

CINE-APOCALYPSE

THE DEADLY SPAWN (1983) Dir: Douglas McKeown

20:39 [1983](#), [aliens](#), [Creatures](#), [Deadly Spawn](#), [horror](#), [Sci-fi](#), [No comments](#)



Here comes another review from our U.S based reviewer, Shawn Francis. This time around Shawn takes a look at the new U.S blu-ray of the low budget 1983 creature feature, The Deadly Spawn. For U.K readers, this film is available in U.K on DVD from Arrow Video, the U.S release comes from Elite Entertainment. Check out Shawn's Review after the jump...

Written By Shawn Francis

For me *THE DEADLY SPAWN* is synonymous with the heyday of Fangoria magazine. I never owned issue #17, the one where the movie made its bloody debut, but for years afterwards they would occasionally run a photo from the movie, and before I ever saw the flick, this is how I became acquainted with it. It was always either a black and white shot of the spawn, or—gasp!—a color one that showed the beast drenched in blood with bodyparts strewn about the plasma soaked floor. Everytime I came across one of these color photos it made me squeamish, yet at the same I was awestruck at how original this alien menace looked.

Sad to say the *DEADLY SPAWN* was never broadcast on cable, nor did I ever come across it on TV, and even with the advent of VHS, and our family's first VCR on Christmas day of 1984, this movie was absent from the home video market until 1996.

I had gotten a catalog in the mall that was selling it, and I leapt at the chance to own it. This was Spring of 1996, and the night I watched it, despite being twenty-seven years old, I was grossed out and horrified by the gut munching carnage this ET wrought upon everyone and everything it came into contact



A P

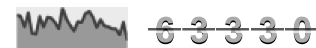


Popular Tags Blog Archives

LATEST E EW

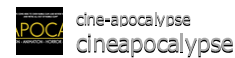


T TA A EME S



This is an example of a *HTML* caption with a link.

T TITER



cineapocalypse @LambThe Cine-Apocalypse: DOCTOR WHO: THE AMBASSADORS OF DEATH [cine-apocalypse.com/2012/10/doctor...](#) 2 days ago · reply · retweet · favorite

cineapocalypse Cine-Apocalypse: DOCTOR WHO: THE AMBASSADORS OF DEATH [cine-apocalypse.com/2012/10/doctor...](#) 2 days ago · reply · retweet · favorite

cineapocalypse @LambThe Cine-Apocalypse: THE DEADLY SPAWN (1983) Dir: Douglas McKeown [cine-apocalypse.com/2012/10/the-de...](#) 2 days ago · reply · retweet · favorite

cineapocalypse Cine-Apocalypse: THE DEADLY SPAWN (1983) Dir: Douglas McKeown

Join the conversation

FACE K

with. And the fact that the movie was done, effectively, I might add, on a low budget made the gore even more palpable. It was the little spawns eating the skin off the severed head of Charles' mother that did me in. I don't think I ever recovered from that moment.

After the movie was over, I was still so shaken by that image. I kept the VHS, but never watched it ever again. I remember THE MIGHTY MORPHIN POWER RANGERS was on that night, and I watched it just to cleanse my mind of the movie. Some years later, I finally got rid of the tape, but like always when I do that from out of nowhere I always get the urge to want to watch it again.

Forgot all about the movie, until one day in 2004, I see on the net THE DEADLY SPAWN is going to hit DVD for the first time through Synapse Films, and it's going to be loaded with extras. As with most horror flicks that traumatize me, I got excited and knew from the get go I was going to buy it. I did and never looked back. To this day, I still get anxious when it comes to all the carnage in the basement.

For those not familiar with the movie all you need to know is that this creature is brought to earth one night in a meteor, it's small, but once it tastes human flesh it begins to grow. It hides out in the basement of this family and proceeds to decimate any living being that comes within reach. It produces young which reach out to other homes and proceeds to create a living, bloody hell amongst the inhabitants. Will anyone be left alive in the end? Can it be stopped? Watch and see.

Here we are in the year 2012, and the Spawn has finally come to blu-ray. Actually, it came to blu-ray a year before, but, from what I understand, it's transfer was handled poorly and resulted in an uproar within the horror community. Ted Bohus, the producer, vowed to go back and fix it, but this new transfer doesn't look any better. Like the standard DVD, it's still windowboxed at 1.33:1, but the clarity isn't quite as good as the DVD, reminding me all too well of how Image handled another cult classic—cough, cough, RE-ANIMATOR, cough, cough—that just recently hit blu-ray.

