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### Box Office Totals.

Weekend Box Office, Mar. 21-23

1. Divergent \$54.6 M
2. Muppets Most Wanted \$17.0 M
3. Mr. Peabody & Sherman \$11.8 M
4. God's Not Dead \$9.2 M
5. 300: Rise of an Empire \$8.5 M

Source: Box Office Mojo  
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CAESAR & OTTO'S DEADLY XMAS (2012)

Published by [David Carter](#) on 2014/2/9 (101 reads)

Directed by Dave Campfield  
Review by David Carter

**BUY IT**

Released by Wild Eye Releasing  
Running Time: 83 minutes  
Rating: Not Rated  
Color format: Color  
Audio/Subtitles: 2.0 Stereo English  
Region Code: 1, NTSC  
Aspect Ratio: Widescreen  
16:9 Enhanced: Yes  
Special Features: Three short films, Alternate Scenes, Behind the scenes footage, three commentary tracks  
Trailer Online: [Yes](#)



Short Version: Nostalgic spoof full of in-jokes

CAESAR & OTTO'S DEADLY XMAS is the fifth work in the "Caesar & Otto" series of horror spoofs, the brainchild of director/writer/star Dave Campfield. Long time readers will remember that we first encountered Campfield back in 2006 with his impressive debut feature DARK CHAMBER/UNDER SURVEILLANCE. Campfield went in a vastly different direction following that, starting the slapstick-based Caesar & Otto series, which pays homage and occasionally skewers classic horror cinema. DEADLY XMAS follows such titles as ...SUMMER CAMP MASSACRE and ...MEET DRACULA'S LAWYER, titles which should give you a good idea of the Abbott & Costello style hijinks in store in this film. DEADLY XMAS is now available on DVD from Wild Eye Releasing.



The obsessive and fastidious Caesar lives in a small apartment with his slovenly, dim-witted half brother Otto. Caesar has planned out an important Thanksgiving dinner and invited everyone they know, but Otto is too preoccupied with Allison, a former high school love, to help. The dinner is a bust, only attended by their father, his boxer girlfriend, and Otto's malicious ex-girlfriend Sashi (Brinke Stevens). Would-be actor Caesar's party is even skipped by his agent, Donna (Linnea Quigley), who isn't pleased when the notoriously Santa-phobic Caesar turns down a potential role playing Kris Kringle. Otto determines that a job as Santa may help him woo Allison, and sibling rivalry spurs both men to apply for the role.

Caesar and Otto arrive at Xmas Enterprises and – as the only applicants – are hired on as travelling Santas, spreading good cheer and a message from the strange cult-like group that operates the business. While there, the brothers insult the homicidal Demian, a psycho-Santa who embarks on a killing spree shortly after meeting them. Demian plans on framing Caesar and Otto for his crimes, using Caesar's guest list and an unwitting confession from Otto to seal their fates. Oblivious to the danger he is in, Caesar convinces Xmas Enterprises to begin making slasher films in which he is the star – accidentally helping frame himself in the process. The two morons eventually wise up after their friends and family are put in danger and must do battle with Demian and their former employers to save their own lives.



The most obvious reference in DEADLY XMAS is to Christmas horror classic SILENT NIGHT, DEADLY NIGHT. In one amusing scene, Linnea Quigley re-enacts her famous impalement-by-antlers death from that film. The DVD box correctly points out DEADLY XMAS' similarity to the SCARY MOVIE

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series, but this scene in particular highlights the fact that Campfield's movie is realized much more intelligently that reference-a-minute brand of humor. DEADLY XMAS is more akin to a SCARY MOVIE for die-hard horror fans, as most of the references are subtle and are more obscure than those found in its bigger budget peer. Even the most well-versed fan will likely miss a few of the in-jokes, giving this enjoyable film more re-watchability than other horror/comedies.

One caveat: CAESAR & OTTO'S DEADLY XMAS is a slapstick, screwball comedy; a style that has all but died out on the American cinematic landscape. Those of you familiar with the style will appreciate the duo's Three Stooges-meet-Abbot & Costello style gags, but I wouldn't be surprised if some viewers unaccustomed to the style didn't get the joke. DEADLY XMAS is low-brow without being sophomoric, and works best if you don't overthink it.

Wild Eye Releasing's DVD of DEADLY XMAS has a number of bonus features included on it. Chief among these are the three short films, one of which stars MANIAC COP star and cult legend Robert Z'dar. Plenty of familiar faces throughout DEADLY XMAS make it a treat for the horror fan. The film primarily trades on nostalgia, but there is enough humor in the film to keep even the horror-unaware entertained.



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