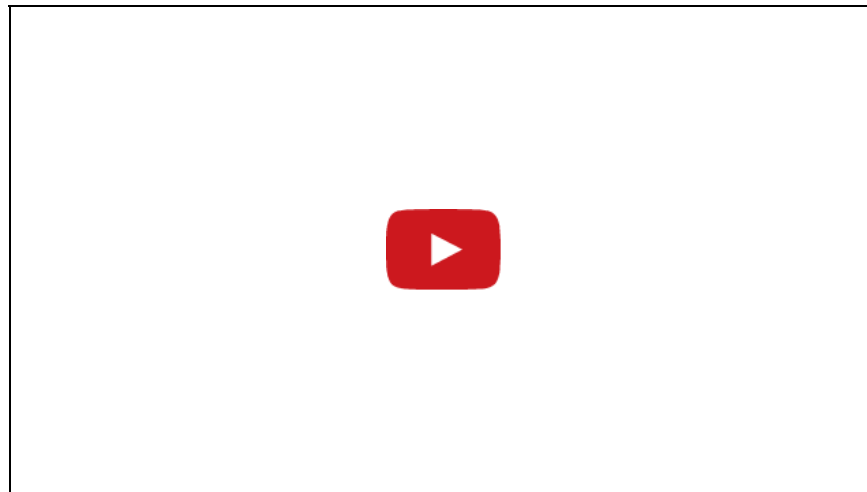


the mask. The mask itself looks rather cheap. In the context of the film, it is a store-bought mask (or store-stolen mask—Michael left his wallet in his other set of overalls and lifts the mask from a drugstore), but still it is less effective than the masks from the first two installments and looks almost too clean and processed.

(<http://static3.aintitcool.com/assets2012/aicncomics/halloween44.jpg>) The story itself is exciting, eliciting themes from previous episodes like having Jamie wear a clown costume just like Michael did as a kid (an ominous prelude to the wonderfully wicked ending). But where director Little falters is mimicking the scenes of the Shape in the background. There are attempts, but there are also stumbles having Michael walk into the scene in the background rather than just being there as a presence, watching, and waiting to strike as he did in the first two segments.



The aforementioned ending is one of the most powerful of the series. The way things come full circle has a poetic slant to it, and it's great seeing Loomis wig out and try to blast away at the new threat that appears in the final moments. I won't ruin it for the newbs, but I always get chills when this film nears its conclusion. This Blu is light on extras, but the quality of the film can't be beat, and the film definitely is stronger than most of the horror franchises that were coming out at the time. HALLOWEEN didn't really start its decline in quality until the next installment, which we will delve into in a future column.



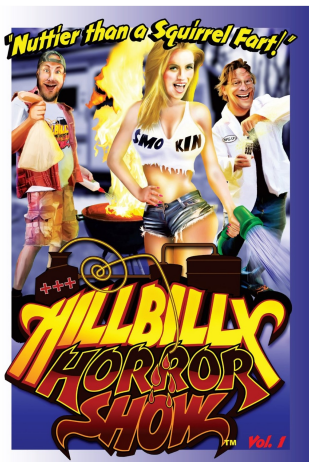
Previous HALLOWEEN: THE COMPLETE COLLECTION Reviews!

[HALLOWEEN \(1979\)](http://www.aintitcool.com/node/68929#2)

[HALLOWEEN II \(1981\)](http://www.aintitcool.com/node/68929#2)

[HALLOWEEN III: SEASON OF THE WITCH \(1982\)](http://www.aintitcool.com/node/69108#2)

[HALLOWEEN IV: THE FINAL CURSE \(1984\)](http://www.aintitcool.com/node/69263#3)



(<http://static3.aintitcool.com/assets2012/aicncomics/hillbillyhorrorshow1.jpg>) New on DVD from MVD Visual (<http://mvdv2b.com/s/HillbillyHorrorShowVol1/MVD6477D>)!

