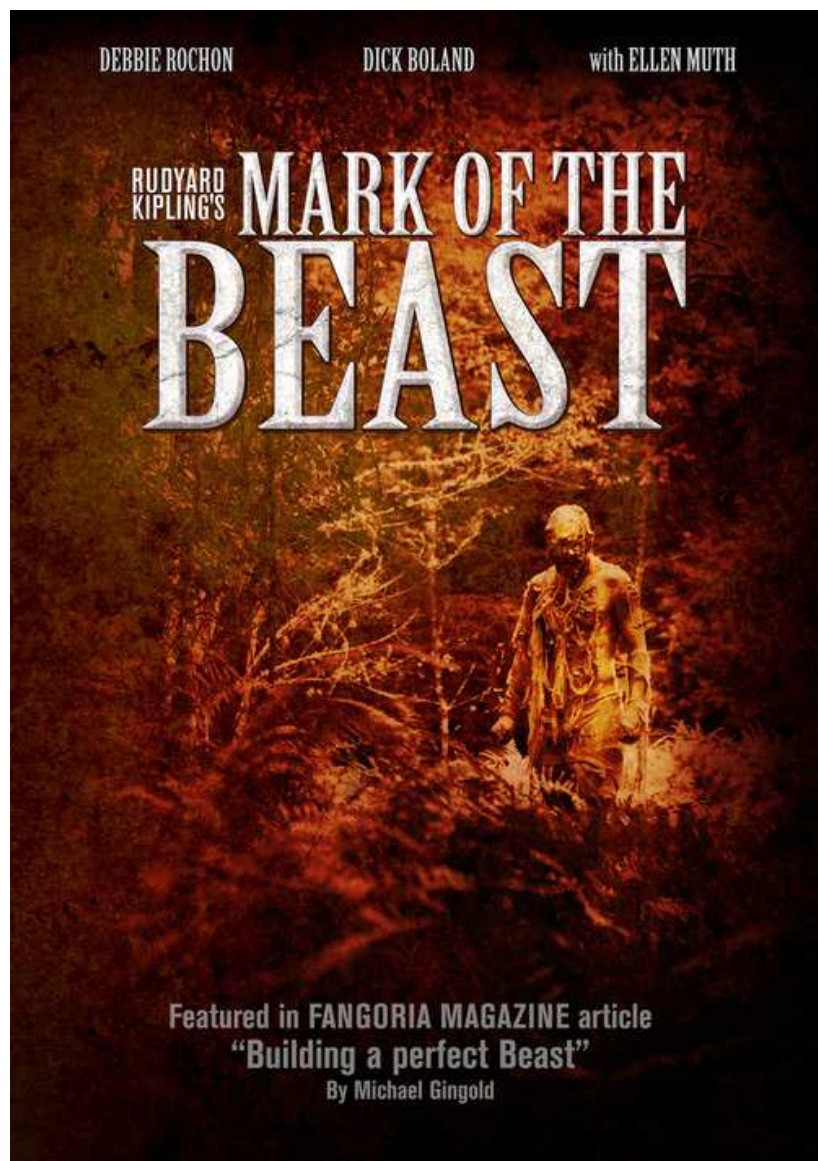


# The Impaler Speaks

## Rudyard Kipling's Mark Of The Beast DVD



### Rudyard Kipling's Mark Of The Beast

director: Jon Gorman & Thomas Edward Seymour

#### Blood Bath Pictures/MVD Visual

First impressions? Wow. After a week's reflection? Wow. Yes, still. Independent horror often falls into familiar traps: gratuitous this, gratuitous that, oh-man-look-at-all-that-blood, and so on. Since this film was directed by the men behind the 'Bikini Bloodbath' trilogy (oh, yes, a trilogy... look it up), it was easy to expect more of the same. Not that there's anything wrong with that. Ahem. Additionally, since this film is an adaptation of a classic horror story by Rudyard Kipling – who is most famous for penning 'The Jungle Book', but who crafted quite a few blood-curdling tales in his time – it seems only fair that I was a bit leery going in. So, back to those exclamations of 'wow' from earlier... Gorman and Seymour not only have exceeded expectations by leaving all signs of late-night-cable/straight-to-video horror/sex/comedy out of this production, they've set themselves up as a team of filmmakers to watch. 'Mark Of The Beast' leans more toward thriller territory than horror, but in that classic manner of thrillers (ala Hitchcock) rather than in the modern Hollywood sense. The basic storyline is this: one less-than-noble member of a party of interlopers 'innocently' offends a group of natives, who retaliate with a terrible curse that snowballs into a never-ending nightmare for the entire party... until they decide to seek vengeance in an eye-for-an-eye type fashion. The story – which was adapted for the film by Sheri Lynn and co-director Seymour – flows seamlessly, and hits the mark in a fairly sweet spot in terms of emphasizing the



The Impaler Speaks... supporting local music worldwide, from Austin TX to the United Kingdom and everywhere else. The Impaler has been a member of the Mass Movement creative team since it was a cut-n-paste fanzine many years ago. This is a way to add some depth to the coverage I am able to provide in MM, and so much more.... Support indie music. Support indie film. Support indie life.

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moral, religious, and political themes inherent in the original without overdoing it and risking alienation from average viewers. Likewise, the actors involved – including the aforementioned Lynn and Seymour, along with the fantastic Ellen Muth (who starred in Showtime's classic but short-lived 'Dead Like Me') and a small ensemble cast (Debbie Rochon, Margaret Rose Champagne, Phill Hall, Matt Ford, Dick Boland, Mark Bovino, and Isaiah Entsua-Mensah) – fall deeply into their respective roles, bringing the story to life in an eerily believable manner. True horror fans will delight in the special F/X work of Leigh Radziwon, whose 'Beast' is as classic as they come – and was featured in a very cool Fangoria article that is (at present, anyway) still archived at [www.fangoria.com](http://www.fangoria.com). The Impaler's verdict: What's not to like? 'Mark Of The Beast' is one of the finest indie films I've seen all year, and certainly is better than anything I've seen out of Hollywood's big-money machine in a long, long time. **The Impaler** [@impalerspeaks](#)

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