

2.5k
Like

REVIEWS
ARTICLES
CONTESTS

search... 

1 0 0
Tweet Like

"Dark Dealer" Gives A Bad Hand Review

by Anders Nelson



buy from [amazon.com](#)[®]

In some dimension, in another galaxy, on an undiscovered planet, *The Dark Dealer* probably makes some kind of sense. The broad strokes are easy enough, but every so often, something happens that just sets the rules of time and space into a tailspin. If it's late at night, and you're feeling goofy, it might just hit the spot (especially if you're nostalgic for the era of VHS tapes), but more likely, you'll lose patience with it inside of ten minutes. There's always a place for gonzo cinema, but there might not be a place for *The Dark Dealer*.

MAY
26
2013

Dealer opens with some poor jerk running from some orb (which resembles something you most likely saw at a science fair to learn about static electricity), only to wind up in some sort of black void where a smug dealer holds a blackjack game. It's quickly established that he (and the other poor jerks at the table) are dead, and they're playing for their souls. From there on out it gets a little fuzzy: we see a little

bit of their lives, a little more of the game, and occasionally people turn into monsters. It's enough to remind you why *Twilight Zone* episodes were only 20 minutes long.

The phrase "*je ne sais quo*" found its way into American parlance because of movies like this. Movies that rate this poorly in the acting and writing and direction department have managed to be at least campily entertaining, but *Dark Dealer* is almost impossible to engage with on any level. Its low-tech charms might have worked better if applied to a less convoluted story (some of the makeup effects admittedly aren't bad), but don't do many favors for something with this many winding turns. There's just too much to absorb, and too little reward for the investment.

SPECIAL FEATURES

There's a making of for *Blues In The Night*, a short that was integrated into this feature, as well as a trailer.

"The Dark Dealer" is on sale May 21, 2013 and is not rated. Horror. Directed by Tom Alexander. Written by Tom Alexander, Wynn Winberg. Starring Deborah Nunez, Kevin Walder, Kim Frazier, Mark Fickert, Richard Hull, Rocky Patterson, Vincent Gaskins.

Anders Nelson • Associate Editor
More by Anders



Related

No related articles