to come back from the dead. He is a true believer despite thinking others do not believe it. He promises that the knights will return from the dead.

Later that night the town begins its fireworks for the festival. Murdo has taken a lady hostage and plans on sacrificing her to the knights. He has her tied up, rips her shirt off to expose her breasts (apparently that is required in knight templar sacrifices! LOL) and stabs her in the chest. The blood spill causes the graves of the blind dead to become active!

All the while the town is having a joyful time dancing in the streets. Unbeknownst to them, the blind dead start to rise from their graves. Murdo is quite pleased with himself when he sees them all rise from the grave. He tells them he's a friend. For his trouble, he gets trampled on by the knights' horses! LOL He was not killed but felt he has been betrayed. We see the blind dead head towards a house to take their first victim. The footage of the blind dead during this sequence is recycled footage from the first film. If you don't watch the movies back to back, it's probably not as noticeable. But if you do, it stands out like a sore thumb. After storming in on a young couple, the knights kill the man (Jose Thelman, same actor who played Pedro in the first movie). The lady, Moncha, who is the mayor's daughter, is able to escape via horseback. She rides towards town while the blind dead follow. She arrives at a clerk's station and informs him of the dead coming back to life. Another fun fact is that the clerk is another actor from the first film, Francisco Sanz, who played Pedro's father in that movie! The clerk believes that Moncha is drunk and tells her to go back home. To convince the clerk



of her story, she reveals the horse she was riding is dead. She raises the cloth around the horse's head and exposes the zombie like face of the beast! The clerk calls into town and tries to notify someone but with no luck.

Meanwhile Jack and Vivian are getting to close to each other at the festival and the mayor has his goons go after Jack to teach him a lesson. They surround Jack and start to attack him. Jack puts up a good fight but can only last so long against four guys. While the mayor watches, he is interrupted by Amalia (who played Bette in the first movie) telling him that the clerk has called in with some very important news. The mayor talks to him on the phone but can't understand what the clerk is talking about. He believes him to be drunk. The mayor orders his main goon, Dacosta, out to the station to see what is going on.

Jack and Vivian have already left during this time and see Moncha, who is running in the road, barely conscious. They pick her up and try to find a doctor. Dacosta and a partner head out to the clerk station and notice the blind dead! They quickly turn around and head back to town. They inform the mayor and he does not believe the story. It is not until Moncha collaborates that the mayor finally believes. Amalia, her husband Beirao and daughter decide to leave the village on their motorcycle before the blind dead arrive. The mayor makes a call to a higher up in the government but is not believed. Therefore it's everyone for themselves as no help will be arriving! As the blind dead begin pouring into town, a huge massacre takes place. A group of the townspeople decide to fight back and escape from the village. The mayor has other plans as he decides to clear out his safe and stay away from the fight. A group of villagers armed with pitchforks and other weapons begin to battle the knights. Jack and Dacosta find some dynamite which allows them to clear a path way out of the village. The villagers rush out while the main characters of the movie jump into Jack's vehicle and leave that way. The vehicle gets surrounded and the group goes into a church to barricade themselves from the knights. Amalia and her family had already hid in the church thus meet back up with the group. We then see that the other villagers did not escape but rather was killed by the blind dead. No help will be coming.

In the church, Moncha finds Murdo hiding out. He says the knights betrayed him but no one takes notice of his words. A flame thrower is found and Jack begins burning up some of the knights. This causes a distraction that gives the group some time to secure the church. The mayor decides to call for help again but is brushed off a second time.



Murdo wants to help Moncha escape since she helped him earlier in the film (kids were bullying him). He knows of a secret tunnel in the church that leads the way out. However the tunnel has rubble in the way, thus they need to dig their way out before continuing.

The mayor has his own plan of getting out of the church and asks Dacosta to help him. He wants to get to the vehicle while Dacosta holds a torch to cause the knights to back off. Dacosta decides not to help him as the mayor does not want to take any others with him. The mayor then goes to Beirao and tries to recruit him. He uses Beirao's family to convince him in helping him. The two set their plan in action and Beirao goes outside trying to fight off the knights with the torch. He is unsuccessful and killed. The mayor realizes he fucked up and shuts the church door.

Beirao's daughter wakes up from a nap and walks by the mayor. He tells her that her father is waiting for her across the street. He opens the door and leads her out, telling her to call for her dad. What a scum bag! The child begins walking in the street calling for her dad and the knights start coming towards her. By doing so, they are away from Jack's vehicle and the mayor jumps in. He tries to start it but is unsuccessful. The knights surround him. He manages to slip away but the blind dead stay on him. They catch up and then stab him, ending the poor bastard's life.

