



Tuesday, September 29

[Evilution \(2008\)](#)



Lock your door.

Directed by [Chris Conlee](#)
92 minutes / Black Gate Entertainment / [Official Website](#)

A scientist, Darren Hall (*Eric Peter-Kaiser*), somehow escapes an emergency eradication of a U.S. military base in Iraq (*blamed on a suicide bomber in the newspapers*) after a sudden outbreak of undead ravenous soldiers from a weaponized "intelligent" contagion he helped create. Darren still has a vial of what he deems as a "potentially" dangerous chemical and knows the military will try to track him down. He takes refuge in the basement of a decrepit apartment complex dubbed *The Necropolitan* which seems to have its own eerie history. A mixing pot of clientele inhabits the building and Darren soon falls into a budding relationship with a beautiful girl by the name of Mandy (*Sandra Ramirez*) and strikes up an uneasy acquaintance with a trio of Latino gangbangers.



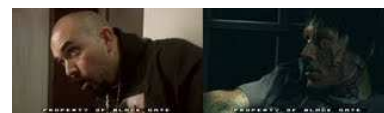
Darren resumes his studies with the deadly neon orange solution on lab mice, despite the military sending a tough-as-nails sergeant (Gabriel, *Tim Colceri*) to recover him and the contagion, but finds a human test subject to re-anatomize when the head of the thugs is shot to death right outside the building. The injection takes, somewhat, with the shooting victim popping back to the land of the living...just a bit twitchy and glassy-eyed lethargic. Unfortunately for mankind, a local junkie (a very Sex Pistols-channeled *Billy Morrison*) walks right into Darren's unlocked pad as he's away "busy" with Mandy and takes the vial looking for a fix. Soon enough, both the infected junkhead and gangbanger are roaming the halls out for the blood of fresh victims, Gabriel corners Darren at gunpoint, The Necropolitan's odd manager couldn't care less, and worse-of-all Mandy is defenseless upstairs. Can Darren and company halt the lunatic dead before the human race falls to the hatred of *Evilution*?



Chris Conlee's *Evilution* snaps well into the often ballyhooed "sub-of-a-subgenre" of the speedy undead in predominantly slow zombiedom. So those with this strange aversion to running rot might want to step in with caution. Also those expecting a military-themed horror flick based on the poster art above and trailer ([seen here](#)) might find themselves solely disappointed. Though saying that, this slice of brain-free splattery fun has some very positive qualities apart from some rough patches.



Taking on the rocky issues first; the film is hobbled initially by several pressing questions surrounding our protagonist right from the get-go. How did Darren survive what looked like all-encompassing destruction of the base bombing? How did he end up at the apartment complex all the way from Iraq? What's up with the overtly creepy nature of *The Necropolitan* and its forcefully facetious caretaker (a wonderfully deadpan *Nathan Bexton*)? I probably just have OCD, but these questions bugged the hell out of me throughout. At times, I even thought pre-explosion Darren and post-explosion Darren were two different people, as he uses an alias in with the apartment occupants. Lastly, the film isn't exactly original being a hodgepodge of ideas and situations we've seen before (touches of *Demons*, *Re-Animator*, *28 Days Later*, *Resident Evil*)--usually done better--but isn't that usually the case?



The good attributes are what pulls *Evilution* ahead of a good portion of other indie zombo endeavors. Eric Peter-Kaiser's Darren is likable in that bushy five 'o clock shadow John Krasinski-way with a touch of Jeffrey Combs as a man frustrated by the misunderstanding of his creation. Sandra Ramirez turns in an excellent performance as Mandy, perhaps the best of everyone, projecting an approachable infatuation for Darren with ease. This is especially impressive considering the scenes concerning their relationship are few and all her character is really based on is TIVO (*vau'll see*). It's always nice to see a older tough guy

The horror blog blissfully unconcerned with the cutting edge of horror...



Dusty Shelves

▼ 2009 (437)

► October (5)

▼ September (45)

Can't bring myself...

Just In: The Art of the Nasty, 2nd Edition

[Evolution \(2008\)](#)

[I Come in Peace on DVD and Amazon.uk is Fantastic!...](#)

[A Few Sunday Entrails](#)

[Some quick thoughts on Demon Wind \(1990\)](#)

[Your Favorite On-Screen Undead Sequence?](#)

[Pledge Night \(1990\)](#)

[Blind Faith \(1989\)](#)

[Ghoulies III: Ghoulies Go to College \(1991\)](#)

[Geez...Kelly Nichols is Saleen Hot in '78's Toolbo...](#)

[Field Cassette Spot Checking](#)

[BoGA Update!](#)

[Some quick thoughts on The Russian Specialist \(200...](#)

[Some quick thoughts on I Come in Peace \(1990\)](#)

[My biggest gripe with Venom \(2005\)](#)

[Swap Meet Finds: Attack of the Promos](#)

[Dark Sky, how could you!?](#)

[Incubus Postscript: A slathering of Shat, but hold...](#)

[Another 3D Re-imagining of Night of the Living Dea...](#)

[The Importance of Looking at Every Tape...](#)

[A Classic in Retro: Death Wish 3 \(1985\)](#)

[The Enigmatic Ænigma VHS](#)

[Some quick thoughts on Hellraiser: Hellseeker \(200...](#)

[Swap Meet Finds: You Gotta Deal With What Cha Got](#)

[Yes, I'm an E-mail Slacker...](#)

[My order with the Duke is in, is yours?](#)

[Some quick thoughts on Incubus \(1965\)](#)

[Tales from the Hood \(1995\)](#)

[Not that long ago, in Japan...](#)

[Several Interesting Upcoming Blu-rays](#)

[A Call To Video Dealer "In-Betweeners"](#)

[Some quick thoughts on Snoop Dogg's Hood of Horror...](#)

[Coping with MCD](#)

[Little Drunk and I'm Still Lurking...](#)

[Rambo V: From Suck to Blow](#)

[Danny DeVito is the man.](#)

[The Odd Charm of Finding VHS Gold in Unlabeled Cas...](#)

[Haunted Hayride, and I'm the ideas guy.](#)

[This Week at the Smutty Swap Meet...now with 18% m...](#)

[They Came From eBay...](#)

[Rosemary's Killer in Both Formats](#)

[My First Experience with VHSPS](#)

[Some quick thoughts on Phantasm II \(1988\)](#)

[eBay: Great for sellers because buyers are totally...](#)

► August (56)

► July (49)

► June (46)

► May (59)

► April (55)

► March (55)

► February (64)

► January (3)

The Video Vault

Electric Video Inc.

MOGUL

Warner Home Video (1978-1985)

World Video Pictures, Inc.

