

HOUSE OF THE DAMNED

PRESS RELEASE

A Sean Weathers cult classic, the 15th anniversary edition of the original House of the Damned.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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ATTRIBUTES

Principle Production: February 1996

Run Time: 72 minutes

Production Value: Ultra Low Budget

Format: NTSC

Aspect Ratio: 1.33:1

Sound Mix: Stereo

Studio: Full Circle Filmworks

Locations: Boston, MA & Brooklyn, NY

Set In: House

FLAGS

Adult Language

Graphic Violence

Gore

Brief Nudity

HOUSE OF THE DAMNED CAN BE FOUND ON THE FOLLOWING WEBSITES

Imdb.com

Amazon.com

Allrovi.com

Wikipedia.com

Moviefone.com

Fandango.com

Rottentomatoes.com

Mrskin.com

Fullcirclefilmworks.com

Abandomoviez.net (Spanish)

Gaspmagazine.net A print publication as well (movie review)

Scaredstiffreviews.com (movie review)

Thisissomescene.com (movie review)

Pulpmovies.com (movie review)

Shockingimages.com (movie review)

Celluloidnightmares.co.uk (movie review)

Dvdverdict.com (movie review)

*****Trailers, clips and interviews can be seen on youtube,

myspace, dailymotion, twitvid, blip.tv, videobash, vimeo, metacafe, facebook, and thatguywiththeglasses. As well as many other popular video sites and countless other movie sites*****

CREDITS

CAST

Valerie Alexander as LIZ: Despite spraining her knee in a chase scene early in production, Alexander refused to delay the shoot and would go on to perform all of her own stunts with the injury.

Glenn "Illa" Skeete as BEN: Illa wrote the two rap songs he performs in the film from bullet points given to him by Weathers. He was also given the freedom to tweak his own dialogue, something he would do in the several other films he shot with the director.

Walter Romney as STEVE: A friend of the director Romney took the role as a favor to him, he would go on to work with Weathers on several more productions.

Johnny Black as NAHUM: Black got the role through lead actress Valerie Alexander, who he was performing in a play with at the time.

Blue as HEATHER: In a recent interview Weathers said, "If I had that exact same cast from my first film to work with today I would have swapped Blue and Valerie and had Blue as my lead."

Clinton Philbert as KEVIN: In the first draft of the script this character was intended to be the lead.

Buddy Love as DAVID: Because of scheduling conflicts, Love's character was written out of the final sequence of the film.

PRINCIPAL CREW

Sean Weathers - Executive
 Producer/Screenwriter/Director/Editor
Aswad Issa - Producer/Cinematographer
Kurt Thomas - Associate Producer
George Lopez - Associate Producer
Glenn "Illa" Skeete - Sound
Frank West - Casting Coordinator
Damien Lambert - Storyboard
Jahvaughn Lambert - Script Supervisor

TAG LINES

Damn this house!
 Payback is a bitch!

GENRE

Horror

TYPE

Haunted House Film
Horror Comedy
Creature Film

ARTISTIC/PRODUCTION STYLES

BLACK & WHITE

PREMISE

Deception

MESSAGE

"We are never deceived; we deceive ourselves."

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

CONCEPT

A woman uses witchcraft to try to steal her daughter's youth.

WHY IS THIS FILM RELEVANT?

Shot in February 1996, the original House of the Damned marked the directorial debut of Sean Weathers and the first Full Circle Filmworks production.

CONTEXT

Inspired by THE RETURN OF THE LIVING DEAD and EVIL DEAD movies as well as THE TWILIGHT ZONE television series. Weathers wanted this film to be something that combined all of the things he enjoyed watching as a kid, shot with an all black cast, which is a first for a film of this genre.

SIMILAR MOVIES

The Return of the Living Dead, Evil Dead, Evil Dead 2: Dead by Dawn, Re-Animator, Dead Alive

PLOT SUMMARY

After the gruesome and mysterious murder of her father, Liz goes back home for answers. Only to be greeted by more questions and the horrible possibility that her mother may be the killer. Before Liz can comprehend everything going on around her, she finds that the murder was just a ruse to get her home and that she is the killer's true target. Things get

supernatural and quirky very quickly in this horror comedy. Highlights including a rapping zombie and a lesbian zombie being shoved into a closet. This film is also note worthy as being the directorial debut of [[Sean Weathers]] and it was also dedicated to his best-friend and script supervisor [[Jahvaughn Lambert]], who committed suicide before the film was finished editing.

