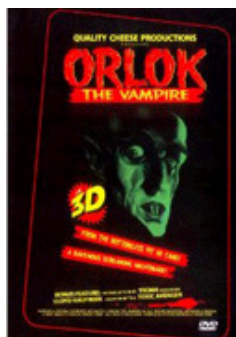


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Orlok the Vampire 3D

1922 (2010)

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As the age of cinema began to blossom, German director F. W. Murnau gave to the world something that at the time was shocking and in years to come, it would become influential. 1922 saw the release of *Nosferatu, eine Symphonie des Grauens* or *Nosferatu: A Symphony of Horror*. While not the first horror movie or even vampire film, Murnau's adaptation of Bram Stoker's *Dracula* would be the start of what would issue in the golden age of horror seen with the films of Universal Studios. Today, *Nosferatu* has fallen into public domain meaning that anyone can actually show, broadcast, or even distribute the film without fear of getting slapped with a lawsuit. This also means that anyone can take a movie that falls under the rules of public domain and make changes to it.

Nosferatu has now become *Orlok the Vampire*. It's very much the same movie that most horror buffs know quite well, but yet it isn't. Given the fact that *Nosferatu* has become one of the many famous horror films that the genre has to offer, I don't believe it's nearly as important to review the movie itself as much as what this variation has to offer. Yes, this is *Nosferatu* and certainly not a pristine copy either. Some might accept that though anyone who has seen some of the better copies are going to be less than thrilled with what is presented here, but that's only the beginning.

Orlok the Vampire features new scenes that have been inserted into the original. These aren't newly discovered, lost footage but instead new shots that have been filmed and inserted into the film. This also includes computer animation which truly detracts from the original legacy of the film making it nothing more than a mockery of what it once was. If this wasn't bad enough the DVD also include a traditional, 3D version of the movie, something that utterly wasn't necessary for a movie of the silent film era.

The movie has also been given a different soundtrack which is poorly written. Although it tries its best to imitate the style of that time, it does so in an unmemorable, often times annoying fashion. There are moments that *Orlok the Vampire* sounds more like it was something that was composed on an old Hammond organ. Add in some laughter and other vocals noises and you'll find that *Nosferatu the Vampire* in its "new" form becomes a pale shadow of what is otherwise a great, classic piece of horror history.

The disc doesn't include any extra features, though it does have not only the

3D version of the film but also the 2D. The problem is that it really could have also featured the original, unaltered version of *Nosferatu*, but these days you can pick that movie up for hardly anything or find it online.

Orlok the Vampire is something that you might be interested in seeing simply out of curiosities sake, but *Nosferatu the Vampire* is without a doubt the superior of the two. I'm not sure who exactly thought it was a great idea to try and make these changes to this classic piece of horror cinema but it really wasn't something necessary, but at least it's better than yet another remake.

-mike-

Directed by:
F. W. Murnau

Written by:
Henrik Galeen

Based on the Novel by:
Bram Stoker

Cast:
Max Schreck
Gustav von Wangenheim
Greta Schröder
Alexander Granach
Ruth Landshoff

DVD Features:
Aspect Ratio: 1.33:1
Audio: English Dolby Digital 2.0
Includes 2D and 3D versions of the film

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