

500 YEARS AGO A GYPSY WOMAN WAS BRUTALLY RAPED AND WANTED TO DIE. A DEMON OF VENGEANCE APPEARED TO HER AND PROMISED TO MAKE HER RAPISTS SUFFER AND IN RETURN SHE GIVES HER UNBORN CHILD TO THE DEMON WITHIN A YEAR. SHE AGREED, HOWEVER HER FEELINGS FOR THE CHILD CHANGED AND WHEN THE DEMON RETURNED, THE WOMAN REFUSED. A CURSE WAS PLACED UPON HER PEOPLE MAKING THEM UNABLE TO BARE CHILDREN. THEY BECAME KNOWN AS THE COPIII PIERDERE

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF VELVET ROAD COMES A NEW HORROR FILM. VISIT THE WEBSITE

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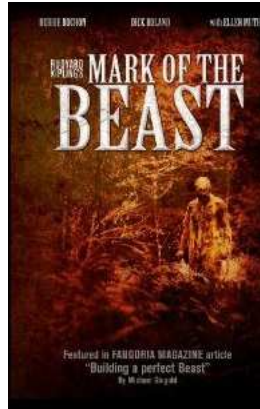
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Tuesday, November 6, 2012

Mark of the Beast



Mark of the Beast (Rudyard Kipling)

Director: Jonathan Gorman and Thomas Edward Seymour
 Writer: Rudyard Kipling (story), Thomas Edward Seymour and Sheri Lynn
 Stars: Dick Boland, Phil Hall and Debbie Rochon
 Horror
 2.5 Out of 5

"To me, the story is about how we dehumanize our enemy so it's easier to torture or kill them. It could pay as a simple horror story, but there was great depth in it." Thomas Edward Seymour

I was excited to see what new film had landed in my mailbox and ripped open the package to find Rudyard Kipling's Mark of the Beast starring Debbie Rochon. I even posted about it on Facebook. I literally stopped what I was doing at work and while the bookstore was empty, I watched the film. While not wildly crazy about parts of it, I was impressed with the look and sound of the film.



Whereas Kipling's original story took place in India, for this film adaptation it takes place in Connecticut. The scenery is beautiful. Set in a wooded

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Char Hardin Horror Movie Reviews
 Char Hardin has a Southern Fried Sense of Humor, a fondness for all things Horr and is mother to one teenager. By day a book set and by night a Horror Film/Novel Reviewer.
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community, a group of adults are invited to a get together and too much alcohol has one of the guests too intoxicated to drive home. He sleeps over and in the morning the host Strickland (Dick Boland) and friend Debbie (Debbie Rochon) decide to walk the man Fleet (Phil Hall) home through the woods. The night before Fleet's car keys ended up in the lake. It is while walking Fleet home, that the trio comes upon a shrine that compels Fleet to leave his mark upon it. By extinguishing his cigar on the shrine, a leper appears and attacks Fleet thus inflicting its mark upon him.



Dick Boland as Strickland and Debbie Rochon as Debbie

Skipping ahead, I will say this...shortly after Fleet's attack the story picks up where Strickland performs an exorcism and Debbie delivers my favorite line, "This shit is not working." Then the leper returns and you will just have to pick up the film, to see what happens, I am not going to spoil it for you.

Debbie Rochon not only stars in this film, she also is the narrator of the story. I enjoyed her character. She interjected a little comedic humor with some of her lines between her and Strickland (Dick Boland). She seems comfortable in her role and it showed. Dick was another story. I liked his character, however I felt his acting seemed exaggerated, but nothing compared to the over-the-top of Phil Hall who played the cursed drunkard, Fleet. On my re-watch, I still felt their acting was overly exaggerated, but liked their characters. It wasn't so bad, that I couldn't finish watching it.

As I said above, the scenery was beautiful and inviting. A seemingly innocent location turned horrific and scary. The viewer is shown the forest with blue skies and a rippling river flowing over rocks and coupled with a fantastic musical score by Glen Gabriel were two aspects that I impressed me. The drums at the beginning lent a primal feeling and the texture of the music changed as the intensity built and I loved it! The nighttime scenes in the forest were done well. I hate when I have to fight the darkness to see what is happening, I did not have to with this film.

The other aspect of this film that impressed me the most was the look of the Silver Leper. The Silver Leper was the one that attacked Fleet, after the desecration of the shrine in the forest. At first look, it happens so fast you just see what looks like a mummy attacking Fleet and then little later you see the rest of the creature's bulbous pus filled blisters on its face and body. During a torture scene you get several close-up shots of its face. Nice work. Yes, I just wrote "nice work" on the leper.

The Raven

#HoldYourBreath

Mark of the Beast

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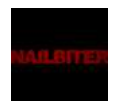


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As for the story, I liked what the director did with the film, the only thing that might be affect some people was the caliber of acting. This is an independent film with low budget, but the budget is not the issue. The acting and the scenarios of how the actors acted, meaning how the characters reacted to their situations irked me. Strickland and Debbie race into the woods armed, but without flashlights. They were searching for the Leper in the darkened forest. In the beginning, Debbie and Strickland decide to "walk" Fleet home instead of transporting him in one of their cars. Again they walk through the forest to take the wounded woman to the doctor. Strickland was a Sheriff...you mean to tell me the Sheriff was on foot and without a car? Stuff like that might not figure in to how other viewers see a film, I am just saying what stuck out during my viewing experience.

Overall, I liked some of it and I did watch it twice. Also, would like to note that it was not gory. The attack scenes were low keyed and not a blood bath, something I normally enjoy...a good blood bath scene or two. Maybe Mark of the Beast might work for some and be a miss for others, but the leper's look was wicked cool and the music was good as well. I would say 2.5 Out of 5. Heavy on language and no nudity.

NOTE: After another viewing, I must say, it was Strickland's car keys that Fleet threw into the lake and not his own. I couldn't imagine a sheriff without a car.

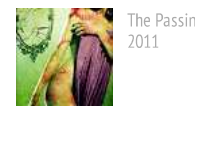
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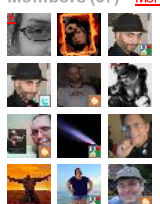
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