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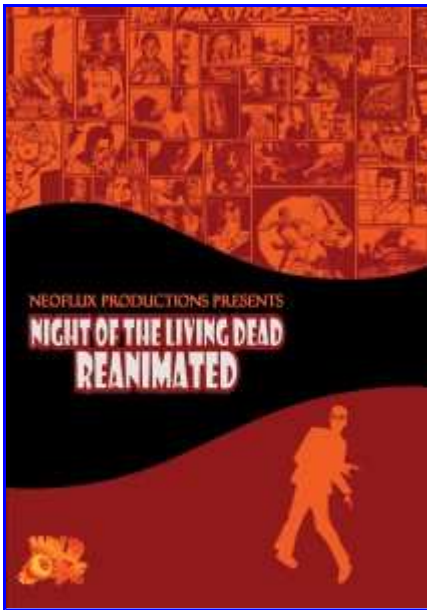
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Night of the Living Dead: Reanimated DVD Review

September 4, 2010 No Comments



Night of the Living Dead: Reanimated is a collection of mixed media animation from artists across the globe. The basic concept is to retell George Romero's classic zombie story through hundreds of animated segments that correspond with the movie's original audio track. At times it works flawlessly and at other spots, someone not as familiar with the movie will find themselves shaking their head and wandering off to the kitchen. Overall everyone who is a fan of the movie or of animation will be able to find something to enjoy.

I felt the rapid-fire rate of transition between animators throughout the movie was often a bit too rapid, which often prevented a smooth viewing experience. While some styles such as drawings, le  blocks, dolls and cgi worked well, instances of still pictures just seemed to slow the pace down even more, likewise the enhancement of live action, while a valid art form, didn't quite seem to match the overall style of the movie.

It took me two nights to watch the movie and all of the extras. About midway through I found myself overloaded by the massive variety of animation mediums and everything was starting to blur into one mass of art. I found myself taking a lot of notes on sequences I particularly enjoyed as it would be nearly impossible to recall them otherwise. The sequence where we find Ben first encountering the zombies is quite well done, as was the initial "They're coming to get you Barbara moment, when the zombie breaks her windshield. I didn't particularly care for the treatment of the infamous trowel scene in the basement however. There are a ton of other pros and cons I could mention, however art is definitely in the eye of the beholder and my list of enjoyable vs. unenjoyable moments might well be the mirror image of what you enjoy about this art collective.

There are a lot of special features on this release. Horror host fans will be happy to know that everyone's favorite vampire, Count Gore De Vol provides a new opening and prologue for the film straight from his dungeon in classic Count De Vol style. The most unique one is probably Night of the Living Box Art. This featurette focuses on a super collector who has amassed quite a few variations of the public domain VHS releases of Night of the Living Dead. While it is fun to see all of these covers and actually reminisce over a few I have owned in the past, hearing the collector describe each one for half an hour got quite a bit repetitive. A faster paced slideshow would probably have made it a lot more fun. There are a lot of commentary tracks that range curator Jonathan Maberry to various artists calling in to talk about their contributions. There are additional animated shorts by some of the artists as well as scenes that did not make the final cut. Finally a Zombie discussion panel from a recent horror convention is included.

Night of the Living Dead: Reanimated is a unique adventure for those very familiar with the story. It is not, however a coherent cartoon version of George Romero's masterpiece. If you actually want to follow the story and do not know it by heart, I recommend picking up any of the 4000 public domain releases of the original movie before you pop Reanimated into the DVD player. It is an interesting collaboration amongst 100+ artists to create a tribute to a classic movie and should be seen by horror fans as well as animation buffs. There are enough extras to keep you occupied for hours after the feature presentation ends so pick up a copy.

Recommended for Classic Horror Enthusiasts, Animation lovers and Zombie fans

Special Features:

- Special Introduction by Horror Host Count Gore De Vol
- Commentary with curator horror author Jonathan Maberry
- Making of NOTLD:R commentary track
- NOTLD:R artist call in commentaries
- Coloring book contest winners
- Short films
- Alternate and deleted scenes
- Horror comics and related art
- Trailers
- Behind The Scenes: Animation Process
- The Zombie Encounter Panel discussion
- Night of the Living Box Art

Night of the Living Dead: Reanimated is available on DVD now, courtesy of Wild Eye Pictures and MVD Distribution.



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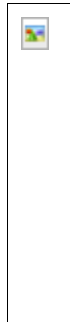
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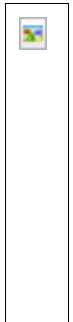
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