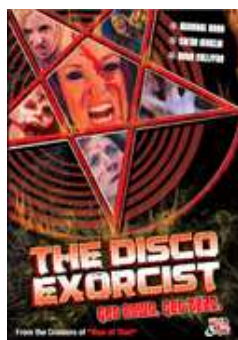


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The Disco Exorcist

2011

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The 70's was a time known for excess as well as being a period that was filled with some pretty badly gone movies although there were also several which have become classics. These days it has become something that many filmmakers try and duplicate, not for the nostalgia purpose but instead often just to mock what the decade gave the world. It's that grindhouse appeal that some are looking for but not everyone can manage to capture that look and feel.

The Disco Exorcist is a film that I went into with the impression that regardless of how bad the title was, it probably could be a little fun. Rex Romanski (Michael Reed) is a swinging, discotheque loving cat who is more than happy to take anything and everything that the 70's can give him especially if it happens to be women and drugs, but mostly the women take priority. At the club one faithful night he happens to meet Rita Marie (Ruth Sullivan) and the two hit it off really well, but the very next night pornstar Amoreena Jones (Sarah Nicklin) catches his eye angering Rita who leaves and casts a voodoo spell on Amoreena. That isn't good enough however and she takes her evil plan one step further so that all women who have been spured by a man can get their revenge. Now Rex must find a way to stop his possessed girlfriend who now has a tendency to go on bloodthirsty rampages at the most inconvenient times and places.

As expected, *The Disco Exorcist* is yet another film which tries to pay tribute to the less than stellar filmmaking of the 70's, particularly movies that were low-budget horror releases. Like others before it such as *Black Dynamite* and of course *Death Proof*, *The Disco Exorcist* utilizes the post-production grain effect to give the movie the look as if it has been sitting in some forgotten cinema for decades just waiting to be discovered. There are even a few "scene missing" parts added in which might have been creative were it not for the fact that this has been done too many times before.

The fun I expected that *The Disco Exorcist* might deliver however was never actually present. The movie goes for the excess approach of the 70's particularly

in the sex category. I don't have an issue with this in general and it really was something which did seem to be used quite often in cinema of that decade, but *The Disco Exorcist* overuses it to such an extent you have to wonder if this wasn't originally intended to be some type of soft-core porn parody with the horror aspect added in as an afterthought. Virtually every one of these scenes is also filled with horrible jokes and bad one-liners, not that the script is anything impressive in the first place.

The Disco Exorcist ends up spending nearly half of the movie just building up to the first possession scene which in itself is incredibly disappointing and feels more like a cheap imitation of Sam Raimi's classic *The Evil Dead*. Instead of letting this drive the rest of the film however, the possession comes and goes and most of the time really isn't seen as often as what it could or should be. Instead it's right back to throwing in sex scenes for no apparent reason that just to have them and while this might be the real driving ambition behind Rex it really doesn't make for an interesting movie. Instead it gives *The Disco Exorcist* the feel of a movie which was poorly thought out and executed even worse. Also, if you're going to make anything which is a period piece movie regardless of when it might be set, try and pay attention to the world around you and there are a number of spots where modern technology can be seen which really doesn't give the feeling of the 70's at all. I understand; this is a low budget film and you can't account for everything.

Aside from a commentary track from Richard Griffin the only other extras found on the disc is a deleted scene and a variety of different trailers for the movie.

I really can't come up with a good reason to watch *The Disco Exorcist* unless you're really that bored on a weekend, maybe looking to craft a cinematic drinking game, or are completely infatuated with low-budget filmmaking.

-mike-

Directed by:
Richard Griffin

Written by:
Ted Geoghegan
Tony Nunes

Cast:
Michael Reed
Sarah Nicklin
Ruth Sullivan

DVD Features:
Aspect Ratio 1.78:1
Audio: English Dolby Digital 2.0 Stereo
Commentary with Richard Griffin
Deleted Scene
Original Teaser Trailer
Red Band Trailer
Green Band Trailer

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