

NIGHT TERRORS



ISSUE #10

THE KILLJOY SERIES



GREETINGS! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S ALREADY AUGUST AND THIS IS THE FIRST ISSUE OF THE YEAR. IT SEEMS LIKE TIME JUST FLIES BY ANYMORE. I WAS HOPING TO HAVE SEVERAL ISSUES OUT BY NOW BUT REAL LIFE GETS IN THE WAY. FOR THIS ISSUE, I REVIEWED THE KILLJOY SERIES. THE REVIEWS OF THE FIRST FOUR FILMS WERE EDITED FROM A BLOG I USED TO RUN SOME YEARS BACK. SINCE THEN THE FIFTH MOVIE HAS COME OUT AND I ADDED A REVIEW FOR THAT. HERE'S HOPING ONCE THIS ISSUE IS OUT, I CAN GET BACK INTO THE GROOVE AND RELEASE SOME MORE ISSUES!

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This is a fan ezine, made up of my opinions of said movies.

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THE KILLJOY SERIES

Killer clowns are such a staple in the horror genre. I never really understood why people are scared of clowns, but hey, I'm game for anything. The only horror films I've really seen with clowns are *Killer Klowns from Outer Space* and *It*. Both of them are pretty good with KKfOS being a very fun movie. I decided to check out the Killjoy series and see how they fare.

Killjoy comes to us from Full Moon. Those who are into horror movies should have at least heard of them. The Full Moon studio, ran by Charles Band, has been around for over twenty years. They specialize in low budget horror films. Charles Band had left Empire Pictures to form Full Moon (as such, you can check out films under the Empire label and notice the similarities). The studio

created the franchises of Puppet Master, Trancers and Subspecies as well as current franchises such as Evil Bong and Gingerdead Man. In total, they have released / obtained over 270 movies. I have a love hate relationship with Full Moon. Some of their movies I really like while others I do not. I have bought some over the years and quickly resold them, yet others I kept. I absolute LOVE the Subspecies series. It currently consists of four films and a spinoff, but a fifth

film is supposedly in pre-production. We'll see how that turns out (fingers crossed!). The Puppet Master series is another I enjoy. My kids really like the Puppet Master series, but



they also like the other puppet films Full Moon puts out. FM seems to specialize in doll films as there is Doll Graveyard, Ragdoll, Demonic Toys, Dollman and so on. I think Charles Band has a fetish for dolls. LOL



To get back on the subject, Killjoy was released by Full Moon in 2000. The film told the story of Michael. He's a loner in his peer group and gets picked on by the local thugs. Michael also has taking a liking to Jada, a girlfriend of one of the bullies. This causes problems which leads to Michael getting his ass whooped by this group. Wanting revenge, Michael goes home and calls upon the demon Killjoy. Unfortunately Killjoy does not respond. Later on, the 3 thugs take Michael out to an area, originally to just mess

with his head, but accidentally end up shooting him. Killjoy arrives one year after this event and enacts revenge on not only these three thugs, but others. I find it interesting in how Killjoy lures his victims. He has an ice cream truck that he tricks people to come in. Once in the truck, they are transported to his world in which he is king. Once the victim is killed in his world, he/she dies in the real world. Sounds kind of like Freddy Krueger, eh? Killjoy is also a prankster, being that he is a clown. So there is a black humor element running in his kills. I thought this movie was decent. It was nothing memorable, but it'd be a movie I would watch again. Killjoy is portrayed by Angeles Vargas. This would be the only time he portrays Killjoy as Trent Haaga would take over in the next movie for the remainder of the series.



Apparently the movie was successful as Full Moon had a sequel out two years later. This film is unrelated to the first movie's storyline. A group of "teens" are sent out to renovate a shelter house for community service. One of the "teens" gets accidentally shot by a local redneck. While heading for safety, they arrive at a voodoo priestess house. The demon of Killjoy is conjured up once again. I did not like this movie at all. I've heard the awfulness of this movie for years and I

can now see why. It took forever to get Killjoy into the movie and when he did, the kills were extremely lame. The acting is very, very, VERY bad. I can tolerate bad acting, but this is just horrible. They didn't even bother to throw in some nudity. When all else fails,

throw in blood and nudity! Not this movie. Fortunately one could skip this movie and not miss anything in the overall story. I suggest you do so.

