

METALLIAN

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THE WALKING DEAD GIRLS (DVD) - CHEEZY FLICKS 60/100

This is a 70-minute story or documentary about the zombie phenomenon and in particular zombie girls - women posing for calendars in zombie make-up - or zimbies as they are called, at least here. The DVD starts somewhat unexpectedly with a brief George Romero interview, the 'inventor' of the zombie genre as it were, conducted by Luna Moon where he is asked general questions starting with his earlier days in the business. He insists that the idea of zombies was basically a means of poking fun at the stupidity of humans. He also reminds the viewers that the term zombie is a more recent phenomenon and he actually didn't use it himself. The main part of the DVD follows with behind the scenes looks and interviews featuring the zimbies. Other figures of the genre make appearances too. They include Lloyd Kaufman - who counts as his Yale classmates George W. Bush and Oliver Stone - Bruce Campbell, ladies of the Evil Dead movie (Betsy Baker, Theresa Tilly aka Sarah York and Ellen Sandweiss), John Amplas, Terry Alexander among others. Naturally the questions vary from the insightful and serious to the less so. For example besides trying to explain the cultural appeal of zombies and the difference between zombies and vampires Lloyd Kaufman delves into the serious side with thoughts on the influence of politics and lessened regulations on the industry in general. The Walking Dead Girls is a sometimes fascinating look in to the world of the mostly B-movie industry. - Anna Tergel

THE ADVENTURES OF ELECTRA ELF (4 DVD) - MVD VISUAL 40/100

It is best to start off with the back cover text, it goes like this: "By day Electra Elf is Jennifer Swallows, a mild mannered reporter for Art Star Scene magazine (A.S.S) and Fluffer is Boobie, a chihuahua clothes model, but when danger calls, the two put on stylish leotards and kick butt..." That says it all really. Electra Elf's character is a take on superheroes and her powers include freezing villains and Boobie's include burning feet with radioactive pee. The first of 20 episodes sees a group of hard rockers, led by Luciferia, steal from an orphanage to finance a demo, which they hope will make the German charts! Electra Elf, played by Reverend Jen Miller in pink lycra and sporting elf ears and Fluffer are summoned and using their powers foil the plot. Nick Zedd using a public access show type budget, read zero, for special effects and questionable, if any, acting has created something that somehow managed 20 half hour runs on...you guessed it, a public access channel in New York. Episodes like Maggot On A Hot Tin Roof, Old Man And The Sea Monkey, Of Lice And Men, No Plague Like Home, Hollow Be Thy Name and Gone With The Mind have the makings of classic cheese and they mostly succeed. Most of the underlying plots run somewhat deeper though and this is perhaps not surprising knowing Zedd's background. Fighting corruption and saving the environment are just two of the issues present in the The Adventures Of Electra Elf. - Anna Tergel