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Evolution



Director: Chris Conlee (USA, 2008)
Cast: Eric Peter-Kaiser, Noel Gugliemi, James Duval, Nathan Bexton
AKA: None
Studio: MVD Visual
Aspect Ratio: 1.33:1
Region: 0
Running Time: 90 minutes
No. Discs: 1

Review posted on 19/10/2009 by Crimson Celluloid

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Review:

The DVD box promotes the film as being "from the co-producer of **Dog Soldiers**, co-producers are now a reason to hire a film? It may as well say "from the catering company that brought you **The Exorcist** or "Finally, the follow-up film from the key grip on **Jaws**".

Evolution had some good coverage in Fangoria magazine and from the exposure there it looked like it was going to be a rollicking zombie/alien hybrid. That certainly appeared to be the case initially; the film starts on an Iraqi army base and has some good zombie attacks upon US military personnel. However the next 30-40 minutes is all character development and it fast loses momentum before picking up again in the final third.

"you can tell that the people behind this are genre fans"

The story involves the discovery of an alien life form that has power to resurrect the dead. The US army are experimenting with it with the goal to be to reanimate soldiers who are killed in battle. This would be all good and well except for the fact that the reanimated dead have the unfortunate habit of coming back as vicious flesh-eating zombies. Scientist Darren Hall escapes the initial zombie attack with the last known vial of the life form and plans to perfect it and discover its mysteries. Hall moves into a rough neighbourhood populated by weird hotel tenants and rampaging gangs (actually 4 Mexicans) and a choice female neighbour who he is soon playing "guess which part of me has rigor mortis?" with. Initially Hall is content with experimenting on mice to see what effect the alien fluid has but before you know it he's coming over all Herbert West and shooting the cool orange liquid into gang members. This sets the scene for zombie attacks upon tenants and the gore flows freely.

"can't ever be called boring, but it does seem to be slightly hamstrung by budget constraints"

Evolution can't ever be called boring, but it does seem to be slightly hamstrung by budget constraints. The acting is erratic to say the least and the film is largely shot in one or two locales. However you can tell that



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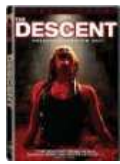
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