Meanwhile Murdo and Moncha dig out the rubble in the tunnel and proceed forward. Flash back to the church, Amalia realizes her daughter is not around and hears her calling from outside. Jack does not let her go out but rather he takes the initiative and heads out to the little girl. After getting a hold of the girl, they are both surrounded by the blind dead. Seeing this, Amalia grabs a torch and heads outside, screaming at the knights to distract their attention. She frantically waves the torch around but ends up dropping the torch thus allowing time for the knights to stab and kill her.

Back in the tunnel, Murdo finds a hole leading up. He crawls up only to see the blind dead waiting for him. They quickly decapitate him and pull up Moncha to kill her as well. At the church, Dacosta gets very agitated and starts to make a move on Vivian. She rejects him and he attempts to rape her. Jack arrives in time to fight him off. After a brief struggle, Dacosta falls back onto a sharp object, impaling himself.



Morning finally comes and the survivors plan on making a run for it. They are to walk out slowly and quietly thus not allowing the knights to hear them. As they are walking outside, the knights are all at a stand still. The young girl is blind folded as to not panic but while walking outside, she decides to take off her blind fold. She sees one of the knights and proceeds to scream. However this does not awaken the blind dead. They remain lifeless and even begin to fall down as soon as the sun rises. The three then casually walk away from the village. The night of terror has ended.....



The Ghost Galleon (aka El buque maldito, aka Horror of the Zombies)

Once again, the knights templar are back but this time, they're on the high seas! The movie starts out at a model shoot. After the shoot, one of the models, Noemi, approaches



her employer, Lillian, about another model, Kathy. She informs Lillian that Kathy has been missing for days. She questions Lillian aggressively about Kathy's disappearance and believes Lillian knows. Eventually Noemi gets it out of Lillian that Kathy is out of town on assignment. Lillian invites Noemi to the pier later that day to give her more information on what is happening.

Later on when they meet up at the pier, Lillian takes Noemi into a building and meet up with a man named Sergio. It comes out that Sergio's boss, Howard Tucker has hired Kathy to do an advertisement on a boat in the ocean. However the plan of Mr. Tucker is that the girls (Kathy and Lorena) get stuck out in the seas, and the rescue mission will cause publicity for him (!?!). I know, fucked up plan but hey....

Anyway, while Sergio contacts the two ladies via radio, they tell him that a ship has appeared with no one on board. Their boat begins to take in water, so they tell Sergio to bring a helicopter out to get them but they going to board the ship in the mean time. Once aboard the ship, the atmosphere of the area becomes "other worldly." The area is surrounded by a thick fog and no sunlight at all. Lorena gets on board first and starts investigating. Meanwhile at the dock, Noemi goes off Sergio and Tucker, telling them they will pay if Kathy isn't rescued. This pisses off Tucker who has Noemi thrown into a room as prisoner until the ordeal is over with. Noemi tries to escape her prison but is

captured by Sergio and forced back into her room. He throws her on the bed and proceeds to rape her (this appears to be a pattern in these movies...). The movie jumps forward to the helicopter search for Kathy and Lorena. Sergio does not spot the women anywhere from the copter nor does he see any ghost

ship or fog. Lillian and Tucker go to see Professor Gruber and ask him about the area. Lillian brings up the galleon which sparks Gruber's interest. He tells them about the legend of a ghost ship in the area that has been spotted numerous times and those who saw it up close never survived. Tucker does not believe the story and is determined to take his yacht out and find the women himself. Gruber asks to go along as he wants to know more of this haunted ship if it indeed is found.

Back at the boat, Kathy radios in and states she is going to board the galleon. Her calls go unanswered since she's in an "alternate" dimension. She boards the galleon to find Lorena but finds no one. Kathy decides to take rest in a chair and listen to music. During this time, the knights templar begin to awaken from their slumber. They were sleeping in wooden crates/coffins aboard the ship. When Kathy awakens, she decides to go out on deck of the galleon. There she spots the undead knights as they slowly go after her. She is overtaken by the undead.