THEMES

Death Of A Loved One
Obsessive Quests
Curses and Spells
Zombies

MOTIFS

HAUNTED HOUSE - Footage of the house coming alive and things moving on their own is spread throughout the film before and/or after people are killed. This is to remind the viewer of the supernatural context of the occurrences and of Emily's evil presence, in her absence.

SYMBOLS

THE HOUSE - various exterior shots of house are shown at strategic points in the film to subconsciously have the viewer see the house as another evil character waiting to strike.

TOPE

Campy

MOODS

Frantic, Tense, Creepy

MAJOR CONFLICT

Liz has to break an evil curse before the stroke of midnight or die.

OPENING IMAGE

The house

EXPOSITION

Emily kills Steve [her husband, Liz's father] in-front of Naham.

RISING ACTION

Nahum tells Liz the truth about her mothers evil intentions.

CLIMAX

After seeing her mother come home from her date, Liz races to the basement to try and find the scroll to break the curse.

FALLING ACTION

Liz makes it the basement finds the scroll, fights off her mother, reads it backwards and breaks the curse. The undead then come back and kill Emily.

CHARACTER BREAKDOWNS

Character (protagonist): LIZ (ELIZABETH)

Age: 20

Status: Single

Orientation: Straight

Hometown: Boston, MA

Body type: Athletic

Ethnicity: African American

Religion: Not religious, but believes in god

Zodiac Sign: Aries

Children: Some day

Education: Currently in college working on her Masters in education

Hobbies: Playing chess, Track and field

Occupation: Math tutor/full-time student

In A Word: Frantic

Driving Force: Finding out the truth surrounding her father's mysterious death.

Breakdown: An education major, she is in her senior year in college at Howard University, she left school and came back home for her father's funeral.

Character: BEN

Age: 22

Status: Single

Orientation: Straight

Hometown: Boston, MA

Body type: Athletic

Ethnicity: African American

Religion: Not religious, but believes in god

Zodiac Sign: Libra

Children: Some day

Education: High School graduate

Hobbies: Playing and watching basketball, playing video games

Occupation: Bags groceries

In A Word: Rapper

Driving Force: Sucker for love.

Breakdown: He was in love with Liz while they were kids and now that she's back he thinks he has a second chance at love.

Character: STEVE
Age: 39
Status: Married
Orientation: Straight
Hometown: Washington, DC
Body type: Slim/Slender
Ethnicity: African American
Religion: Catholic
Zodiac Sign: Leo
Children: A daughter
Education: Masters in accounting
Hobbies: Playing chess, reading
Occupation: Accountant
In A Word: Ghost
Driving Force: Saving his daughter
Breakdown: With a distant wife, crazy father-in-law and dead-end job, the only thing that kept Steve going in life was his love for his daughter and now that same thing brings him back from the afterlife.

Character: NAHUM
Age: 57
Status: Single
Orientation: Straight
Hometown: Charlotte, NC
Body type: Slightly overweight
Ethnicity: African American
Religion: Baptist
Zodiac Sign: Aquarius
Children: None
Education: High school graduate
Hobbies: Playing chess, reading
Occupation: None
In A Word: Scared
Driving Force: Fear
Breakdown: The only son Emily had, he would pass for her son, then brother, and eventually her father, as he aged but she didn't. In constant fear for his life and scared to fight back after seeing his mother's powers on countless occasions.

Character: STACY
Age: 22
Status: Single
Orientation: Bisexual
Hometown: Boston, MA
Body type: Athletic
Ethnicity: African American
Religion: Atheist
Zodiac Sign: Sagittarius
Children: Doesn't want kids
Education: Bachelors in occupational therapy
Hobbies: Shopping, bar hopping
Occupation: Sales person at Macy's department store
In A Word: Slut

Driving Force: Sex

Breakdown: A bisexual, she usually gets anyone she wants men or women, except for Liz whom she hopes to be her next conquest now that she's back.

