

NIGHT TERRORS



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ISSUE 12 - CHRISTMAS 2017

GREETINGS! JUST IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS, ISSUE #12 OF NIGHT TERRORS! AS ALWAYS, I WAS HOPING TO GET MORE REVIEWS IN FOR THE ISSUE BUT IF I WAS TO GET IT OUT IN TIME, THERE HAD TO BE A CUT OFF POINT! I INCLUDED TWO CHRISTMAS THEMED REVIEWS AS WELL AS SOME OTHER RECENT MOVIES I'VE WATCHED. PERHAPS IT'S BEST TO JUST PUT OUT SMALLER ISSUES IF I CAN GET THEM OUT MORE REGULARLY. HMMM.....

IF YOU ARE READING THIS, THANK YOU AND I HOPE YOU ENJOY!

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

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SANTA'S SLAY

The first time I saw this DVD cover at a local rental store, I thought it looked ridiculous. Anytime a wrestler is in a movie, I expect a lot of cheese and a mediocre film. I realize there are exceptions. "They Live" starring Roddy Piper is among one of my all time favorite movies, so hey, perhaps Bill Goldberg could do a good job. Upon my first viewing of this movie, I absolutely LOVED it! It is among one of my favorite Christmas horror films to watch each year. Seeing Goldberg as a killer Santa Claus was awesome! I believe this movie is highly underrated and people probably avoided it because of the lame DVD artwork. Let's take a look at this modern era gem!

The movie starts out with a star filled opening sequence involving a sit down dinner with a bunch of ungrateful spoiled people that get a visit from Santa Claus! He first kicks the dog into the ceiling fan and goes on a rampage, killing everyone at the table. Such a fun way to get the movie off to a start! I was really surprised at all the well known actors/actresses that were included in this first few minutes. Kind of unusual for a low budget movie.



After the title credits, we head into the main movie that features our main characters in "Hell Township." Mary and Nicholas work at a local deli and get treated like shit from the locals. Nicholas isn't quite in the Christmas mood despite his friend's best intentions.



Nic lives with his grandfather, who is an eccentric old man. He kind of reminds me of Christopher Lloyd! He informs Nic that Santa isn't who everyone thinks he is. Rather than the Coca-Cola stereotype, Santa is really the son of SATAN!

Meanwhile around town, Santa is on a rampage, killing anyone who gets in

his way. This sets up Goldberg for some corny one liners and gore filled slayings! Did I mention that Santa has a large ox creature that pull's his sleigh? Definitely makes for a great visual.

A flashback is shown of Santa and an old man (an angel disguised) playing a game of rock sliding. If Santa loses, he had to quit his shenanigans for 1000 years. Of course he lost, and since this movie takes place right after that length was over, this



explains why the son of Satan is out on a rampage and back to his murderous ways!

During his town wide rampage, Santa meets up with Nicolas and Mary. They barely escape him and head to Nic's grandpa's house but Santa follows. The three try to escape on snow mobiles but one of the machines stall. Nic's grandpa starts bullshitting with Santa to give the kids time to leave but this results in grandpa getting ran over by Santa's ox! A snowy pursuit ensues and plays more like an oddball 80s montage! LOL



The chase leads into town where the locals are outside celebrating Christmas. Nic and Mary head into a local school and break in

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to get away. They find that grandpa had hidden a nutcracker in their bag. This is not an ordinary decoration but rather a weapon!



While going through the school, they end up at an ice hockey rink. There Santa is stopped by Nic's grandpa, who is now an angel (actually the same angel from the original history story mentioned earlier!). They plan on re-doing their game of ice curling. Santa cheats by grabbing grandpa and throws him down the hellish hole. Nicolas grabs out the weaponized nutcracker and fires it at Santa. It stops him in time for Nic and Mary to pull up grandpa from the hole and saving him from eternal damnation.

Come to find out, the nutcracker weapon has made Santa vulnerable allowing Nic and Mary to go after him (grandpa had to stay behind). They come across a group of gun enthusiasts and want them to shoot down the flying ox with Santa behind him. Oddly enough, Mary's father was there with a bazooka and was able to take the ox out!..!?! Sure, why not! LOL

At the end of the movie, we find out that Santa was not killed after all but rather is getting on a plane and heading back to the North Pole. Such a shame a sequel was never followed up to this movie.



This movie blew away all my expectations and delivered a great, fun filled holiday horror film. It's not scary in the least but very enjoyable. If you like horror comedies, definitely give the movie a chance. Sure Goldberg is pretty hammy as the son of Satan, but it's in good fun. HIGHLY Recommended!!!! bP



Modern Review: Better Watch Out

I didn't know anything about this movie when I picked it up. I knew it was a new/modern film and it was Christmas themed. The cover looked like a typical slasher movie and you know what, I was down for that. What I got was something very different from what I was expecting. It was quite a surprise that resulted in a highly enjoyable flick!