The rescue boat with the others arrive near the fog bank. The professor is certain the fog is of another dimension and expects the galleon to soon appear. Sure enough it does and they spot a ladder on the side of the ship. They decide to board it in hopes of finding the

two missing women. What they find is an empty deck. Tucker and the professor argue about whether the galleon is of this dimension. The professor is amazed at all of it while Tucker thinks he's full of shit. Their boat disappeared and now they are stuck on the galleon. The group decides to take it easy for the rest of the night. They don't seem too alarmed that the missing women are nowhere to be found.!?

Noemi decides to go out of the cabin and investigate as the others are sleeping. While looking in the bottom deck, she finds the knights down there. One of them injures her neck however she manages to get herself up to the main deck. Her screams go unheard and the knights drag her back down, eventually killing her.

Later on, the rest of the group are on deck and the professor finds the log of the ship. In this log, it mentions the history of the boat and where the original crew came from. He mentions the ship has a treasure as well as the mummified corpses of the past crew, whom come to life every night. Tucker still does not believe anything the professor says and insists they continue looking for the missing women.

The professor and Lillian decide to go to the ship bottom while Sergio and Tucker head off in another direction. The professor finds a crate and tries to open it but it appears there is a force keeping the crate from opening. Lillian notices a hallow wall and alerts the professor. He tells her to sit still while he goes up to get the others. After they all come down, they get into the "hidden room" and find the ship's treasures. Suddenly they hear the creaking of the crates opening. The knights have awaken from their slumber! They all race back to the ship's desk to escape the creatures. The professor decides to make a mini-torch that resembles a cross. He starts spouting out a prayer while going towards the blind dead with his torch. This appears to work as the knights retreat back to beneath the deck.



A large ship passes the galleon in the distance and the four survivors try to yell and cause noise to alert the ship but it's no use. Since it's not "night time" (despite them being shrouded in darkness), the crew decides to go after the blind dead while they sleep. The men go down and begin picking up the crates and tossing them off the ship. They manage to toss all the crates overboard. Once they do, the sky begins to clear up and they

can see stars in the sky. Tucker, Lillian and Sergio decide to make a swim for the shore while the professor stays behind (he can't swim). Sergio and Tucker start fighting with each other while in the water as Tucker wants Sergio to dump the jewels that were taken off the ship but Sergio insists on keeping them. Sergio drowns and the other two escape. Back on the ship, a fire mysteriously starts and begins to burn the galleon. The professor dies from smoke inhalation and the ship bursts into flames before sinking into the sea. Tucker and Lillian manage to make it back to shore. However they are not the only ones as the knights begin to rise from the sea as well! Apparently the sun light does not affect these particular knights. The imagery of seeing the blind dead rise from the sea is really neat and one of the iconic scenes from the series. The knights find Lillian and Tucker laying on the beach and surround them. The movie ends but it's pretty safe to say that Lillian and Tucker did not make it.





Night of the Seagulls (aka La noche de las gaviotas)

This is the final and my favorite of the Blind Dead movies. The movie starts off in medieval times where a man and woman come across the knights templar. The man is killed and the woman is taken to the knight's lair. There she is put through the sacrifice ritual (i.e. tied up, breasts exposed and then stabbed). Her heart is removed and placed inside the mouth of a devil statue. The knights move in to drink the woman's blood.



The movie jumps to present day where we see Dr Henry Stein and his wife, Joan, arrive at a fishing village. Here Henry plans on setting up a doctor's office for this small town.

They step into a general store and everyone there is giving them the silent treatment. He asks where the doctor's office is located and no one answers. He has to semi-threaten someone before he gets an answer!

Henry and Joan travel to the doctor's office and are greeted by the previous doctor. He is in a great hurry to get out of there. He informs Joan that the town folks do not want any doctors there and insists she leave town.

She brushes off the suggestion and the doctor leaves. While Joan is unpacking, she sees a bloodied head peeping through her window. This startles her. Soon the front door starts to rattle and the man who was peeping in the window, comes in.. He, Teddy, is a poor, sad soul, village idiot if you will, and Joan allows him to stay in the office while she treats him.

Henry walks the doctor to a mule and the doctor informs him that if he insists on staying, don't go out at night and don't pry into anything. Obviously something is going on in this fishing town!

