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DVD review

I've typically veered away from the whole bigfoot genre. I just don't get the heebie jeebies from bigfoot. It's the same reason I tend to avoid water based fright movies (Jaws, Piranha and such). They just don't blow my skirt up. However, I must capitulate and admit that there are fun films to be had in the big footprint of sasquatch.

Assault of the Sasquatch is one of those. It makes no claim to greatness but is gleefully happy to be exactly what it is - a sassy, action-filled and violent B-film chock full of exuberance and colorful characters.

Rather than getting stuck out in the woods with a furry beastie (which probably wouldn't have been half as interesting), we get a sort of Assault on Precinct 13 meets Bigfoot kind of thing. Bigfoot goes urban? Yeah, and it works.

A bear poacher gets a bigger, better and badder catch when he nabs bigfoot. Too bad the local park rangers nab him - and bring his truck, which, unbeknownst to them, contains a sedated (for the moment) bigfoot, to a city precinct. He gets tossed in jail; meanwhile, bigfoot wakes up and busts out of the truck.

But that's not the only problem with which the park rangers and skeleton crew of police folks have to confront. Also arrested this night is a bad dude from one of the park rangers' pasts - the criminal who murdered his wife. In the midst of all this, said park ranger's daughter shows up at the precinct to meet her dad at the end of his shift. Besides the young and socially awkward cop who has a crush on her, now she's got to contend with her overprotective ranger dad AND the bastard who killed her mother years ago.

As allies, they have the badass police secretary who knows a thing or two about knife-fighting, and Dad's female park ranger partner, plus the senior cop on duty. In addition, they have the crusty old asshole who captured bigfoot, a man they coerce into partnership since they're determined to survive the night and they figure he's (a) responsible for the predicament and (b) knows more about the sasquatch than they do.

So they've got an escaped convict inside the station, bigfoot outside - AND an unscrupulous big game hunter on the way to pick up sasquatch, thanks to a call put in by the crusty old dude who caught the beast - which, by the way, is smarter than any dumb old bear, which means the monster has to be not only overpowered but outwitted.

All told, it's a clusterfuck of a situation. The filmmakers make aforementioned clusterfuck high energy, action-based, gory enough for horror fans, and complex enough with multiple characters and interesting backstory - even throwing in comic relief in the form of a pair of cryptozoology-obsessed nerdy kids - so that the end result is self-aware, fun, exciting and violent.

www.mvdvisual.com



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Upchuck Undergrind listens to a little bit of a lot of things - just note the eclecticism of his reviews. He also

reads voraciously and loves movies. He is a very open-minded Episcopalian (and student of Buddhism and Hinduism) who thinks Slayer is one of the greatest metal bands. Ever. In addition to his work with Corazine - for which he has written since its inception (he is a Fishcomcollective veteran) - he also writes for DJFix.com.

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