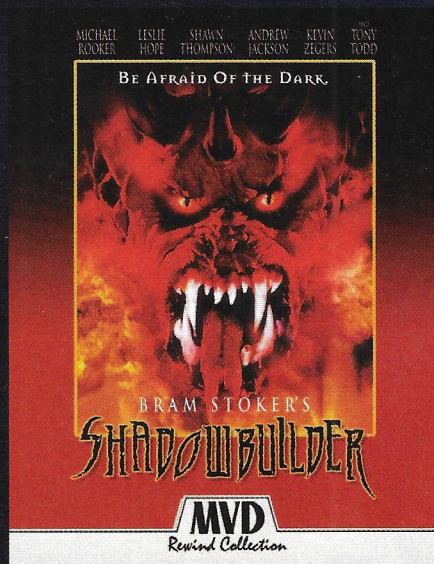


performances feel forced and out of place against Jessica Cameron's performance. In the lead role of Mary, Cameron delivers a solid performance which is ultimately terrifying and goes a long way to carry the film through its more dull moments. That said, gorehounds need not worry as Biro's efforts harness plenty of visual effects that will test even the strongest of stomachs out there.

Overall, I was left impressed by what *The Song of Solomon* has to offer audiences even though it offers nothing new to other possession films that came before it. It doesn't break any new ground nor can it stand shoulder to shoulder with the greats that came before it. However, the film does enough of its own work to keep audiences invested and it is for this reason why I urge you to seek it out.

Rating: 🧟🧟🧟🧟



SPECIAL FEATURES: Audiences can look forward to being spoiled by a plethora of extras on this disc. Firstly there is an audio commentary with Director Stephen Biro and lead actress Jessica Cameron. There is also a second audio commentary with Stephen Biro, Marcus Koch & Jerami Cruise. Both audio tracks offer audiences plenty of insight into the making of the film as do the behind the scenes featurettes. Also available on the disc are a series of one-to-one interviews with Stephen Biro, Jessica Cameron, Gene Palubicki, David McMahon, special effects artist Marcus Koch and director of photography Chris Hilleke. Add to that a bunch of outtakes and photo gallery and what you have here is a disc packed with lots of content that will add to the viewing experience.

Rating: 🧟🧟🧟🧟

THE SONG OF SOLOMAN is out now on **US DVD and Blu-ray** courtesy of MVD.

REVIEWED BY JON DICKINSON

BRAM STOKER'S SHADOWBUILDER

THE FILM: Based on the short story by Bram Stoker, *Shadowbuilder* is directed by Jamie Dixon and tells the story of an evil archbishop who summons a demon to destroy the world. However, for the creature to unleash its evil on the world, it must hunt and find an innocent soul of one particular child to sacrifice. What happens next is a race against time for Michael Rooker's troubled priest to save the day.

Embodying everything that a 90s straight to video horror should be, Director Jamie Dixon's feature debut takes his audience on a ride packed to the brim with dodgy CGI effects, over the top performances and lashings of questionable gore. Although Dixon's direction favours style over any attempt to build tension, there's still plenty of fun to be had here if you're able to switch off and enjoy some mindless cheese.

Like any good horror film audiences should have two things, a hero and a villain and in this film the balance is disappointingly uneven. In the hero's corner we have Michael Rooker as Jacob Vassey, the gun toting priest. In the role Rooker is every bit as crazy as he is determined to stop the evil at all costs. His performance echos the same intensity as Donald Pleasance had in *Halloween* but is far too over the top by the time the third act comes around. Playing opposite Rooker as the film's big bad is Andrew Jackson who stars as the Shadow Demon. As an actor Andrew Jackson does perfectly fine to bring the demon to life but the effects used to convey his powers leaves a lot to be desired.

Starring opposite Rooker and Jackson is a very young Kevin Zegers. As a child actor, Zeger actually steals the show delivering a strong stand-out performance as the kid caught up in the middle of a fight between good and evil. In the role, Zeger

is fantastic and goes above and beyond to create a character who is genuinely interesting to watch. As for the rest of the cast, which is largely made of unknown actors, there isn't much to write about as they are easily forgettable. That said, there's a very interesting appearance from Tony Todd which caught me by surprise.

Beyond that, *Shadowbuilder* is a fun but flawed 90s horror. It's effects have not aged well and look somewhat silly on screen which had a direct impact on my enjoyment of the film. Thankfully, Rooker and Zegers' performances are able to carry audiences past the more distracting moments of the film. So, if like me, you have a penchant for 90s horror then you should certainly check this one out!

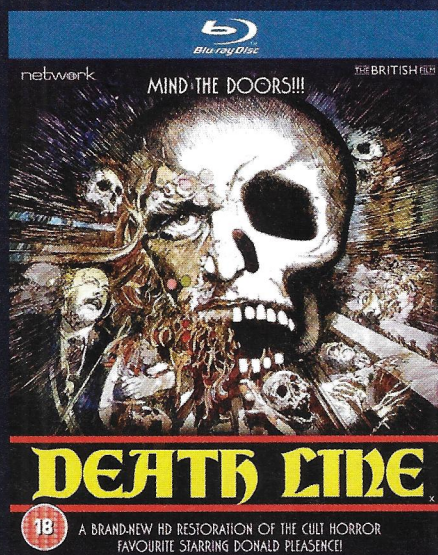
Rating: 🧟🧟🧟🧟

SPECIAL FEATURES: Not only can viewers look forward to enjoying every frame of *Shadowbuilder* presented in 1080p, fans of the film can also look forward to an informative Audio Commentary from Director Jamie Dixon. If that wasn't enough this disc also comes with a stunning thirty-minute "Making of *Shadowbuilder*" featurette including in-depth interviews with Jamie Dixon, Michael Stokes, Andrew Jackson and Tony Todd. The extras don't end there either as there are two additional featurettes "Shadowbuilder: Visual Effects" and "Shadowbuilder: Kevin Zegers". Although brief, both featurettes provide even more insight into the making of the film which I'm sure fans will enjoy watching too. Rounding up the extras on the disc are the promotional material of the film including the theatrical trailer which is interesting to see how the film was marketed to horror fans. All in all, a very solid collection of extras that will make the purchase of the film worth your while.

Rating: 🧟🧟🧟🧟

BRAM STOKER'S SHADOWBUILDER is out now on **US Blu-ray and Amazon Prime Video** courtesy of MVD.

REVIEWED BY JON DICKINSON



DEATH LINE

THE FILM: When discussing the classics, *Death Line* is a name that never enters the conversation much. Gary Sherman's 1972 British shocker stars late greats such as Christopher Lee and Donald Pleasance, yet it's never mentioned among their best roles even though it deserves to be.

The premise is simple; a pair of American students discover a collapsed person in the London Underground. Then, upon returning from trying to find help, they discover that the body has vanished.