

# Night of the Living Dead: Reanimated – 2010 Horror DVD Release

Dec 9, 2010 Hari Navarro

George A. Romero yet again has the corpse of his original horror classic picked over and repackaged for a new and frenetic modern audience.

The original *Night of the Living Dead* (1968) maintains a unique piece of horror cinema history in that it is a relatively modern classic that has already passed into the public domain. This due to a copyright blunder that saw the films initial distributor neglecting to stamp this seminal zombie mainstay with its obligatory circled C. Nonetheless bespectacled horror icon George A. Romero has since built a career almost entirely composed of titles that include the word dead. He and an army of imitators drawing sustenance and inspiration from a seemingly never-ending legion of hollow eyed staggering cadavers.

## The Living Dead Get a New Lease on Life

*Night of the Living Dead: Reanimated* is no easy watch. This ambitious yet flawed production attempts to rework the original film scene by scene through the eyes of nearly 150 various international artists, animators and doodlers. But the finished product chops and changes between its multitude of styles and techniques with such regularity that perhaps it will be only hardened fans that will have even the slightest chance of gleaning a narrative. Story may not have been of prime importance to the creators of NOTLD: Reanimated, but to the uninitiated it was vital.

## Pummeled Storyboard Makes for a Grueling Watch

Expect no silky smooth Pixar-esque style animation here. No flawless transitions nor state of the art CGI. This is a far dirtier and rough edged creature. It is one that requires much of its audience and as such may alienate many before it even has a chance to fully hit its stride.

Some steady semblance of story line would have provided a platform along which the films re-envisioned expressions could lay out. Surely the original films soundtrack and dialog were still in place but a more discerning directorial visual eye would have complemented the existing material. Instead a thick swath of fan-art is ladled atop a soundtrack that buckles, therefore burying whatever substance and message the original still had to offer.

## An Eclectic Mix of Horror Artwork

The artwork itself is an eclectic mixed bag taking in everything from finely detailed comic-book art to cubist animation to cheese ball stop-motion Barbie Doll sequences. There is no apparent rhyme nor reason to the order in which these various elements are spliced together and the result is a far harder pill to swallow than it need be. But all praise to the concept and there is an obvious passion for the source material that is instilled here. Though

12/16/2010

Night of the Living Dead: Reanimated ...

unfortunately the more frivolous of these segments only serve to cheapen and lampoon what could have been a wonderfully rendered and pointed horror homage. 2.5/5

## **Night of the Living Dead: Reanimated**

*Tagline: It's Night Like You've Never Seen Before*

- Director: Mike Schneider (supervising director)
- Starring: Duane Jones, Judith O'Dea, Karl Hardman (Archive voice and image footage)
- DVD Release Date: August 24, 2010
- 101 minutes
- United States

*Copyright Hari Navarro. Contact the author to obtain permission for republication.*