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Dr. Jekyll's Dungeon of Death

• DVD Review

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DVD Review



Oh my God, it's kind of a blast to come across movies that are awful but awfully entertaining. Sadly, I think maybe the music had a lot to do with this. Let me explain.

Atmosphere sometimes has a lot to do with whether or not I like a movie and the minimal but effective score to this one keeps it creepy. Of course, there are also the WTF elements (been watching a lot of WTF movies lately) that combine with the creep factor to make this one strangely entertaining even though it's a totally terrible film.

Dr. Jekyll's grandson (already you know your knee deep in shit) is conducting experiments, trying to perfect (or something) his granddaddy's serum. His method of testing the serum involves giving it to pairs of people at a time and putting them into his own little basement arena (or wherever this place is hidden in his home) and watching them duke it out. Do black people fight more or less viciously than whites? How about women vs. men? These are the pressing questions the world wants to know. Ahem.

At least I think that's what's up. At least part of what's up. At any rate, his mode of serum experimentation makes for one helluva genre bender, since we move back and forth between fight sequences (most of which are kung-fu-y) and talky gothy scenes with Dr. Jekyll and his lobotomized sister and his big black (I think) retarded henchman. I'm not being mean, that's what he's got for muscle to do the dirty work (like kidnapping). There's also the old guy and the old guy's daughter (or granddaughter?). The daughter is Jekyll's prisoner, though I'm not sure why, outside of some revenge scheme Jekyll has up his sleeve. He has "befriended" the old dude, who knows nothing of Jekyll's kidnapping of the old dude's daughter, in some plot to be vindicated for (I think) his rejection by academia.

Hell, who knows. You can see there's one big fuckin' mess of a movie here, but in all it's poorly lit, simplistic scored self, along with its holy hell mixed up lack of genre focus, it's strangely compelling in its badness. For me, it's a keeper. I make no promises to the rest of you.

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AUTHOR: Upchuck Undergrind



Upchuck Undergrind listens to a little bit of a lot of things - just note the eclecticism of his reviews. He also reads voraciously and loves movies. He is a very open-minded Episcopalian (and student of Buddhism and Hinduism) who thinks Slayer is one of the greatest metal bands. Ever. In addition to his work with Corazine - for which he has written since its inception (he is a Fishcomcollective veteran) - he also writes for DJFix.com.

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