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Are You Ready For "Gila!"? Eh, Probably Review

by Jason Ratigan



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It's coming! Run for your life!

Uh oh. Those cheap toxic waste disposal guys left barrels of their nasty goo in a local cave and it looks like a gila monster has consumed it somehow, turning it into a very large gila monster. The locals start to notice strange things are happening. People getting hurt, bizarre stories get around, and livestock go missing. Hot rod racer and all-round perfect human, Chase (Brian Gross) helps the local Sheriff (Terence Knox) to put all the clues together. But Chase has a theory about what it might be. A big lizard thing. Luckily, there's an expert (just after the half-way mark) who tells them what they're facing and a local crank who has an arsenal for when the Commies invade.

For a tribute to a terrible old movie, some parts of *Gila!* (2012) aren't so bad. The screenplay can be pretty funny, though the actors don't always embrace the 50's-ness of it. And director Jim Wynorski doesn't always respect the pastiche nature

of the dialogue from writers William Dever, Steve Mitchell, Jim Nielsen, and Paul Sinor. The camera is usually in a normal place, but not at the right time. Early scenes look like they're shot around noon and everything approaching white is completely blown out. That's when the color correction isn't turning their faces purple. This is a silly movie to begin with, so the heinous lighting combined with what I imagine was a relatively cheap digital camera makes an ironically bad movie an actually bad movie. It's pretty charming, so it's not a waste of time, but I can't imagine anyone but a die-hard B-horror fan checking this out.

Bonus features

Slideshow and tribute to Ray Kellogg's *The Giant Gila Monster*.

"Gila!" is on sale April 22, 2014 and is not rated. Horror. Directed by Jim Wynorski. Written by William Dever, Steve Mitchell, Jim Nielsen, Paul Sinor. Starring Brian Gross, Terence Knox.

Jason Ratigan • Staff Writer

A lawyer-turned-something-else with a strong appreciation for film and television. He knows he can't read every great book ever written, but seeing every good movie ever made is absolutely doable. Check out his other stuff on Wordpress.

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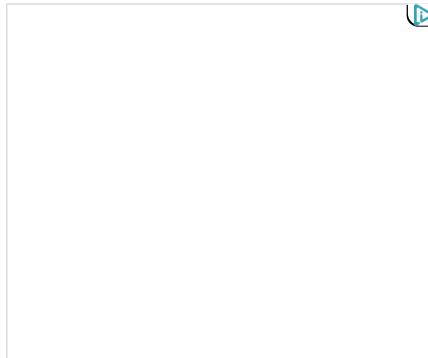
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