

# Indie Horror Films

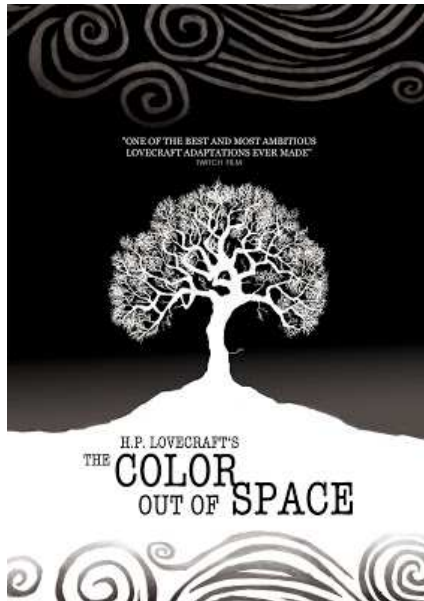
All genres of suspense, terror, and horror will be reviewed by Richard Gary. His address to send preview copies supplied upon request to rbf55@msn.com.

Saturday, December 15, 2012

## DVD Review: The Color Out of Space

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Images from the Internet



### The Color Out of Space

Directed and screenplay by Huan Yu

Brink Vision

86 minutes, 2010 / 2012

[Brinkvision.com](http://Brinkvision.com)

[Die-Farbe.com](http://Die-Farbe.com)

[MVDvisual.com](http://MVDvisual.com)

This is hardly the first adaptation of HP Lovecraft's well-known 1927 short story of a meteorite hitting the earth, and the evil effects it has on a household (or community, depending on the version). Just off the top of my head, there's *Die Monster Die* (1965) with Boris Karloff and Nick Adams, *The Curse* (1987) with Claude Akins and Wil Wheaton, and arguably the Stephen King episode of *Creepshow* (1982).

This version is also known as *Die Farbe*, or "The Color," because this is a German production, though early parts are filmed in English, and the rest, which takes place in the Germany countryside, is in Deutsche with English subtitles.

The previous versions were generally really bad, cheesy horror films (i.e., fun), but this one has an arty-indie feel to it (i.e., not pretentious), to which the number of world-wide festival winning and nominations bend. It's filmed in black and white, except for when the "color" appears, drenching specific objects in a purplish-pink hue.

It has been way too many years since I've read the original story to speak to its accuracy, so I am going to take this film on its own story merits.

In present time, a scientist who was an American soldier stationed in rural Germany at the end of Dubya-Dubya Duce, goes back there and disappears. His son investigates in the small town in which he had been, and is told by a local (and we see in a series of long and detailed flashback) how a meteorite landed in the village even before the war. The stone, however, starts to disappear / evaporate.

Soon, all the fruit in the area start to grow Monsanto size, with a weird aftertaste. Hit the hardest is the farm on which the space rock landed. Everything starts to die, the mom goes mad, everyone gets sick, and slowly the family starts to melt into lavender droplets.

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Over time, this effect would have a lasting influence that... well, I'm going to stop there, because the film is worth seeing, and I don't want to give it all away. The effects, both physical and graphic are worth seeing. The look of the film is astonishingly crisp, thanks to a home-made camera (apparently called the DRAKE) that evidently makes HD look like 55mm film stock. While the movie is nearly completely humorless (sans a scene where a German native mocks an American's grammar), it is also uses the contrast of light and dark to its utmost, and the digital effects are sometimes quite understated, and others a bit shocking.

The extras has a couple of the film's trailers, the availability of subtitles in many languages, a "lost" scene, a 22-minute day-by-day making-of featurette (in German with subtitles), and a fascinating 6-1/2 minute special effects explanation that shows how they used layers of mattes so effectively. The under 7-minute "Science Horror" short is the one to really watch, as it explains a bit of the subtle ending, and tells about how Lovecraft's story about an alien parasite has some scientific lineage.

There is little gore (certainly no more than an episode of *Bones* or *CSI*), and certainly no sex, just a good story that will keep you at attention.

Posted by **Robert Barry Francos** at 12:01 AM

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