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DVD review

Well, this is a baffling little film. Not baffling in the sense that it DOESN'T make sense, but baffling in execution.

It's a strange bit of weird cinema and kind of has its own thing going. It doesn't exactly fit neatly into a particular style, other than the fact that it's a vampire movie. It's sort of original, but not exactly. Oh, hell, I don't know what to say about this oddity.

Plot: A couple is invited out to the desert home of this vixen named Diane. She plays the part of seductress to the man and both of the couple suffer strange dreams. The couple's trip is less than relaxing, what with cranky auto shop/gas station employees (their car breaks down, of fucking course), jaunts through the desert, scares in the nearby mines, a stern Native American house servant and mind-fucking by weirdo Diane (whose last name is LeFanu - AND she is a patron of an art gallery with the name STOKER on the door ... when first we see this place, an old blues musician is singing a song about the devil ... SHEESH). Diane also gets kicks watching the couple make love, thanks to a two-way mirror in the guest bedroom.

The film veers between attempts at arthouse stylishness and deadly dull, woodenly acted melodrama.

We spend most of the movie in the desert with Diane playing cat-and-mouse head games with her guests, but the climax goes careening off suddenly into the city and tosses in a couple of what-the-fuck but strangely interesting kinks.

The movie is unbelievable from start to finish but what it lacks in suspense, fear and dramatic tension it makes up for with its patchwork, head-scratching mode of cinematic storytelling. As far as its exploitation elements go, it has more in the way of nudity than gore (which is limited to a few trickles of blood and one pitchfork scene). Atmospheric and erotic yet strangely flat, *The Velvet Vampire* is an exercise in EXCUSE ME?!



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Upchuck Undergrind listens to a little bit of a lot of things - just note the eclecticism of his reviews. He also reads voraciously and loves movies. He is a very open-minded Episcopalian (and student of Buddhism and Hinduism) who thinks Slayer is one of the greatest metal bands. Ever. In addition to his work with Corazine - for which he has written since its inception (he is a Fishcomcollective veteran) - he also writes for DJFix.com.

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