The story starts with two young boys, Luke and Garrett, talking about Luke's babysitter, Ashley. Luke has a huge crush on her and wants to proceed with a relationship even

though she does not see him that way at all. This will set up some very cringe worthy / embarrassing scenes when Luke tries to flirt with Ashley later on. Ashley arrives that night as Luke's parents are heading out for a party. Luke attempts to flirt with Ashley but leads to nowhere fast. During this, it appears that someone is outside messing around with them. You are led to think it is an intruder and up to the 30 minute mark of the movie, you think this is a home invasion movie. SPOILER ALERT After the 30 minute mark, it becomes clear the story is not going that route. Ashley finds out the intruder is Garrett and this whole invasion angle is just a ruse that Luke and Garrett put together to get Ashley to see Luke as her savior. Ah yes, a young boy in love and the idiotic idea he comes up with! Ashley is super pissed and is going to inform his parents.



Luke knows that Ashley can't tell anyone of this and he knocks her out, causing her to fall down the stairs and this is where the real horror aspect of the movie begins. The movie is sort of a home invasion type of movie but the intruders are the two kids, Luke and Garrett! Luke is quite the sadistic prick and has conjured up a plan to also take care of Ashley's boyfriend and her ex. His acts eventually lead to murder!

I really don't want to spoil anymore of the movie but I was left pleasantly surprised in how this movie turned out. I never guessed the twist and how it would all play out. If you are looking for something very different, be it in a horror Christmas movie or just a horror / house invasion movie, then definitely seek out this movie!



Rating: 8 / 10



Il Lago di Satana aka Revenge of the Blood Beast, AKA The She Beast

A tale of demonic reincarnation reminiscent of Mario Bava's Black Sunday, Revenge of the Blood Beast (Il lago di Satana, aka The She Beast) stars Barbara Steele as Veronica, a British tourist who is stranded in a remote village with her husband Philip (Ian Ogilvy) while honeymooning in Transylvania. They meet a descendent of legendary vampire-hunter Count von Helsing (John Karlsen), who reveals that the town is haunted by a satanic curse. A mysterious car accident plunges Veronica into a nearby lake, but when her body is removed, it resembles that of the legendary Witch of the Lake. Reawakened from her slumber, the blister-faced hag, armed with sickle and claws, rises from the makeshift morgue and unleashes her vengeance upon the descendants of those who executed her, centuries earlier. While the bumbling Soviet authorities stumble over themselves to solve the murders, Philip joins forces with von Helsing to capture the witch and put an end to the dreadful curse. Director Michael Reeves (Witchfinder General) mixes gruesome thrills with dark comedy (courtesy of character actor Mel Welles as a devious hotel owner), to make Revenge of the Blood Beast an especially playful entry in the Euro Horror genre.

"The She Beast" has been a staple of public domain releases for years. While I do own some of these, I have not watched them. I awaited for a good quality release as I want to see Barbara Steele in her full glory and not some generated dupe quality. I had the DVD on my want list for some time but never did spring on it. Once the blu-ray came out, I decided to get it and watch the movie for the first time. I must say I was quite disappointed once it was over. While Barbara Steele gets top billing, she is barely in the movie. She is in the beginning and end of the movie. This is one of those cases where someone is contracted for a single day's worth of work and the filmmakers milked it for all that it's worth. Throwing that out, how is the movie on its own? The movie goes almost full on camp and suffers for it. Typically I love camp but it just does not work with this movie. If they went for a more serious route, I think it would have boosted the movie a bit more IMO. The she beast makeup is absolutely horrendous, something you would see in a Z grade flick. This was not what I was expecting. Perhaps if I give this movie another shot down the road, I may enjoy it more as I now know what to expect. But for now, I'll have to give it a pretty low score. But on the bright side, the video quality of the Raro Video blu-ray is pretty good though the audio is a bit on the low side.



Rating: 4/10



Capture...Kill...Release

This 2016 film is a "found footage" movie about a couple who want to commit murder for the fun of it. The first act of the movie has Jennifer and Farhang buying items, planning how they would commit the crime and sort of seems like they are just half joking. However Jennifer is dead serious. Her first test before killing a human is capturing a cat and killing it in their kitchen. Farhang gets a bit freaked out about it but Jennifer is dead set on doing it. The incident sets into motion her first kill as she brings a homeless man she befriended to her house. She drugs him, causing him to pass out. This sets up the couple's first kill and Farhang hopes that this is the end of it but apparently Jennifer has become addicted and wants another victim!