Killjoy 2 seemed to kill off the franchise as there was not another sequel until 2010. It seemed odd that Full Moon would resurrect this series, but I am glad they did. Killjoy 3 took the series into a whole new direction.

The movie starts with an older man summoning Killjoy for revenge. When Killjoy shows up, you notice a difference right away. The makeup effects of Killjoy

has improved 1000%! Wow, he actually looks like a demon! Where his hair normally is, you now see long horns. The facial features have improved greatly as well. Anyway, this time Killjoy summons 3 other clowns to help him. He calls upon Punchy, a large hobo clown, Freakshow, a mime who has a small Siamese brother attached to his side and a

nude (covered only by body paint) succubus clown by the name of Batty Boop. The professor leaves before he gives Killjoy a name for which he wants revenge on. This is essential as it will be revealed later on that the professor is the father of Michael from the first film. Before this revelation, we follow a group of students who are house sitting the professor's home. During this time, a mysterious mirror arrives on the

doorstep. This mirror acts the same as the ice cream truck from the first film. It is a doorway to Killjoy's world. Once you touch the mirror, you are transported to his world.





I love the fact Killjoy now has a posse to help in his dirty work. My favorite has to be Batty Boop. Wow, such a sexy character she is, especially with that voice! Freakshow is a character who probably provides the only true terrifying moments (those scenes where his eyes lights up!) as this

film is more a horror comedy. After watching this movie, I thought this sequel had put life back into this dead series. I was eager to watch the next film, Killjoy Goes to Hell.

Once again, Killjoy gets summoned but this time, he was summoned to Hell! After his failure from the last movie, Killjoy is put on trial for not being evil enough. As the evidence mounts against Killjoy, he loses more and more of his power. This sounds like an odd concept for a movie and it is. But this is what makes it so great. The characters from the



previous movie (all 4 clowns and the “last girl”) make a return to this movie, so it’s best if you watch this one back to back with Killjoy 3.



In order for Killjoy to get his powers back, he must prove himself in the court of Hell! His appointed lawyer does a bumbling job at representing Killjoy and also brings witnesses to court (Killjoy's hench clowns) but

they are of no help. Batty conjures up a plan of kidnapping the final girl from the last movie and have her testify in Killjoy's trial. Once on the stand, she recounts everything that happened in KJ3 and this evidence convinces the judge, Beelzebub, to pit Killjoy against his lawyer in a game of combat for his freedom!



Killjoy Goes to Hell left the door open for yet another entry into the series. It would be 4 years until the next entry was released. Would the fifth entry hold up against the two previous excellent movies? The answer is a resounding.....no.

I don't know what happened. You would think Killjoy on earth,

in a partial human form, would make for an entertaining movie. Not sure if it's the fact the movie was in developmental for awhile and perhaps that pulled it down? There was a kickstarter awhile back that was wanting funding for the movie but it failed. After awhile, it was proposed that the fifth movie would be a webseries for the Full Moon streaming service but that idea was scrapped. Finally a second crowd funding was issued that asked for money to help with the effects as the movie was already filmed. I am suspecting they gathered whatever money they could and put together a movie. I can tolerate low budgets. My beef with the new movie is that it's BORING. The movie plays as a comedy with relatively no horror elements and it's entirely focused on Killjoy. Perhaps that is the biggest issue. There are no main normal characters and we get too much Killjoy. I don't know but I was severely disappointed after watching "Killjoy Psycho Circus."



