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The Lost Empire (Febr) Review

May 16, 2014

By Matt Molgaard - Staff Writer

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So who exactly is going to dig a production of this nature? Anyone with a strong pulse! Honestly, above and beyond all things, *The Lost Empire* is a total blast. Seeing Melanie Vincz, Raven De La Croix and Angela Aames is always welcomed, and seeing them randomly lose their tops is even more welcomed.

**Release Date:** February 1985**Directed By:** Jim Wynorski**Written By:** Jim Wynorski**Starring:****Melanie Vincz** as Angel Wolfe**Raven De La Croix** as Whitestar**Angela Aames** as Heather McClure**Paul Coufos** as Rick Stanton

Thank Hollywood cheapskates for awesome exploitation films. And thank Polyscope for rolling out this long forgotten romp. It's loaded with enormous breasts, pretty faces, girl power, extremely skimpy outfits and enough outlandish one liners to leave your abdomen in pain; this is so goofy you're damn near guaranteed to laugh uncontrollably. It's just a wild, wild ride that never once tries to pretend it's a serious production, and personally, I loved that. If you're sitting on a shelf with design to deliver nothing but cheap thrills, then sit on that shelf with pride. *The Lost Empire* is most certainly

not short on pride. It may not spend much time on shelves either, now that it is once more easily accessible.

Rather than breaking down what I consider the synopsis of the film, I'm going to give you a direct quote via imdb, because, ultimately, it sounds a lot more jaw dropping than it really is. And, I think, this is what the film was supposed to be about, even if the audience never once cares or pays attention to the plot: "After officer Rob Wolfe is killed trying to stop a gang of ninjas from robbing a jewellery store, his sister, officer Angel Wolfe, vows to avenge his death. Her investigation leads her to the mysterious Dr. Sin Do, who is supposedly in league with an undead wizard named Lee Chuck. The doctor is holding a martial arts tournament on a secret island fortress, so Angel, after rounding up some of her martial-artist friends, enters the tournament in the hopes of finding Sin Do and Lee Chuck and bringing them to justice."

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Sounds like money in the bank, doesn't it? I like to imagine a much younger Quentin Tarantino lounging around worshipping this one, steadily building inspiration. Noting the nifty soundtrack that plays throughout the film, and a few of those genius one liners.

It's awesome to see Angus Scrimm hamming it up as the uber villain Dr. Sin Do, but he doesn't have nearly as much screen time as he deserves. One of the few things that can compliment an absurd amount of bare, bouncing breasts is *The Tall Man*, *obviously*. But we see little of him, and more of his... true self, which is a nasty booger that looks like an extra from *The Abominable Dr. Phibes*. But fret not, in the end these ladies refuse to lose, so banking on the bad guy is money down the drain anyway. Not that there was all that much money ever involved in this production – in any capacity – but hey, you get my point.



I don't think it's necessarily fair to label *The Lost Empire* as a horror film. The truth is it's nothing more than pure exploitation. However, there are enough elements of different genres that technically, you could probably squeeze this into a dozen different categories. It's definitely a very humorous piece (Paul Coufos looks an awful lot like a mix of spiffy Ruffles spokesperson, Ruff McThickridge and a young Tom Atkins, which is enough to send anyone with a sense of humor over the edge as it is), and it's got enough action to anticipate a Jean Claude Van Damme cameo, but the awesome decapitation scene in the latter moments of the film clearly feels horror. Hell, with a little bit more nudity you may even be able to classify this as soft porn. The movie is just... *everywhere*. And as wrong as that may sound, it makes for glorious entertainment.



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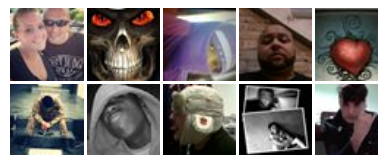
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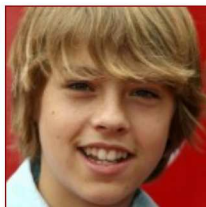
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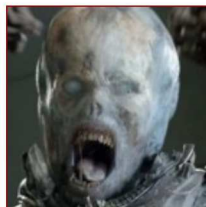
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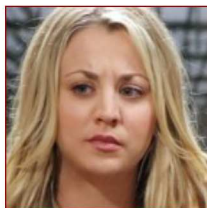
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May 21, 2014

Thank you

By: Jim Wymorski

I'm glad you enjoyed my show and I appreciate all your kind words.

July 27, 2014

I bought a copy and loved it after reading this review!

By: Timing X

I read this review...don't even remember how I got to this page. Bought the DVD after I read the review. LOVED the movie! Just what I was looking for on a Sunday. Needed more toplessness, though.