Interesting concept for a found footage movie. I thought the movie was well shot and acted. You could tell Jennifer is a bit deranged however she was kind of likeable. I must say though when she killed the cat, it really made me do a 180 on her. I guess that was the point, I mean you're not suppose to cheer on the killer, LOL. Farhang seems like a character who was just playing along but when shit got real, he didn't want any part in it though he was forced to by Jennifer. While I am not a big fan of found footage (really, why do people constantly carry a camera..!?!), this was quite different and worth a watch for it's disturbing content. Rating: 7/10



Open Water 3

Being a fan of the first two movies, I was not exactly asking for a third film. To be honest, I thought the series was dead but then came along Open Water 3: Cage Dive. Now the movie itself is really just re-titled to be an



Open Water movie but it does fit in the theme of the series, so sure, why not. When I saw the subtitle of "Cage Dive" I was thinking that perhaps it would be the same as the recently released movie "47 Meters Down" but surprisingly it was not.

Open Water 3 follows two brothers, Jeff and Josh, along with Jeff's girlfriend Megan, as they look to do something exciting for an audition for a "reality series" show. This adventure takes them from the United States to Australia where they will meet up with Greg, who is the brother's cousin. After arriving at Australia they head to the western part of the country to do some shark cage diving. While on this expedition, a large tidal wave knocks the boat over and forces the passengers to survive in the ocean.



The movie is not a straight "found footage" movie but rather a documentary style with the "footage" mixed in to tell a story. I really like this approach as it seems to be more realistic in how the footage is shown. Also only one camera was used during the expedition thus only one angle. For the most part it was very believable especially in the kind of footage that was shot. I typically have a hard time believing why people would keep recording videos during certain events but it worked for this movie. I do have to say the movie sort of fell apart during the last act. I thought what Megan did in the rescue boat was a bit too much and the movie kind of lost me there. I realize she was delusional but I guess the filmmakers did not want to end the movie on a happy note.

I found the movie to be quite enjoyable and worth a view. Rating 6/10



PSYCHOS IN LOVE

Well this film was different. I never heard of this movie until Vinegar Syndrome released it but I guess you could say that about most of their movies! This 1986 movie involves two serial killers, a male and a female, who end up meeting one day and get married. Joe runs a local strip club while Kate is a manicurist who does house calls.

Both these jobs enable the two to find various victims. You might think this is a demented movie but it's actually a dark comedy.

It's more funny than scary.

While the two were single, they made killing a hobby but after getting married, they eventually get bored of their favorite past time and start to slow down.

Eventually their kitchen sink clogs up with body parts and they have to call a plumber. As luck would have it, the plumber





is a killer as well! Actually he is a cannibal. The plumber wants them to kill for him but the couple are not having any of it!

The movie is set up like a documentary where you see the movie play out, but every once in awhile, you see black and white footage of Joe and Kate talking to the camera, commenting on why certain events were happening. It sort of reminded me of "Natural



Born Killers" in a way. Perhaps this inspired that movie? (HA!) The film also has a lot of bizarre characters and screwball dialogue. Some of the quotes from the characters are literally laugh out loud and will have you shaking your head on how hilariously stupid it is. Fans of horror comedies will definitely want to check this out! The movie is loaded with gore and nudity providing that exploitation aspect!

Rating: 8/10

Budget DVD Mini-Review

name: Salome

company: Alpha

info: Based on the play by Oscar Wilde, this is the story of the beheading of John the Baptist. The movie takes place at a dinner party by Herod Antipas in which he offers his step daughter, Salome, anything she wants. He is obviously lusting over her and will grant her anything. She wants the head of the prophet in prison (John the Baptist, though a different name is used during the intertitles). The movie is definitely more an art film rather than a normal narrative. This version of the movie runs only 42 minutes compared to its normal 72 minute run time. Some things I noticed were different intertitles, scenes shortened and some shots missing. That being said, it is still comprehensive in this shorten form.



video: Zoomed in a bit and damage galore. Contrast out of whack on scenes. Despite this, it's quite watchable. C+

audio: The audio that is presented sounds fine though not really suitable for the movie. But at least it's not distracting. B-

extras: Not related to the movie itself but the disc does feature two short films: "History Brought to Life" from 1950 and "Let's Go to the Movies" from 1949.

overall: Considered one of, if not the first art film, I highly recommend checking this out!

Quick Word: American Mummy

A group of university students in the New Mexico desert unearth an ancient mummy, on which one of the students performs a secret, primeval blood ritual. This awakens the death-hungry spirit of the Aztec Lord Tezcalipoca, intent on finishing his centuries-old reign of terror. Soon, the mummy's curse possesses the student's souls, turning them against each other in a bid to spread his evil to the entire world.



Do NOT judge this movie by its cover. It was released as a cash grab when Universal released their Mummy reboot, but really, this movie is quite entertaining on its own and there is no stereotypical mummy to be found in this flick. This is more a mummy's curse movie thus characters are getting infected throughout the desert camp. Lots of nudity and practical gore make this a must watch for low budget horror fans! Rating: 7 / 10