That night while Henry and Joan are in bed, they hear a bell ring in the distance. Henry believes it's just a ship signal due to the fog but its use is a bit more devious. This is the call to rise the blind dead! Besides the bell tolls, there is a slight eerie singing type of sound that Joan hears which scares her. I admit it is quite a creepy sound! Joan and Henry decide to go outside (despite the doctor telling them not to go out at night) and they spot some people cloaked in black leading a woman, dressed in white, along the beach. We see the blind dead getting on their horses and start to head towards the



beach. Mind you this is footage from the earlier blind dead movies. Back on the beach, we see the woman is chained up to rocks. After being chained, she starts freaking out,

though not before hand...!?!? The townspeople see the blind dead heading down from the hillside on horses and quickly abandon the woman who is chained on the beach. She is the sacrifice the townspeople have bestowed upon the undead knights. Back at the doctor's house, Joan believes she hears a woman screaming but Henry does not believe her and offers her a tranquilizer (LOL).

The next day Joan heads into town to get some supplies and is given rude treatment from the store clerk. At the store, she befriends a young lady by the name of Lucy. She offers to help Joan carry her supplies and even asks Joan if she can come work for her. Joan starts to question her about the ritual at night and it spooks Lucy. Joan quickly drops it and head back to the doctor's house. Later on, after sun down, Joan hears the bell toll again. Lucy acts like she does not hear a thing and Teddy comes down stairs, frightened and does not want to go outside. A knock is heard on the door and a woman comes in screaming hysterically. Lucy does not want her to stay but the doctor keeps her in and gives her a tranquilizer. Soon a man comes in and demands the girl come with him. He escorts the girl out despite Henry's objections. The girl is that night's sacrifice to the blind dead! Once chained up along the beach, the blind dead ride their horses, in slow motion, along the shoreline. I love this visual. The way the movie is shot, which is a soft hazy type look, really gives it a surreal dream like feel. The blind dead do not kill the woman, but rather cut her free and carry her off back to their lair. Inside their castle, they tie her up to a rock, expose her breasts and stab her. It's a tradition after all! Every time they do this sacrifice killing in their lair, we see crabs coming down afterwards to feast upon the remains.



The next day Henry and Joan try to find the young girl who came storming into his office the previous night. They found her home but the father does not allow them to come in. He informs the doctor that her daughter left town to seek treatment. All the while, his wife is bawling her eyes out. They are hiding the fact that their daughter was offered up as a sacrifice. During this time, Teddy is being chased by some locals with rocks and sticks. They corner him along a cliff side and one of them kicks Teddy off, resulting in Teddy landing on rocks, injuring himself though not dead.

Later that night the town's people arrive at the doctor's office and take Lucy away with them. Henry tries to convince her not to go, but Lucy tells him that she must. It appears that she is sacrifice #3!

Back at the doctor's office,



Teddy arrives all bloodied up. Henry attends to Teddy's wounds while Teddy informs him of the local legend. This legend is of young maidens being offered up as sacrifice to the undead and the spirits of these girls become seagulls. Yes, I failed to mention this earlier but during the night time rituals, a flock of seagulls can be heard as well. Henry puts two and two together and realizes that Lucy is being sacrificed tonight and quickly storms out, hoping to save her. As he heads down to the beach, the townspeople are heading back into town. One of them even stops Henry and tells him to go back but Henry does not listen. He gets to Lucy before the knights arrive and she even tells him to leave. He does not listen and unties her from the rock. As soon as she is untied, the knights are there and swinging their swords at the two. Henry and Lucy run down the shoreline and are able to escape.

Back in town, we see the villagers gather their stuff and head out of town. Henry, Joan and Lucy prepare to leave town as well. They plan on taking Teddy with them but he's in pretty bad shape.

The blind dead are pissed and heading into town. They are not able to leave before the knights arrive. They attempt to board up the house and block the door way. Their efforts are futile as the knights manage to get in. Henry manages to set one of them on fire and is able to kill



it off. Joan then picks up a torch and starts swinging it around. On the other side of the house, the knights enter and take Teddy outside, killing him. Henry, Joan and Lucy decide to escape the house through the attic. Joan gets cold feet and does not want to escape through the attic window. It takes the blind dead almost killing her before she gets out. One would think if zombies were after you, going out an attic window wouldn't be so bad! They round up some of the undead horses and begin to ride off. The horses head back to the lair of the knights templar. On the trip there, Lucy gets thrown off and is killed by some of the knights. Back at the castle, Henry and Joan decide to head into the building. The knights that are in the building begin to awaken from their coffins.

Henry and Joan come across the devil statue and decide to tip it over, causing it to shatter. Once this happens, the knights begin to fall down, some even gushing blood from their skulls! So all it took was the statue to come apart to put an end to the blind dead. This movie marked the last of the blind dead movies that Amando de Ossorio would put out.



