

Reviews by Amos Lassen

Books, Movies and Judaica and Random Thoughts About Whatever

“CAESAR AND OTTO’S DEADLY XMAS”— Santa and his Elf



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Santa and His Elf

Amos Lassen

Caesar and his half-brother Otto take on the duties of Santa and his elf. However, bodies are beginning to pile up when another store Santa, Demian, (Deron Miller) develops a vendetta against them. Otto and Caesar find themselves up against a psychopathic killer in a Santa suit.

It all started when the half-brothers get a job at Xmas Enterprises, a strange company headed by a mini-magnate, Jerry (Ken MacFarlane). Caesar (Dave Campfield) convinces Jerry to invest in a production of a film which he wrote, directed and stars in and he brings Otto (Paul Chomicki) for fun. However, we soon realize that there is something besides a psychotic murderer on the prowl.



Caesar believes that he's the greatest actor to ever live and Otto still relies on his half-brother for everything. It's Thanksgiving and the big dinner at their house is on everyone cancels except for their father Fred (Scott Aguilar) and his much younger girlfriend. Dinner wouldn't be complete without a crashing by Sashi (Brinke Stevens) who continues to swipe anything that isn't nailed down. When Caesar's agent Donna (Linnea Quigley) calls with a job to play Santa Claus we learn that he has a fear of the jolly old soul and turns it down flat. Eventually they give in and show up at Xmas Enterprises where they meet and (disastrously) audition for head honcho Jerry (Ken MacFarlane). Soon bodies begin to pile up when fellow employee Demian (Deron Miller) forms a personal vendetta towards Caesar with the plan of using them as fall guys for his rampage. Otto is preoccupied with his high school obsession Allison (Summer Ferguson), trying to make her fall for him, with everything coming to a bloody (several of them) head on Christmas day.



Sometimes we forget that movies are about having fun and that is just what this film is. I am sure it was as much fun to make as it is to see. What we have here is a small film made on a small budget but it gives a very large good time. It is inventive; funny and reflects love for horror movies. It has tangent arcs, colorful characters, wonderful images as well as violence and gore. Both Caesar and Otto are characters that are in a situation way above their heads but regardless they deal with every situation and this is just amazing. Basically, the movie is about the two half-brothers having a new Christmas adventure while working as a "Traveling Santa" and elf passing out fliers for Xmas Enterprises. In the meantime, a deranged killer wearing a Santa costume is on a killing spree. Side stories involve a girl of interest from Otto's past, the making of a independent film, and the boys' father training his hot new wife for her title shot in boxing...word to the sly...there is a secret that comes out in THAT relationship and intervention by Dr. Pheel who is concerned about Caesar's anger and mistreatment of Otto.

Sure it sounds like slapstick comedy but it is so much more than that.



There are many moments in this film but to tell about them all would give too much of the plot away. I believe that it is the slapstick comedy, the snapping dialogue, over the top exaggeration of situations by Caesar and then Otto finding his lost love and hanging out in with her as well as the satire of other movies that I really loved. What is missing in high quality sets and costumes is more than made up for in entertainment.

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