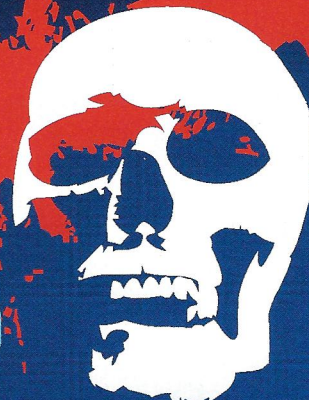


HORROR REVIEWS



WHAT'S HOT IN THE WORLD OF DVD & BLU-RAY...

THE TWILIGHT PEOPLE

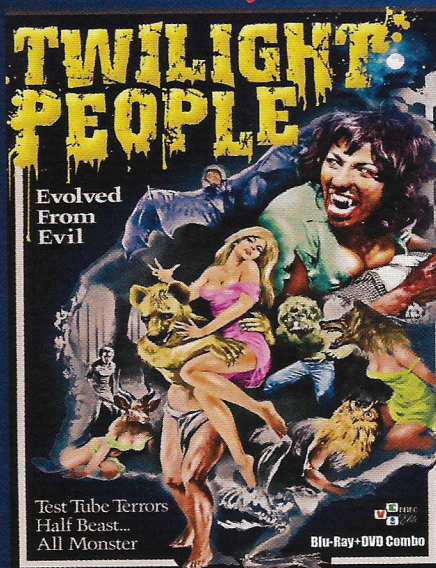
THE FILM: Although it is never has been acknowledged officially, Eddie Romero's 70's horror *THE TWILIGHT PEOPLE* is seemingly based on H.G. Wells' *The Island of Doctor Moreau* and sees an island populated by mad scientists who are intent on building a super race by combining the DNA of humans and animals. As a whole, it hasn't stood the test of time well and now serves as a stunted slice of cinema that disappointingly leaves too much to be desired.

The film follows Matt Farrell, a diver who finds himself kidnapped and taken to an island where Dr Gordon (Charles Macaulay) is running experiments by combining human and animal DNA. Farrell is the next in line to become one of Dr Gordon's experiments but after quickly forming a bond with his daughter Neva (Pat Woodell) the two work quickly to ensure Farrell's survival and the release of Dr Gordon's experiments. Determined to stop them, Dr Gordon sends his goons to stop them before its too late.

Plagued by shocking production values, *THE TWILIGHT PEOPLE* is far from an entertaining watch. As director Romero struggles to keep the momentum of his film ticking along and it fails to establish itself as a horror film in almost every way. It doesn't help his efforts when the entire film is so impaired due to cringe-worthy performances and ultra-low budget effects, two common attributions of the era.

John Ashley is charming as the lead of the film and with *THE TWILIGHT PEOPLE* he operates with a cool head helping him to secure the role as hero with a bit of an edge. Pat Woodell stars as his co-lead. Playing Neva, the love interest of Ashley and on-screen daughter of the film's villainous Dr Gordon, Woodell's character might think she's smart but she's too naive to think she can keep herself safe from her father's "experiments". So teaming up with Ashley, the duo form a tight bond and are the only ones to keep the boredom at bay.

The rest of the cast are completely



forgettable. Jan Merlin's blonde henchman Steinman is so poorly delivered and rightfully unlikable. As for Charles Macaulay's so called-villainous Dr Gordon, there is nothing remarkable to make note of at all. That said, it was surprising to see the legendary Pam Grier make an appearance as Ayesa aka The Panther Woman who stars as one of Dr Gordon's prior experiments.

As a whole, I didn't find *THE TWILIGHT PEOPLE* enjoyable at all. Sure it might have its moments which make for great scenes but there is so much going against it that I really struggled to fully engage with it. Perhaps with a tighter edit, stronger performances from the ensemble not to mention a better investment in its special effects, Romero could have had a better film on his hands.

Rating: 🧟🧟🧟🧟🧟

SPECIAL FEATURES: Remastered in 2K from the 35mm negative, this presentation from MVD Visual contains several extras for fans of the film to enjoy. First of all the interview with director Eddie Romero lasts an incredible 58 minutes. Fans wanting to know more about the development of the film can benefit from detailed accounts from Romero which give a keen insight into the making of the film. Also included in this presentation is

the original trailer and tv spots. Not only is it fascinating to see how the film was marketed to audiences around the world but Romero's interview is incredibly detailed and worth checking out if you want to know more about the film.

Rating: 🧟🧟🧟🧟🧟

THE TWILIGHT PEOPLE is out now on **US DVD** and **Blu-ray** courtesy of MVD ENTERTAINMENT.

REVIEWED BY JON DICKINSON

INSIDIOUS: THE LAST KEY

THE FILM: Now in its fourth instalment, the *INSIDIOUS* series is understandably not as fresh and exciting as it was in the beginning. The first movie, while far from original, was a nice surprise in the well-explored haunted house/supernatural sub-genre, and the sequels have been consistently entertaining. As far as modern horror franchises go, it's always delivered enjoyable comfort spooks and sometimes that's all you need.

THE LAST KEY could have wrapped up the series in a satisfying way, but the film's financial success has made a return to