Until we get a proper high definition transfer I cannot, in good standing, recommend this blu. If you want to see the Spawn, I recommend buying Synapse's standard DVD. Now, having said that, for those who have never seen the movie, and don't own the standard DVD, and really want to own it on blu-ray no matter what, I will admit the movie is watchable. You just need to keep in the back of your mind that the DVD boasts a picture that is moderately more vivid.



And you must also be aware there are some differences in the extras. What's not included are the two commentaries, Bohus and his editor, Marc Harwood, did a new commentary track for this blu and that is the only track present here. It's informative, and I learned some things I didn't know, or probably forgot about, like, John Dodds, and the director they chose not getting along, which resulted in the director getting booted off; the fact that there's a museum in Germany dedicated to all things Spawn, and Bohus voicing his wishful desire to see Hollywood remake it. Some photos in the Photo Gallery from the standard DVD have not been ported over either, nor were the filmmaker's biographies.

From what I could gather there are two new featurettes exclusive to the blu-ray: 'Take One, (24:56)—this looks like a public access show that Marc Harwood appeared on back when the Spawn had just been completed. He talks about the making of it, brought along a few clips and

a Spawn prop from the movie, and 'Local News Segments' (40:32)—another blast from the past where the makers of the movie hit the local news stations to promote their movie. The longest segment was very interesting; it was a call-in show Bohus was on during Halloween 1991, around the time METAMORPHOSIS: THE ALIEN FACTOR was already done and playing overseas only, for the domestic rights were still caught in litigation. It was weird seeing Bohus without his trademark beard, and longish hair.

The rest of the extras on the standard DVD—Alternate Opening, Casting And Gags, Bloopers And Outtakes, Visit With The Deadly Spawn, Slideshow and Comic Book Preview—have been ported over. Before the movie starts, Ted added a short video prologue to this version where he shows off the merchandise the Spawn has generated over the years, and the one I found the coolest was The Deadly Spawn hand puppet.

Despite the lackluster presentation of this print, I am still a fan of yours, Ted, and wish nothing but the best for you and this movie, which is why I need to say, if you're reading this, for the love of God, man, bite the bullet and take the movie back to Synapse and let Don do a proper HD transfer!

Film



Disc



Recommend this on Google

[Home](#)

[Older Post](#)

0 Comments:

Cine-Apocalypse.com on Facebook

Like

Cine-Apocalypse.com shared a link.

DOCTOR WHO: THE AMBASSADORS OF DEATH ~ Cine-Apocalypse
www.cine-apocalypse.com

Saturday at 12:45pm

Cine-Apocalypse.com shared a link.

THE DEADLY SPAWN (1983) Dir: Douglas McKeown ~ Cine-

40 people like Cine-Apocalypse.com.

Mc Dmitri Rik Azri Tim

Karl Nev ertooeai Alex Jude Bay view

Facebook social plugin

P P L A P S T S



DEATH PROOF (2007) REVIEW

Put your hands up if you like Quentin Tarantino, no seriously how many of you actually like his films, Reservoir Dogs, Pulp Fiction? they

We...



TOP 22 ZOMBIE FILMS

Time for another Top ? countdown , as the blog has changed from Pedro Of the Dead I thought it would be a good idea to take a

look at my to...



YOUNG BRUCE LEE (2010) FILM AND DVD REVIEW

This review is for the upcoming U.K release of Young Bruce Lee , a film that follows the master during his

first 19 years on the planet. It ...



THE DEADLY SPAWN (1983) Dir: Douglas McKeown

Here comes another review from our U.S based reviewer, Shawn Francis. This time around Shawn takes a look at the new U.S bl...



MY HALLOWEEN TOP 5 BY RICHARD ALAN LONG

I guess if I had to pick my top 10 horror films of all time it would include five definite unchanging titles (The Exorcis...

D S Q A M E

All reviews (C) Peter W. Osmond 2012
Design and Layout (C) Peter W. Osmond 2012

Additional Reviews by

Shawn Francis