

## BEST OF THE SPAGHETTI WEST

**WILD EAST PRODUCTIONS**  
(\$19.95 DVD) 3/14

### WANTED (1967) ♂♂♂

D: Giorgio Ferroni (as Calvin J. Padgett). Giuliano Gemma, Teresa Gimpera, German Cobos, Serge Marquand, Daniele Vargas, Gia Sandri. 109 mins.

Gary Ryan (Gemma) arrives in Greenfield as the newly appointed sheriff. Cattle rustler and all-around bad guy Gold (Vargas) gets his toady Lloyd (Marquand) to frame the straight arrow Ryan for murder. Ryan escapes from prison and sets out to prove his innocence, as well as avenge the town for all the crimes Gold and his henchman perpetrated. This familiar innocent-man-on-the-run plot is elevated by Gemma—who, as always, makes for an engaging hero—as well as a number of rousing fights and gun battles. Gimpera is fetching as the daughter of a man wrongfully murdered by Gold and the object of Gemma's affections. Vargas is wonderfully greasy as Gold, and you'll want to cheer when Marquand, the crooked successor to Gemma's shield, receives his fistful of come-uppance in the final reel. This is one time when the back cover write-up for a movie is spot-on correct, "**Wanted** delivers!"

### THOSE DIRTY DOGS! (1973) ♂♂♂ 1/2

D: Giuseppe Rosati. Stephen Boyd, Gianni Garko, Howard Ross, Simon Andeu, Teresa Gimpera, Harry Baird, Alfredo Mayo. 90 mins.

Three military men, led by Captain Willer (Boyd), are sent by Washington to infiltrate goofy General Mueller's (Mayo) army of banditos and retrieve their stolen weapons. Mix in Korano (Garko), a bounty hunter who studies the teachings of Mohammed, Mueller's right-hand man Sanchez (Andeu), and a kidnapped woman (Gimpera) and we have a no-holds-barred, action-packed shoot-em-up that delivers the goods. Infused with a good bit of humor, the film has nary a slow moment as Boyd leads his men to Mayo's camp in an all-out war against the Mexican army. Andeu is great as the slippery foe and Garko is nothing but terrific as the Quran-quoting bounty hunter searching for both inner peace and the big payoff. One of the best scenes includes a band of banditos, the peace-loving Korano and a machine gun disguised as an umbrella. During her rescue, Gimpera gets her hands on a six-shooter and lets her captors know how much she enjoyed their hospitality. Nonstop action and fun. As with all Wild East double features, the films are presented uncut and in beautiful anamorphic widescreen. Original trailers, photo galleries and an interview with actress Teresa Gimpera round out the extras for this entertaining double feature.



## BEST OF JIM WYNORSKI

**POLYSCOPE MEDIA**  
(\$14.95 each DVD) 4/14

### THE LOST EMPIRE (1985) ♂♂ 1/2

D: Jim Wynorski. Melanie Vincz, Raven De La Croix, Angela Aames, Paul Coufos, Kenneth Tobey, Angeliqye Pettyjohn, Angus Scrimm, Bill Thornbury. 84 mins.

After her cop brother Rob (Thornbury) is killed in a jewelry store stick-up, Angel Wolfe (Vincz) leads a pair of ass-kicking supermodel types (De La Croix and Aames) to a distant island to complete in a tournament that will get her close to the diabolical Dr. Sin Do (Scrimm), the man responsible for Rob's death. Evil Dr. Sin Do is searching for an ancient jewel that will give him unlimited power to rule the universe. Angel and her girls battle the evildoer and his minions. This is a straight pulp adventure, Wynorski's first film as director, and you can tell he had fun loading it with as many film references and in-jokes that he could come up with. The cast is all game and no one is taking the proceedings too seriously. For the first time, the film is presented in the widescreen format in which it was shot, lending it a lush, colorful, almost comic-book feel. (It gives the movie a bigger scope than its previous VHS/Beta home-video incarnation 30 years ago.) It's surprising Vincz never went on to be in more B movies of the era. Coufos showed up in Wynorski's **Chopping Mall**, as well as the insane Bert I. Gordon H.G. Wells follow-up **Gnaw: Food of the Gods II**. It's nice seeing **Phantasm** alumni Scrimm and Thornbury in something altogether different, although they have no scenes together. Extras include director commentary and theatrical trailer. This is nonstop fun from a film fan turned filmmaker.

### GILA! (2012) ♂♂ 1/2

D: Jim Wynorski. Brian Gross, Terence Knox, Jesse Janzen, Christina DeRosa, Kelli Maroney, Madeline Voges, Rich Komenich, Don Sullivan. 90 mins.

Two teens in a lovers lane are attacked by a giant-sized gila monster and are reported missing the next day by the girl's worried father. The sheriff (Knox) enlists the help of cool kid Chase Winstead (Gross), a grease monkey with a heart of gold and a kid sister with polio, to help find the missing kids. Hot rodder Waco Bob (Janzen) returns to town after a stint in the clink and is determined to make trouble for Chase and his gal Lisa (Voges). Unknown to the locals, toxic waste dumped in a nearby cavern is the cause for the giant lizard gone wild. After the gila crashes the high school's sock hop, Chase and the sheriff go after it with a hot rod full of dynamite. Will Chase save his mother and little sis before the gila does the monster stomp on the old homestead? Will Chase and Waco Bob be able to put aside their differences to save the town? Will Christmas be saved? Will Chase ever get around to singing the "Mushroom Song" to his kid sister? **Gila!** is Wynorski's remake of the 1959 drive-in classic **The Giant Gila Monster**. The soundtrack is hopping with lots of '50s hits and hot rods that will make any gearhead's mouth water. This is all kiddie matinee stuff, which was surprising considering other remakes Wynorski had done of '50s sci-fi faves (**Not of This Earth**, **The Wasp Woman**), but I believe this was made for TV. It's nice seeing Maroney team up with Wynorski again (she starred in his robots-amok flick **Chopping Mall**), while original Chase Winstead Sullivan shows up as a scientist. A fun monster movie that's safe for younger viewers and, yes, they do sing the "Mushroom Song." ♂

—Rob Freese