Final thoughts on the series....



As I mentioned before, I started the series with the third entry. The movie itself is not that great but the atmosphere was amazing. Sure the ship was obviously a model in the long shots but the actual set of the ship looked amazing. The idea of the undead aboard a ghost ship is quite unique. I don't know of too many other movies like that (perhaps I'm not looking hard enough? lol). I still have a love hate relationship with The Ghost Galleon but I've become more on the love side. I can look passed it's flaws and appreciate it for the atmosphere of the movie and enjoy it on that level. The first two movies are really great horror flicks. The first one is a classic and I think is highly underrated in the US market. I don't think many people are aware of it and that's a shame. It is a slower paced horror film and because of that, it may not get widespread acclaim. I find the whole back story of the knights to be fascinating even though it tends to change with every film. While they are a series, you really have to view each film as it's own otherwise the changes would drive you crazy. The fourth film, Night of the Seagulls, is still my favorite. Re-watching it for this issue, I still stand behind that belief. The soundtrack is incredibly spooky and the story feels like an old village tale. I do think the ending was kind of weak but perhaps they couldn't figure out any other way to end the movie. I think the curse should have continued.

That being said, Night of the Seagulls is the last official movie in the series. It's a shame a fifth one was never made. Even if someone were to go and make an "official" fifth movie, it would not be the same. I don't think a slower paced undead movie like these four would work with a modern audience. And without director Amando de Ossorio, I don't ever see the franchise re-emerging. Never say never I suppose and if it does happen one day, I hope they retain the atmosphere of the original series and the creepy effects of the undead knights. But if a new one never happens, the original four will always exists and hopefully a new generation of fans will discover these great Spanish horror classics!

-bP

Mansion of the Living Dead



While the official *Blind Dead* series only had four movies, there has been a few others that have been presented as a "homage" to the series. I have not seen any of them until recently when I picked up "*Mansion of the Living Dead*" by Jess Franco. I have seen a few of Francos films and they are of the erotic variety, typically laced with exploitation themes. So how does this movie stack up to the *Blind Dead* movies? Let's take a look....



The movie starts off at a monastery where we see monks walking around. No explanation is given before the movie switches to a scene of women arriving at a resort. Their names are Candy, Mabel, Lea and Caty. The women notice that the place appears

to be empty. When they go to check in, no one is there. Finally a clerk, Carlo, shows up to check them in. He's kind of an oddball and not very friendly. He points them to the direction of their rooms and heads off. The four women split up since they only have two rooms, of which are separated from each other. Once the pairs get to their room, we see that each set are "lovers." It is a Jess Franco movie after all!



Later on, the women head down to beach and noticed no one is down there (except a passed out man). The man wakes up once he hears the women plan on sunbathing topless. Obviously! lol While sunbathing, a clever is thrown from one of the hotel rooms and barely misses one of the women. This freaks them out and they head back to one of the rooms. In the room they noticed someone spying on them. It was the passed out man who is actually the hotel gardener. Everyone laughs it off like it's no big deal.

The women go back to their rooms and lesbian sex ensues between Lea and Candy. Afterwards, Lea goes off to take photographs at a scenic site that the gardener suggested. While walking along the landscape, a bell toll can be heard. Lea continues to walk around and comes across an old building. She decides to go inside to snoop around. She hears a voice asking her why she is there, then the camera pans away and you hear screams.

The next scene sees Mabel walking out in the hotel hallway, naked except a gown, and comes upon Carlo. He questions her why she is walking around naked (she claims to have heard a woman moaning) but Mabel uses this situation to flirt with Carlo and soon they begin to make out. Carlo quickly stops, saying it's 4 o'clock and he needs to feed a sick woman (LOL). He tells her that he will meet her at a later time.

Apparently the sick woman that Carlo needs to feed is his lover, Olivia, who is chained up to a hotel wall! He brought her some flowers and she attempts to eat them (obviously she's not being fed!). Apparently these two are in involved in some sort of S&M relationship. After some demeaning remarks to his lover, he quickly has sex with her and leaves.



Carlo then drives Mabel to an isolated spot. They begin to engage in kissing and groping but soon Carlo bails on her again. He tells her he is not feeling well and gets out of the car. Mabel soon gets out and tries to find him. She eventually goes into a building and comes into a hallway with a bunch of hooded figures standing still.

