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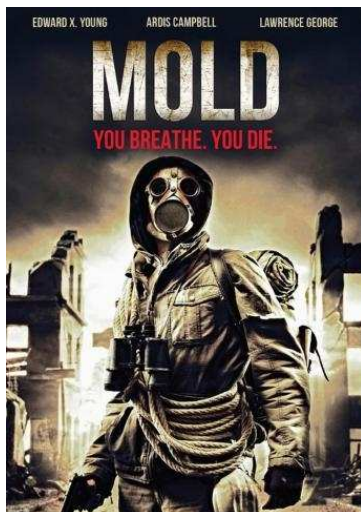
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"Mold"'s Been Growing Since 1985 Review

by John Keith

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2013



Writer/director Neil Meschino channels the 1980s comedy horror style in his film *Mold*—a tribute to sci-fi horror film cult classics like *Night of the Creeps* and *Street Trash*. In this film it's 1984, and the government is attempting to acquire a fast-acting mold to use in the war on drugs. Unfortunately, this mold prototype is still in development, and once the higher-ups start meddling, the mold wreaks havoc on the humans.

After examining the mold in action, coke-sniffing Congressman Stu Blankenship (James Murphy) goes on an unbelievable drug binge in the bathroom where the moisture activates the mold residue on his skin, awakening the flesh-eating virus. Blankenship's death wasn't an accident, however; Dr. Dave Hardy (Chris Gentile, sporting the most fake-looking mustache ever) sabotaged the Congressman's hazmat suit at the behest of mysterious power figure Edison Carter (David Pringle). By the time the gang realizes what is happening, they're trapped in this

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science lab, experimenting on each other for survival.

The film's premise and aesthetic execution is easily indicative of the time period Meschino is mimicking. But for the film to really succeed, the acting would need to be believable yet hammy (Meschino and co-writer Dave Fogerson litter the script with purposefully bad puns). Handsome leading-man Lawrence George (playing Dr. Roger Bolton) and walking cliché Edward X. Young (playing the Colonel) rise the to the task admirably, delivering the comedy with as much grace as is possible in a horror film, Ardis Campbell (playing Dr. Julia Young) holds her own as the only woman in the film, trapped in an unresolved love triangle with Roger and Dave (the mustachioed leads). The rest of the cast fails miserably, bringing down what little quality the overall film has. The only redeeming thing about this film is that the mold virus never turns anyone into a zombie (although it does come pretty close to it).

If you're nostalgic for that 1980s horror-comedy style, then *Mold* will presumably fill that void. Otherwise, all the green gore in the film will be far too off-putting for an enjoyable horror film viewing (but then are horror films ever "enjoyable?").

DVD Bonus Features

The DVD includes trailers for other films by the same production company (*Wild Eye*), a behind-the-scenes featurette, and commentary by director Meschino.

"Mold" is on sale May 21, 2013 and is not rated. Horror, Sci-Fi. Directed by Neil Meschino. Written by Dave Fogerson, Neil Meschino. Starring Ardis Campbell, Edward X Young, Lawrence George.

John Keith • Staff Writer

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