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Movie Reviews:



The Deadly Spawn: Millennium Edition Elite Entertainment – 2012

Written & Directed by
Douglas McKeown

Starring
Charles George
Hildebrandt
Tom DeFranco
Richard Lee Porter
Jean Tafler
Karen Tighe

THE DEADLY SPAWN is a good old fashioned monster movie. An alien crash lands in a small New Jersey town, taking shelter in the basement of a home. It ends up growing to giant proportions after devouring everyone who crosses its path.

This is definitely a very low budget picture (I've heard 25K). It's highly ambitious and has the "splatter" element that sparked many films of its kind back in the early 80s. The acting is for the most part decent, with the kid Charles (Charles George Hildebrandt) leaving the best screen presence. Artist Tim Hildebrandt's son has a striking resemblance to the young boy seen in Romano Scavolini's NIGHTMARE.

The real star of THE DEADLY SPAWN is the aliens, which are provided by John Dods. He does a pretty amazing job considering all things. You've got a head full of teeth, extended mouths with teeth and little worm-like things twisting and squirming about.

Arnold Gargiulo (who I worked with on my film OUT OF TOUCH) does a very good job of creating all sorts of splatter effects, including a decapitation of one of the characters least likely to lose their head.

Michael Perilstein's music is another quality. His electronic score supports the movie's Science Fiction foundation.

I do think the film could have been edited a little tighter in the special effects scenes because when you dwell on showing the SPAWN too long you can see it takes away their power. I'm not complaining about the quantity of blood, but when you look at latex and rubber long enough, you can see it's not real and this takes away something from the illusion.

The Blu-ray comes with a full slate of Special Features. They include; Alternated Opening which features a little rotoscoping with the meteorite and Blooper and Outtake Reel. I found "A Visit with the Deadly Spawn" pretty interesting because you get to see John Dod's home and all the beasties and other creatures he's working on (this includes the Bigfoot monster from NIGHTBEAST). There's also Audition and Casting Footage, which I didn't find that important. There's Local News Spots and an episode of a New Jersey call-in talk show that's about 45 minutes long. Plus there is a 24-minute episode of TAKE ONE where Editor Marc Harwood talks. Finally there is an Audio Commentary from Producer Ted A. Bohus and Harwood.

I wouldn't quantify THE DEADLY SPAWN as a classic but rather an ambitious little monster movie that may gave you a few laughs and a few gross out moments for your entertainment pleasure.

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