A voice tells her to come closer and not to be afraid. Another hooded figure comes out who appears to be a priest of the order. He tells her that she has been brought her to be tried for her sins. Apparently Carlo brings women to this area as a sacrifice offering to these hooded men.

Mabel is stripped naked, held down on the ground and gets raped by several of the hooded men. The priest is praying and stating this is her punishment. After wards she is stabbed repeatedly in the chest until she dies.

Back at the hotel, Candy is walking around when she comes across the gardener singing. This freaks her out (!?) and she runs off. She heads off to Caty's room to inform her that Lea still has not showed up. Caty informs her that Mabel is missing. To calm each other, they decide to have sex. Makes sense! LOL

The next morning, Candy wakes up to hearing what sounded like a woman's scream. She goes out into the hotel hallway, naked mind you, to investigate. This takes her to the room where Olivia is chained up. Being the asshole Carlo is, he apparently keeps food just outside of her reach. When Candy enters the room, Olivia tells her to bring her the food. She does and Olivia begins to inform her of Carlo. She informs her of how the place is really ran and what they do to women there. She informs Candy that the place is not really a hotel but a place for women to be killed to appease the damned souls of inquisitors.





Olivia tells Candy to leave and not to help her escape, but rather give her makeup and lipstick. Apparently she wants to piss off Carlo when he returns. Outside, Candy discovers Lea's dead body in the pool. She attempts to find help and comes across the gardener. She tells him of a dead body in the pool but he does not believe her. She goes to Caty's room and informs her that she found Lea dead. The two go to the front desk and inform the clerk of Lea in the pool. They all go to the pool but find no body. Caty believes that Candy imagined the ordeal and they head back to the

hotel room.

Later on Candy leaves the room and runs into Carlo. She confronts him about the woman chained up in his room but he gives her an explanation of why he is doing it. She doesn't quite believe him and accuses Carlo of being a ghost from another time! With his smooth talking, he gets



Candy to make out with him (LOL).

As he did with Mabel, he drives Candy to the same spot as before. He walks her to outside of the church. He soon disappears and Candy begins walking around to find him. She goes inside and sees the hooded figures. She is spoken to by one of them but realizes one of them is Carlo, who now has a ghostly / rotted face. She is forced down by Carlo and the priest begins telling her of the punishment that is about to be bestowed upon her. Carlo pleads with the priest to not kill Candy but keep her as a servant. He agrees and has Candy escorted off.

Candy is sent into a room, forced down and raped by the hooded men. Carlo then rapes her but also proclaims her to now be his wife.

The next scene has Candy arriving back at Caty's hotel room. Candy is now in a possessed state and proceeds to strangle Caty.

At Carlo's room, he brings Olivia a plate of stew. He sprays insecticide on it as well as sprinkle rat poison on it. Carlo tells Olivia he must kill her for the good of the community. He goes on about a story of a foreign woman that was burned at the stake years ago, who cursed him and his clan for eternity, unless one of them falls in love. He believes this witch has returned, as Candy, and that he has fallen in love with her. He states his lust for Olivia is detrimental to his love for the witch. Olivia buys his story and begins to eat the poisoned food which ends up killing her.

Candy is accepted into the convenient and Carlo seals the deal with a kiss. This lifts the curse of the inquisitors.



Final thoughts:
Oh boy, where to start. I knew going in this movie it was going to be more erotic than horror and that expectation was met. I thought the four leading ladies were fine in their roles. They played their parts as

expected and were definitely eye candy. I really enjoyed Candy Coster, aka Lina Romey. She's a very good looking woman and I will definitely have to check out some of her other roles. The story of the movie was fine, I thought the idea of cursed inquisitors was in line with the blind dead movies but what really killed it was the dead knights themselves. Wow, they were really bad. I typically don't bash budgets as I am very forgiving of such matters but this was pretty bad. I thought the hooded figures that had the skulls, the color of them was way too white. Perhaps if they were made to be more of a natural color, it would have worked better. The make up of Carlo in his ghostly form could have been a bit better. It looked like someone just smeared some banana pudding on his face. But again, this is really an erotic film not a horror film. If you enjoy erotic movies, then give this a shot. If you don't, then there really is nothing here that Blind Dead fans will want/need to check out. -bP

Due to time limitations, I will be cutting out the regular sections of the magazine and keeping it all Blind Dead related. Everything will return in the next issue, whenever that may be!. Happy Halloween - 2016

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