



REVIEWED BY: Wolfboy Posted on 30/07/2013



The Death Wheelers (originally released as "Psychomania" – a title which makes no sense whatsoever) was critically panned on its original release. While it's no high-brow fare, and a good part of its charm is due to its status as a time-capsule of 70s low-budget kitsch, I do think the original critics missed a trick here. Nicky Henson is a great villainous leading man, exuding a sort of aristocratic and brutal charm that is simultaneously attractive and unnerving. George Sanders is also wonderful as Shadwell. Ted Moore's cinematography is full of psychedelic flourishes and atmospheric shots of standing stones in fog and the soundtrack is a great piece of 70s psychedelia/funk that was recently rereleased by Spoke Records.

The only letdown is the car chase sequences. There are a few of these and (while they may well have been thrilling in 1973) they tend to drag on for a modern viewer. The film has also not been well cared-for prior to its shift to DVD, and the audio has particularly suffered, with persistent hiss throughout as well as a number of crackles, drop-outs and distortions.

If you can handle less-than-perfect sound and picture (and you're willing to wait out the car chases in the hopes of more George Sanders) I'd highly recommend *The Death Wheelers*. If you have a love of vintage British horror or 70s kitsch, then you should definitely check it out.

*He was the voice of Shere Khan in the Disney Jungle Book amongst many other things. This was his last film before his suicide.

*It's not actually clear whether the entity in question is Satan, some other demon in the form of a toad or an older toad-deity with pre-Christian origins. I've said Satan/the Devil in the course of this review largely on the basis of the blurb on the DVD box – there's really nothing in the film to indicate one way or the other.

DISC DETAILS:

DIRECTOR(S): Don Sharp | COUNTRY: USA | YEAR: 1973 | DISTRIBUTOR(S): MVD Visual / Cheezy Flicks |
 RUNNING TIME: 85 minutes | ASPECT RATIO: 4:3 | REGION: 1 / NTSC | DISCS: 1


EXTRAS:

"Also from Cheezy Flicks" trailer reel.

RECOMMENDED VIEWING:


- The Wicker Man
- Satan's Sadists
- Angel Unchained / Cycle Savages
- Devil's Angels
- Savage Cinema (12 Movie Collection)

The image displays three movie posters side-by-side. The first poster on the left is for 'Headspace', featuring a dark, textured skull with the title 'HEADSPACE' in large, bold letters at the top. The middle poster is for 'The Best Seduction', featuring a woman with long dark hair and the title 'the best seduction' in a stylized font. The third poster on the right is for 'Vampire Secrets', featuring a close-up of a vampire's face with fangs and the title 'Vampire SECRETS' in a gothic font.



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