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- > *Orlok – The Vampire 3-D* (Quality Cheese Productions/MVD DVD) + *Undead: The Vampire Collection* (Mill Creek DVD Set)
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MARKET PLACE

Orlok – The Vampire 3-D

(Quality Cheese Productions/MVD DVD) + **Undead: The Vampire Collection** (Mill Creek DVD Set)

Picture: C Sound: C Extras: D
3-D Film: D Film Set: C

3-D is only good when it is not a gimmick and while the new wave of it in theaters (the digital wave, we'll say) will have a honeymoon period until 2011, some productions are going to be so bad, it will remind us how the last three waves were killed off in the first place. With this wave happening for the first time in the home video era, you will get cynical releases like **Orlok – The Vampire 3-D**, which takes Murnau's classic *Nosferatu* (1922) and shreds it beyond belief.

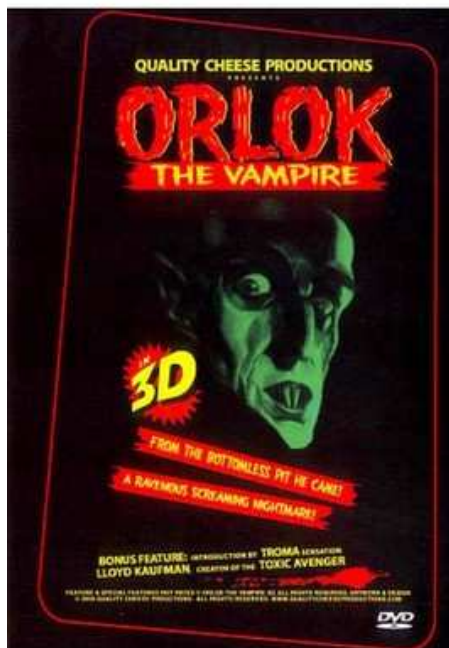
You essentially have a group of hacks take the classic, and it down, reedit it, add title cards in the silent movie mode that make it look more like the 1960s *Batman* series than anything remotely resembling a vampire film and come up with the worst possible "new dialogue" and you get a total mess. Worst of all, it is identified as an "F.W. Murnau Production" though he also directed it. Some other hack (who will remain nameless) takes Producer and Director credits and does not even have a Germanic name.

If you have to see the film, endless copies are out there, yet none have been satisfactory to me (and I wonder about the tinted version), so you can see a scratched up version on Mill Creek's new **Undead: The Vampire Collection** which may not be perfect or 3-D (the film never was, of course), but it is more authentic and they even credit Murnau for directing!

About the same price as the *Orlok* release, you get 19 more features including: **Atom Age Vampire** (1960), **The Bat** (1926), **The Bat** (1959), **Blood Of Dracula's Castle** (1969), **The Bloody Vampire** (1962), **Count Dracula & His Vampire Bride** (1974), **Crypt Of The Living Dead** (1973), **The Devil Bat** (1941), **Horrible Sexy Vampire** (1970), **Horrer Express** (1972), **The Last Man On Earth** (1960, reviewed elsewhere on this site), **Nightmare Castle** (1965), **Prime Evil** (1988), **Terror Creature From The Grave** (1965), **The Vampire Bat** (1933), **Vampire Happening** (1971), **Vampire's Night Orgy** (1973), **The Werewolf vs. The Vampire Woman** (1971) and **The Witches Mountain** (1972) which are all public domain and often forgotten. Though few are great, they are all interesting in their own way and just about all are more ambitious than most B-movies we are getting in the genre now.

Some have key stars (Christopher Lee, Peter Cushing, Barbara Steele, Vincent Price, Bela Lugosi, Paul Naschy) and others have key technicians and directors from the genre, so it is a good catch up set if nothing else. **Last Man On Earth** is the original, official version of *I Am Legend* and influenced the look of Romero's *Night Of The Living Dead*, both also reviewed elsewhere on this site.

The 1.33 X 1 image on the 3-D DVD is really 2-D 99% of the time and pointless, while the various prints on the **Undead** set are rough and worn. Some have good image quality, but we also get our share of print damage, softness, color fading, the wrong aspect ratio and other issues as expected for such a cheap compilation. The Dolby Digital 2.0 Stereo on *Orlok* is harsh, annoying and poorly recorded, while the monophonic sound on the 20 films on the **Undead** set may show their age, but are not manipulated in dumb ways. Be careful of volume levels and volume switching in all cases. Extras include a pointless introduction by Lloyd Kaufman and 2 pair of cardboard 3-D glasses, but with nothing to really see, they are useless.



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- > **Gentlemen Broncos**
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- > **Doctor Who – The Keys Of Marinus** (BBC DVD)
- > **My Two Dads – The Complete Second Season** (1988 – 1989/Shout Factory DVD)
- > **Dark Rage** (2008/Cinema Epoch DVD)
- > **Old Dogs** (2009/Disney Blu-ray + DVD + Digital Copy)
- > **The Princess and The Frog** (2009/Disney Blu-ray w/DVD & Digital Copy)

For more on the real **Nosferatu**, try this link:

<http://www.fulvuedrive-in.com/essay/222/Vampirism,+Sexuality+&+Death+-+The>

- Nicholas Sheffo

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