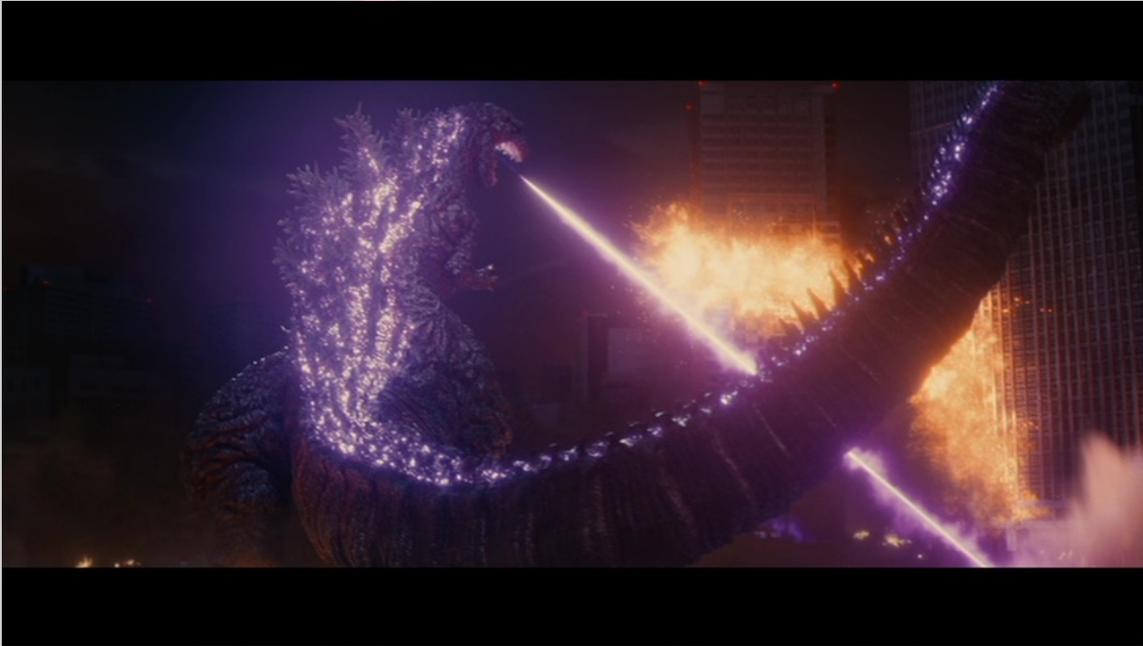


The fifth movie sees Killjoy, Freakshow and Punchy doing a "late night" variety show for local access (?) TV. They have guests on and at the end of the segment, usually kill them off in some sort of fashion. I do admit, the segment that featured Trent Haaga playing himself was quite humorous, especially when Killjoy told him the actor that played Killjoy in the first movie did a better job. If only the rest of the movie could have been quite as witty. Batty Boop is no longer in the picture and the audience is not too happy. The sponsors of the show want a replacement so we see Luanne (played by Full Moon regular Robin Sydney) enter the picture. She is an over the top version of Batty Boop. I did like this aspect but it never really hit it's full potential in the movie. Meanwhile in Hell, Beelzebub is put on trial for letting Killjoy escape from the last movie. He makes a request to his judges that he is allowed to go back to Earth, on a spaceship, and capture Killjoy. They grant his wish and he begins to hunt down Killjoy. Meanwhile Batty Boop sees her imposter on TV and goes to confront Killjoy. He welcomes her back into the group after a "make up" apology of sorts to her. Beelzebub soon finds Killjoy and clan thanks to a mole in their group. Batty Boop gets kidnapped and Killjoy ends up flying into space to do battle with Beelzebub. Yeah, you read that right. Killjoy went to space. After the movie ended, I looked around the room and saw that kids, who typically enjoy the Killjoy movies, all bored, one even falling asleep. I personally was very disappointed in this flick. After this one, I am not sure if I want the series to continue if future movies

will be like this. If they ever do a sixth one, I hope they get the series back on track.



Of the five movies, I highly recommend KJ3 & Killjoy Goes to Hell. The first KJ movie is also worth checking out, but it's quite different than the other two I listed. You can easily skip 2 and 5. -bP



MODERN REVIEW: SHIN GODZILLA

One of these issues I plan on covering the ENTIRE Godzilla series but that's still a way off. IIRC, Godzilla is the longest movie series in film history, so that is something that will take some time. With the recent release of Shin Godzilla to US theaters and home video, I wanted to do a quick review on this beginning movie of the new era of Japanese Godzilla films.

Shin Godzilla has nothing to do with previous G flicks, not even the original! It truly is a reboot but not a remake.

