

KILLER KLOWNS FROM OUTER SPACE

THE FILM: Coulrophobics might want to stay clear of the Chiodo Brother's amazing science fiction horror comedy, *KILLER KLOWNS FROM OUTER SPACE*. Starring Grant Cramer, Suzanne Snyder, John Allen Nelson and John Vernon, this hilarious homage to B-movies is every bit crazy as it is entertaining and follows a clan of evil alien clowns as they arrive on earth to capture and feed on the human inhabitants of a small American town.

As a child, I was always terrified by the clowns in this film. There was something deeply unnerving about their oversized heads, devilish grins and sharp teeth which would always send an icy chill down my spine. However, now as an adult, my opinion of this film has changed and I get a kick out of the level of creativity it has. Every Clown is designed differently and their array of weapons to enslave and devour the townspeople is completely insane. Think popcorn guns, acidic cream pies and killer shadow puppets and what you have is a series of hilarious kills that have never been repeated on screen since.

So, all things considered, the Chiodo Brothers have well and truly delivered. What on the surface appears to be a simple laugh out loud horror comedy is actually a well made and creative adventure that goes to some very out there places. You'll laugh, you'll gasp and you won't believe your eyes. All this is down to the hard work of the Chiodo Bros and their team of fantastic filmmakers so if you can embrace its silliness you will have plenty of fun with this one.

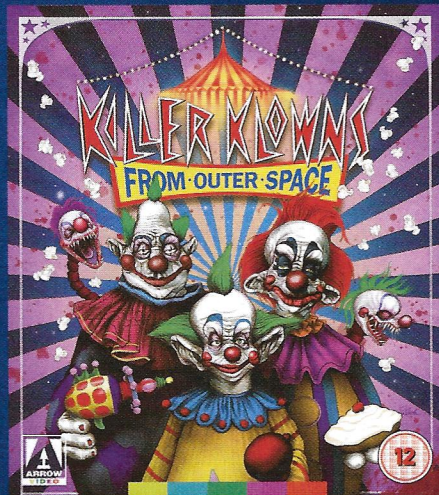
Leading the cast, Grant Cramer and Suzanne Snyder play Mike Tobacco and his girlfriend Debbie Stone. Their characters are stereotypical American teens who want nothing more than a little bit of alone time when they are interrupted by a strange glowing object falling to earth and that is when their nightmare begins. Cramer's character is the voice of reason against Snyder's panic stricken girlfriend. Together they do a fantastic job to make the incredible in the moments feel credible.

After surviving their initial run-in with the Killer Klowns, Mike and Debbie rush to the police station to report the incident and we are introduced to John Allen Nelson's Deputy Hanson and John Vernon's Deputy Mooney. Initially dismissive of their pleas for help, it's not long before Hanson and Mooney meet their fate at the hands of the Klowns and it's in these moments where the film's flawless ability to merge horror and comedy truly shines.

I could go on forever talking about my love for *KILLER KLOWNS FROM OUTER SPACE*

but let me tell you that it's far from a perfect film. I already mentioned how it pays homage to b-movies and in doing so it suffers from the same pitfalls. The film has not aged well and there are more than a few moments which will make you cringe and at times it's perhaps a little too camp. However, this becomes part of the film's charm and it is exactly what makes it so damn enjoyable as a whole. So if you can look past its schlock factor and can embrace the childish nature of the film, you will have a blast with this one!

Rating: 🧟🧟🧟🧟🧟



SPECIAL FEATURES: This has to be one of the best Arrow presentations that I've had the pleasure to review. It includes a brand new restoration of the film from the original camera negative and features newly remastered stereo 2.0 and 5.1 DTS-HD MA audio options. However, the true gem here is the sheer volume of extras available on the disc.

Starting out there is a featurette interview with the original members of the American punk band, The Dickies who were the ones responsible for creating the film's iconic theme song. In the featurette The Chiodos Walk Among Us, audiences are introduced to highlights from the Chiodo Brothers childhood films which are a real treat to see. Want more? Well, this pack also includes new HD transfers of the complete collection of Chiodo Brothers 8mm and Super 8 films.

The fun doesn't stop there. Fans can look forward to archive interviews with the Chiodo Brothers themselves and their cast. There are also a hilarious blooper and clown audition video, not to mention a fascinating audio commentary and a ton of marketing material. So regardless if your interest is in the production of the film or its marketing, there's something for everyone here!

Rating: 🧟🧟🧟🧟🧟

KILLER KLOWNS FROM OUTER SPACE is out now on **UK Blu-ray** courtesy of Arrow Video.

REVIEWED BY JON DICKINSON

THE QUIET EARTH

THE FILM: Being a fan of post-apocalyptic horror movies I found myself shocked to discover that I had never heard of *THE QUIET EARTH* before but I'm glad I know about it now. Not only is this a terrifying film in its own way but Director Geoff Murphy's efforts here are simply stunning so it gives me great joy to say that *THE QUIET EARTH* is one of the best post-apocalyptic horror movies that I've ever seen.

THE QUIET EARTH follows scientist Zac Hobson (Bruno Lawrence) when he wakes up one fateful morning to discover the pioneering energy project he has been working on has malfunctioned leaving him as the only man left on earth. Spending his days desperately reaching out to find some remnant of life his mind begins to disintegrate until he meets two other survivors. Things start to get better until man's most simple impulses get in the way of survival.

Right from the very first frame Geoff Murphy immediately sets the tone of the film and keeps up the intensity and momentum right until the final act. Further heightened by some haunting cinematography and what you have here is a deeply unnerving first act. In fact, the downtown shots of the empty streets of downtown Hamilton, New Zealand are very reminiscent of Danny Boyle's *28 DAYS LATER* but on a smaller scale.

As the film progresses we are introduced to two other survivors and it's not long before a love triangle forms. So whilst Murphy takes time to develop the intricacies of their relationship he slowly begins to turn up the tension to set up a stunning third act where a final apocalyptic event becomes even more claustrophobic for the audience. Personally, I was left shocked by *THE QUIET EARTH*. As director Geoff Murphy has made one of the most disturbing films with very little to no moments of horror yet the film still manages to terrify its audience by playing with the fear of isolation and one's own mortality.

Also worth a mention is the cast. Bruno Lawrence is superb in every way possible. Carrying the first act on his shoulders, Lawrence delivers a compelling performance as a man whose psyche is on the brink of destruction. As we move into the second act he finally meets Alison Routledge's Joanne and the two of them begin to develop a relationship. As Joanne, Routledge is the polar opposite to Lawrence. The duo forms a tight bond and it develops an interesting dynamic but this is soon destroyed when Pete Smith's Api arrives on the scene as jealousy rears its ugly head. During these moments the cast successfully pulls off every emotional beat needed to add an additional layer to the overall quality of the film.