Character: HEATHER

Age: 21

Status: In a relationship

Orientation: Straight

Hometown: Boston, MA

Body type: Athletic

Ethnicity: African American

Religion: Evangelical Christian

Zodiac Sign: Pisces

Children: Wants kids soon

Education: Bachelors in education

Hobbies: Interpretive dancing

Occupation: Kindergarten teacher

In A Word: Tomboy

Driving Force: Helping others.

Breakdown: She is the main person keeping the childhood group, friends for so long. Loves and wants to have kids. She has a crush on Kevin because of his childlike innocence, but doesn't act on it because she is already in a long term relationship.

Character: KEVIN

Age: 20

Status: Single

Orientation: Bisexual

Hometown: Boston, MA

Body type: Average

Ethnicity: African American

Religion: Not religious but believes in god

Zodiac Sign: Cancer

Children: Undecided

Education: High school graduate

Hobbies: Playing and watching basketball, playing video games

Occupation: Works the desk and phones at a kinkos.

In A Word: Dopey

Driving Force: Having fun

Breakdown: Mentally slow after being dropped on his head as a baby. He was befriended by Ben and Heather when they were kids and brought into the group out of sympathy, but has become a great friend.

Character (antagonist): EMILY (QUEEN EMERALD)

Age: Unknown

Status: Married

Orientation: Straight

Hometown: Unknown parts of Africa

Body type: Slim/Slender

Ethnicity: African

Religion: Atheist

Zodiac Sign: Unknown
Children: 23 confirmed by Nahum, actual number unknown
Education: Unknown
Hobbies: Living the life of a trophy wife, homicide
Occupation: Model
In A Word: Vain
Driving Force: Obsession with her looks and age.
Breakdown: In the course of killing almost 50 families over several hundred years she has become black hearted and more powerful than ever in witchcraft.

Character: DAVID
Age: 30
Status: Single
Orientation: Straight
Hometown: Boston, MA
Body type: Slim/Slender
Ethnicity: African American & Caucasian
Religion: Catholic
Zodiac Sign: Capricorn
Children: Doesn't want kids
Education: Masters in real estate
Hobbies: Dating
Occupation: Real-estate mogul
In A Word: Gigolo
Driving Force: Pleasure seeking
Breakdown: A horny self made millionaire ready for his next conquest.

PRODUCTION NOTES

In late 1995, Weathers emailed Issa a rough outline of the script. At that point, it was just a 20 minute short. Weathers would eventually elongate it to approximately 70 pages. Weathers and Issa cast mostly their friends. The project was filmed over a month, the first week in Boston & the last few weeks at Weathers' house in Brooklyn.

TRIVIA

- The original title of the film was HOUSE OF THE DEAD, it was changed in fear that too many films had that title.
- The film is dedicated to Jahvaughn Lambert, Weathers' best-friend who committed suicide before the film was done editing.
- The Kevin character was initially intended to be the main character after Weathers watched Evil Dead II. This was changed in the final draft as Weathers felt that people would not be as interested in a man-in-peril formula as they would a woman.
- In the climactic fight in the cellar with Liz and Heather, the residue from the dirt ground was so bad that the camera men where rotated in-between takes.
- The statement that starts the film off. "Due to my

strong personal convictions, I wish to stress that this film in no way endorses a belief in the occult." Was taken directly from Michael Jackson's thriller video.

KEYWORDS

Sean Weathers, Full Circle, Full Circle Filmworks, Aswad Issa, Haunted House, Bondage, Satire, Supernatural, Cult Comedy, Zombie, Death, Dark Comedy, Blaxploitation, Murder, B Movie, Demonic Possession, Eerie, Celebrity, Black Cat, Gore, Tense, Lesbian, Psycho, Frantic, Creepy, Campy, Horror, Blood, Grindhouse, Blood Splatter, Midnight Movie, Drive In, Cult Favorite, Indie, Spirit World, Damned, Exploitation, Evil Dead, Occult, Violence, Curse, Video Nasty, Maniac, Independent Film, Undead, Beat The Clock, Good Versus Evil, Ghost, Death Of A Loved One, Obsessive Quests, Cult, Good, Evil, Cult Film, Indie Film, Evil Dead, Undead

IN LOVING MEMORY OF JAHVAUGHN LAMBERT

Sunrise: January 13, 1979

sunset: October 9, 2003