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Case Number 21895: Small Claims Court



### Stripperland!

**MVD Visual** // 2011 // 103 Minutes // Not Rated  
Reviewed by Judge Gordon Sullivan // July 29th, 2011

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#### The Charge

First they dance...then they kill

#### The Case

There is nothing wrong with doing what the Brits call "taking the piss" out of serious genres. Some of the greatest comedies of all time have come from treating genre conventions humorously. However, a low-budget parody successful genre comedy, that's another thing entirely. Unlike other zombie comedies that take a humorous flick conventions (like [Shaun of the Dead](#)), **Stripperland!** is essentially a remake of **Zombieland**, but with *strippers* instead of just regular ol' zombies. As a result, the film feels utterly inconsequential, reduced to rep from another (better) film with only the occasional cameo to make the film interesting.

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flesh. In this post-apocalyptic wasteland walks Idaho (Ben Sheppard), a geek who survives by following a seer in the film he hooks up with Frisco (Jamsion Challen), another traveler who's obsessed with fresh baked goods. They then encounter a pair of women heading to Portland (a.k.a. Stripperland), who entice the gentlemen to join their promises of fresh baked goods. We watch as the group heads west to the coast, encountering numerous undead on the way.

The great tragedy of **Stripperland!** is that it could have been a really great film. The idea of the undead (staying in the wasteland while a small group rides the roads) is a sound one. The actors play their roles especially well for a low-budget horror/comedy. The gore effects are top-notch, with a decent mix of digital and practical hitting the screen at regular intervals. The only problem is, **Zombieland** beat them to it. Oh, and **Zombieland** happened to be one of the better horror comedies of all time.

That leaves **Stripperland!** as an unofficial remake, essentially. Aside from a few humorous additions (mostly cameos), **Stripperland!** follows **Zombieland's** template. I guess it's a parody because the zombies this time are strippers (and as one character rather painfully points out, that's ironic because it's a male fantasy to have a country full of strippers but in this case they're strippers who kill). Thus, viewers have little to do except look for differences between **Stripperland!** and its better (like the fact that **Stripperland!** uses state names instead of city names for its locations, Frisco excepted), or note the occasional nod to other zombie films (like a painful "I'm coming to get you, Bambi" and a retooling of **Dawn of the Dead's** famous tagline to include stripper poles instead of hell).

At least everyone involved gave it their all, as demonstrated by this DVD. The 1.78:1 anamorphic transfer looks good as a film of this budget can, with decent black levels and solid color saturation. It's a little rough around the edges but totally watchable. The audio track does a fine job keeping dialogue clear and well balanced with the large soundtrack. Extras are impressively extensive. They start with a pair of commentary tracks. The first includes Skelling, writer Ben McCray, and editor David Wester, while the second includes the effects team of Christina Austen Healy. Everyone seems happy with their work on the film, and Skelling is especially effusive in discussing the effects. The effects team does a great job of giving a peek at the creation of the numerous effects shots throughout the film. It comes a trio of featurettes that cover the effects, the cast, and the cameos from **Stripperland!** These are supplemented with behind the scenes footage. Then there are 9 minutes of deleted scenes and a blooper reel. Finally, there are two music videos, one from a band on the soundtrack and another of Daniel Baldwin rapping.

There are a few reasons to watch **Stripperland!** If you have an irrational hatred of Woody Harrelson and/or Woody from **Stripperland!**, then watching **Stripperland!** might be an acceptable substitute. For a low-budget film, **Stripperland!** has an impressive number of women in hot pants and/or naked to its credit, for those looking for a little nudity with their horror. Finally, the cameos can be genuinely amusing. I especially enjoyed Lloyd Kaufman's, but Daniel Baldwin and Daniel Baldwin also earn their paychecks.

**Stripperland!** might have just enough blood and breasts to warrant a rental for low-budget horror-comedy. However, there's no way it can stack up to its namesake. The extras, however, are really impressive and that makes **Stripperland!** a slightly more tempting package.

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#### The Verdict

Despite reanimating a well-done concept, **Stripperland!** is not guilty.

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