

As with GREMLINS, THE HOWLING, and pretty much all Dante's films, there are also nice peekings of the director's talents when they were just beginning to blossom in this film, injecting the goofy script with all sorts of gags (most of them actually work), gratuitous nudity, and of course snippets of old cartoons interspersed throughout.

Along with Miller and Bartel, you also get appearances by the late great Kevin McCarthy and the sensuous Barbara Steele in key roles. There's a lot of campy, gory fun to be had with PIRANHA, which even though it was a rip off, was still a damn fine flick.



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NIGHT OF THE TENTACLES (2012)

Directed by Dustin Mills

Written by Dustin Mills

Starring Brandon Salkil, Nicole Gerity, Jackie McKown, Eugene Flynn, Dustin Mills

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Reviewed by [Ambush Bug](#)

From the cracked brainpan that brought you PUPPET MONSTER MASSACRE ([reviewed here](#)) and ZOMBIE A-HOLE ([reviewed here](#)) comes a new twisted tale of perversity and horror. NIGHT

OF THE TENTACLES may be low budget, but within its screentime it packs a boatload of fun, gore, funny gore, and gory fun.

Dave (Brandon Salkil) is a pretty miserable loser. He lives alone with his dog, he puts his graphic design skills to use by drawing tentacle rape anime as a profession, and his only form of pleasure is listening to his pregnant downstairs neighbor masturbate every time she gets home from work. After suffering from a heart attack while pleasuring himself, Dave feels as if his life is truly going to end as shittily as the rest of his life has been up to this point.



Enter Satan!

Yes, NIGHT OF THE TENTACLES is a Faustian yarn about how Dave gets a second chance at life and is given a new heart by the horned one. The only hitch is that Dave must feed his new heart, which lives in a box on his coffee table, two humans a week in order to keep it pumping. The heart itself is actually a vampire-like tentacle creature which drains the blood from its victims via barbed appendages. So as if Dave's life didn't suck before he almost died, now he's got a heart that sucks worse.



I had a genuine good time with NIGHT OF THE TENTACLES as it pulled no punches in the depths it will take the viewer when it comes to humor centering on sex and gore. The film doesn't balk when it comes to portraying Dave as pathetic and continues to keep it real by telling a pretty bawdy tale. But beneath all the sex and blood, writer-director Dustin Mills (who also plays the voice of the blood sucking tentacle heart) injects just enough personality and charm to

make me root for Dave to win. No pun intended, there's a lot of heart in this story and it takes a lot of skill to make one care about a loser who masturbates while listening to his downstairs neighbor on a daily basis.

NIGHT OF THE TENTACLES is a definite low budgeter, so don't go expecting big production values here. But the lead Brandon Salkil does a decent job of carrying the film, despite the fact that he knows he looks slightly like Jesse Eisenberg and tries to ape him for most of the film. The gore is top notch, if not primitive, and there are a ton of laughs, tender and bloody, to be had. I also admire the balls the filmmaker had to end it on the dour note and the final moments made me like this film all the more.