
Available now on DVD!

Rudyard Kipling's MARK OF THE BEAST (2012)

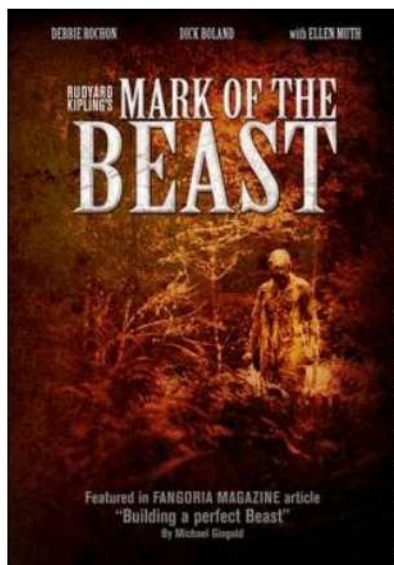
Directed by Jonathan Gorman & Thomas Edward Seymour

Written by Sheri Lynn & Thomas Edward Seymour (screenplay), Rudyard Kipling (original story)

Starring Ellen Muth, Debbie Rochon, Margaret Rose Champagne, Sheri Lynn, Thomas Edward Seymour, Phil Hall, Matt Ford, Dick Boland, Isaiah Entsua –Mensah, Mark Bovino

[Find out more about this film here!](#)

Reviewed by [Ambush Bug](#)



Regular readers of this column know my interest in Rudyard Kipling is high what with my comic book THE JUNGLE BOOK going into its second miniseries in February of next year. So you can imagine my surprise when this little indie fell next in my cue to be reviewed. MARK OF THE BEAST is a Kipling story I have not read before but a story many would recognize.

The story is basically about respecting all gods, and not just your own, as a group of well to do middle-agers have a party at a cottage in the woods. Before dinner, the host decides to lead a prayer to bless the food, which some feel is kind of



weird. In this day and age of religion being almost as sinful as to some as sin itself is to church goers, this is a timely story and addressing an issue some might feel uncomfortable with.

As the party goes on, we find out that a group of lepers live in the woods and worship a monkey god, much to everyone's entertainment. One of the partygoers gets drunk and desecrates an alter to the monkey god and ends up

being cursed.

As the story unfolds, it becomes pretty moralistic, as Kipling stories often do. Some of the other partygoers kidnap a leper and take him to the cabin in hopes that he can lift the curse. In order to force the leper to lift the curse, they torture the faceless, voiceless creature into doing so, making us question, who is exactly the monster here?



The acting here, save for scream queen Debbie Rochon, is pretty cardboard here with lines delivered as if the actors are reading their own obituaries. What saves MARK OF THE BEAST is the phenomenal effects by way of the leper itself. Full of tumors and leaking pustules, the leper is all sorts of gross and pretty painful to look at. Its fingers have fallen off and it is littered with blisters and sores and just gives off an altogether ooky feeling just by looking at it. Every time the creature is on the screen, it caused a feeling of unease with me and to me, that means it's effective as all hells.

Those looking for deft delivery of lines and acting may feel MARK OF THE BEAST falls short, but for me this is a winner because of Kipling's fascinating theme of all religions deserving of respect and of course the fucking awesome monster of the film which may or may not be the biggest

threat here.

Available now [on DVD here!](#)

THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS (2012)

Directed by Craig Griffith