## HILLBILLY HORROR SHOW VOL.1 (2014)

Directed by Billy Hayes (Franky & the Ant), Theo Stefanski (Doppelganger), Cuyle Carvin (Amused), Timothy Zwica (The Nest)

Written by Billy Hayes (Franky & the Ant), Theo Stefanski (Doppelganger), Cuyle Carvin (Amused), Timothy Zwica (The Nest)

Starring Bo Keister, Scott Geiter, Rachel Faulkner (Hillbilly Horror Show)

Anthony Pavelich, Emmanuel Todorov, Christine Woods (Franky & the Ant)

Elise Rovinsky, Ryan G. Metzger, Angela Relucio (Amused)

Jamie Newell, Scott Lynch-Giddings, Adam Shalzi, Adrian DiGiovanni, Molly Bina, Kevin Barry, Jennifer Scott (The Nest)

Find out more about this film here (<http://hillbillyhorrorshow.com/>) and on Facebook here

(<https://www.facebook.com/HillbillyHorrorShow>)

Reviewed by [Ambush Bug \(mailto:mlmambushbug@gmail.com\)](mailto:mlmambushbug@gmail.com)

While the intro, in between bits, and finale are simply a dude doing hillbilly schtick, a dude doing a mumbling KING OF THE HILL schtick, and a hot chick walking around half-dressed, the collection of horror shorts in this anthology are pretty amazing. And while aside from Muldoon's amazing regular Saturday Afternoon Shorts column here on AICN there really isn't a place to find short films since they seem to be made by all sorts of different people, lately, I've been seeing more of these "anthologies" which serve as great showcases for some awesome shorts. Here's what this one has to offer.

(<http://static3.aintitcool.com/assets2012/aicncomics/hillbillyhorrorshow2.jpg>)First up at bat is "Franky & the Ant," a PULP FICTION-esque story of two hitmen gabbing it up casually on their way to a hit that is anything but run of the mill. This is a short but sweet little slice of Tarantino with a decent surprise twist at the end. And while this one doesn't really break new ground in terms of story innovation, it's capably acted and directed and has a pretty acidic little ending that gives it some oomph.



(<http://static3.aintitcool.com/assets2012/aicncomics/hillbillyhorrorshow3.jpg>)Now "Doppelganger" by Theo Stefanski is where this anthology kicks into gear and lets the viewer know that this is a collection of shorts meant to be taken seriously. It's a simple story of a skeleton that wakes up in a cave, goes for a walk and meets another skeleton, but damn if it isn't dramatic and well made as hell. This ode to Ray Harryhausen is a stop motion masterpiece that gives a pretty dark message about the

destructive nature of man, even when everything is shredded down to its bare bones. This is a fantastically realized short that is heavy on impressive visuals.



(<http://static3.aintitcool.com/assets2012/aicncomics/hillbillyhorrorshow4.jpg>)Starting out with a quote from Stephen King is a mighty lofty thing to do, but that's how "Amused" begins. The silent story follows one woman as she stumbles upon what looks to be a bizarre laughing zombie eating someone in her home. As the zombie gives chase, the woman must fight tooth and nail to survive. While the ending is somewhat predictable, it still has a nice little ironic twist and the whole short moves at a pretty exciting, albeit brisk, pace. There are some fun moments of tension making this one a pretty worthwhile bit of mini-cinema.



(<http://static3.aintitcool.com/assets2012/aicncomics/hillbillyhorrorshow5.jpg>)They saved the best for last with "The Nest", although I think a better name for this suspenseful and patient yarn would be "The Hive", as the monster du jour are a swarm of crow-sized bees producing honey that drives the county wild when it is served at a roadside diner. Written and directed by Tim Zwica, who also did the impressive CG effects, this one harkens back to everything from TCM to BLOOD DINER to MOTEL HELL, but still manages to be a whole lot of fun. The tornado of flesh-eating bees that swirl around their victims leaving nothing but bones and the whole thing looks fantastic. As far as shorts go, this one has the look and feel of a full length film and plays better than most of them. This one has a fun cast, including **MOTIVATIONAL GROWTH** (<http://www.aintitcool.com/node/68742#8>) star Adrian DiGiovanni, and

makes me want to look out for what else writer/director/CG man Tim Zwica has to offer next.

Clocking in at a brisk 60 minutes, THE HILLBILLY HORROR SHOW VOL.1 is an impressive anthology and while the in between bits with hillbilly humor are full of groaners, there's not a bad short in the bunch. Here's hoping these guys keep their eyes peeled for more quality horrors in short form and release a second volume soon.



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