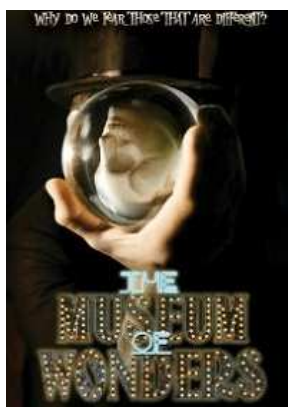




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Museum of Wonders, The

REVIEWED BY: Kami Posted on 30/07/2012



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This award winning, visually stunning European rip off/homage to Todd Browning's *Freaks* is stacked with the deep philosophical bullshit that you expect from Euro "art-house" movies but at least it looks great.

Instead of a traveling circus, the movie is set in a nightclub/museum run by Marcel (Fabiano Lioi), a dwarf who has inherited a large sum of dollars and who is being set up by hot babe Salome and her strongman boyfriend Sansone, who I might point out looks like '70s prog rock keyboard player, making it very hard to take him seriously. Marcel, smitten with Salome can't see that she is just after his money but the other (loosely defined) freaks can.

I say loosely defined because in my book mime artists, tattooed body piercers, a bearded lady and the moon from *The Big Blue House* (!) do not constitute freaks. Hell, that's just a Friday night at my local pub.

The story is pretty much the same as Browning's classic film even down to the wedding banquet which is pretty much lifted straight from the real thing but Christopharo throws in a couple of irritating 'to the camera' narrators, opera, flashbacks, dream sequences and the usual

deep philosophical bullshit that only the Europeans can do or care to.

At times it's like watching a bad cabaret festival just with subtitles and tattoos. Having said all this though, I couldn't tear my eyes away from the screen because of the look and feel, the visual style and of course because it's a film in Italian with English subtitles so I had to watch to find out what they were saying (even though most of the time it was a load of old cobblers anyway).

Where the film differs from *Freaks* is the ending, a much bloodier finale but it has to be said, totally lacking the style and wham of Browning's finale. But give the movie its dues, even though I didn't care for the philosophy or rhetoric, the film still drew me in, it still had me on tenterhooks waiting to see what was going to happen to the dastardly duo, it really does look stunning, it is well done, it's just that they were never going to beat the original no matter how much makeup and tattoos and body piercings they laid on.

If nothing else though you have to watch it just for the cleaning lady's 'shoe monologue', a shining moment amidst the singing, dancing, flexing and bad cabaret. Cudos as well to Fabiano Lioi who, it must be said, held the film together with a (mostly) sublime performance as Marcel.

DISC DETAILS:

DIRECTOR(S): Domiziano Christopharo | COUNTRY: Italy | YEAR 2010 | DISTRIBUTOR(S): MVD | RUNNING TIME: 99 minutes | ASPECT RATIO: 1.85:1 | REGION: All / NTSC | DISCS: 1

EXTRAS:

None

RECOMMENDED VIEWING:

- [Freaks](#)
- [Cabaret](#)
- [She Freak](#)
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IMAGE GALLERY:



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