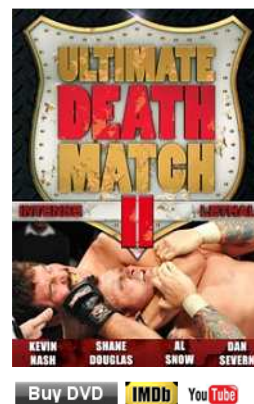




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Ultimate Death Match II

REVIEWED BY: [Kami](#) Posted on 04/06/2011



A real surprise here – a sequel that shits all over the original film! Of course, the first [Ultimate Death Match](#) was a pretty bad movie though so it wasn't hard to beat. But it has to be said, this ain't a bad effort at all.

Director Shawn Cain has obviously listened to the fans, read the reviews and got rid of the things that didn't work in the first film (like the bad FBI subplot) and stuck with the things that did work (like the wrestling and Al Snow as Frosty) and improved them. Starting with the fact this time the film is being recorded at an OVW event so there's actually a crowd and some atmosphere!

Better wrestlers, a more straightforward storyline and a very neat undercurrent/subplot about past glories, pride and the loneliness of former champions when their careers are over all add to the film. With a blend of reality (well, reality such as it exists in wrestling) and fiction we find ourselves once again watching a tournament that promises - someone will die in the ring tonight!

This time we have more recognizable names too like the legendary Shane Douglas, UFC hall of famer Dan Severn, Sandman making a cameo and Kid Kash as the 'face'. Yes, that's right kids, you heard me, Kid Kash as the face. Last time I saw Kash he was wrestling in Adelaide and playing the heel perfectly, he even had one punter break through the barriers and climb up onto the ring to challenge him! But here he is the good guy, trying to win the ten million smackers so he and his girl Melanie (Melody Mederios) can live happily ever after. Standing in his way are a ten man battle royale, Johnny Swinger, Sandman and Dan Severn. Mighty tough odds there I gotta say.

All played straight, this is like a small-time PPV with the odd backroom peek- ala TNA's recent efforts at reality. With Jimmy Valiant adding a sublime touch of pathos to the whole flick, especially the juxtaposition at the end between Valiant's loneliness and the main event as two men battle to the death downstairs this film delivers something more than just b-grade poolhall wrestling.

There are of course problems, - the sound suffers at times because they just haven't miked the hall at all it seems so you can barely hear the post match interviews but I guess it all adds to the "authenticity" of the event – the PPV within the movie. Which reminds me, there are two sets of credits so don't switch off after the ppv credits role or you'll miss the real ending. Also Shane Douglas Vs Dan Severn was the pits, worse than a Divas match on Smackdown, but I guess that's what you get when one guy has bad legs and the other can't fake it. And then there's the talking head at the end – no audio whatsoever so no idea who he is or what he has to do with the story.

Still, Kash delivers as does Johnny Swinger, Al Snow is still funny as hell in his commentary role and Shawn Cain as promoter Jake is mercifully not on screen all that much. And though Kevin Nash is prominent on the cover he really plays no part in the film and although Raven is mentioned I didn't spot him at all!? Perhaps he's on the cutting room floor?

Look, if you are a wrestling fan you will enjoy this film. It plays on the myths and realities of wrestling, it plays it straight and that understorey about old wrestlers, past glories and fleeting fame rings true. Surprisingly good in a b-grade, straight to video sort of way. And I actually want to see where UDM III takes the story.

DISC DETAILS:

DIRECTOR(S): Shawn Cain | COUNTRY: USA | YEAR 2010 | DISTRIBUTOR(S): Independent Media Distribution | RUNNING TIME: 90 minutes | ASPECT RATIO: 16:9 | REGION: 1 | DISCS: 1