This time the movie sees Godzilla start off as a bizarre organism that emerges from the sea. Throughout the movie the creature grows and morphs, becoming larger and more powerful. During this transformation, the Japanese



government try anything and everything to stop the creature but to no avail. The movie is a take on the Japanese government's response to the tsunami disaster a few years back.

When you see all the bureaucracy and red tape the government puts itself through with any disaster, you see why confusion and the slow response to such an event can happen. That is the real story in this movie not Godzilla. G could be replaced by any disaster and it'd still work. However this is a Godzilla flick and the lizard is well represented.

Godzilla looks like something straight from a horror movie. The skin structure shows bones and veins, the eyes look almost like they are possessed and even the ending shot of the movie really gets creepy. Being a lifetime fan of the series and a horror fanatic, I was quite shocked to see that ending scene in a G flick. Kudos to Toho and the filmmakers for going a different route with the giant lizard.



The next Toho Godzilla flick is an anime titled *Godzilla Monster Planet* that will be premiering on Netflix. After that, I am not sure what their plans are. One would believe a sequel to Shin Godzilla will happen as the movie made a LOT of money in Japan and even won awards. It did decently in US theaters despite it's very limited run. My son and I were fortunate to catch one of those screenings and it was a blast to see a Toho Godzilla move in theaters with it's original Japanese audio! Shin Godzilla is one of those movies that gets better with repeat viewings. The first viewing can be very overwhelming with all the commotion going on but that is the whole point of the movie. It is chaotic, people are confused, shit just hit the fan and everyone is in a panic.



Movie review: 8 / 10

Midnite Movie Review: Invasion of the Bee Girls

Synopsis: "Invasion of the Bee Girls is the best schlock soft-core science fiction movie since *The Vengeance of She*," claims critic Roger Ebert. And who wouldn't be terrified by the very thought of watching these lovely bee-hived beauties love their chosen mates to death? A government inspector, that's who. And now he alone must stop their lust for killing, before he becomes one of the Queen Bee's honeys."



Fun Facts: Star Anitra Ford (Dr. Susan Harris) was a regular model on TV's "The Price is Right."

This 1973 exploitation flick has it all. You have a plot that is reminiscent of a 1950s monster flick (killer bee women!) and a gratuitous amount of nudity that would be at home on a late night soft core flick. The movie follows Agent Agar as he investigates the mysterious murder of a scientist. His investigation



leads to Dr Susan Harris, the queen bee if you will! The queen and her subjects end up killing their mates after having sex with them. Hell of a way to go! LOL The MGM DVD is cut slightly but since then, Scream (Shout!) Factory has released it uncut in a DVD 4 movie set as well on a stand alone blu-ray. I highly recommend the blu-ray!



Quick Word on: "Deadly Species"

This 2002 monster flick follows a team heading into a jungle looking to find a "lost" tribe though the true intention of their financier is to find out what happened to his previous team that has gone missing. In the jungle, members of the team keep disappearing until it is revealed that a monster (spoiler alert: actually a group of monsters) is stalking and killing them at will.

This flick was quite the fun DTV movie that featured a good amount of gore, actual suit monsters and a decent amount of gratuitous nudity. The story kept going at a decent pace and it never really dragged down. You can find this movie on the Horror Collection DVD set that Lions Gate put out which also includes Bloody Murder 1 & 2, Junior, Severed, Children of the Living Dead, Creepy Crawlers and Carnivore.



Budget DVD Mini-Review: **Carnage**

company: Mill Creek

info: A newlywed couple moves into a new house, unbeknownst to them, the house is haunted by the spirits of a couple who committed suicide three years earlier. The ghosts start out being annoying and attempting to hurt the newlyweds. Eventually, the ghosts start murdering guests to the house. The first part of the film starts out pretty slow but the second part turns things around and that's when heads start to roll, literally! Not too bad and worth a view.



video: VHS sourced. That being said, it's not too shabby. C+

audio: Audio comes through clear up, unfortunately how the crew recorded the audio is what hurts it. A lot of echo due to the locations of the filmed scenes is what makes it hard to understand at time. C-

extras: Part of the 50 pack titled "Night Screams."

overall: The Night Screams 50 pack is well worth the purchase and the movie is worth checking out.

NEXT ISSUE!



Should be out around Halloween 2017!

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