



The Rumour Machine

news film gossip coming soon reviews

Home: [MONSTER DOG \(aka Leviatan\)](#)

News:
Events: Written and Directed by Claudio Ragasso and Carlos Aured.

Info:
Film Gossip: Three years before appearing in John Carpenter's PRINCE OF DARKNESS as a pasty faced zombie, Alice Cooper risked his limited acting talents in this Spanish made "werewolf shocker." In Production: It might be too patchy to deliver on the tagline of "The fear...the terror...the nightmare. They will never forget it!", but the sight of Alice in an orange hooded body warmer carrying a DVD Releases: shotgun will indeed have viewers howling.

Reviews:
Reviewers: Rock star Vincent Raven (Alice Cooper) hasn't been home in twenty years, since the strange Interviews: disappearance of his father. Returning to Spain with his girlfriend Sandra and groupie friends, Links: he is warned by a sheriff that packs of wolves have been tearing the locals to shreds. Warned Contact: to "make sure there are weapons in the house, and don't let anybody in", they make their way Guestbook: to Vince's old family residence.

Site Map:
After running over a dog on the way, Vince kills it out of mercy, but is greeted by a cackling old man in a torn, bloodied shirt, who tells them "Now you've done it. Can you feel the wind? It's blowing away the clouds from the moon. Now he's back at last. He will command the hounds. And all of you, all of you will die! All of you will die! His dogs will not spare you..."

Shrugging off the encounter, they arrive at the now empty house, but Vince seems concerned by the wolf stories. After a friend suffers nightmares that Vince is a werewolf, the host begins to read the book 'Werewolves: Myths, Legends & Scientific realities'. When Sandra asks Vince what realities, he informs her that his father suffered from a heart condition that made him howl at the moon. Meanwhile the gang are picked off one by one in the old dark house...

Opening with clips from a cheesy rock video, it's evident that the filmmakers are relying on Cooper's presence to carry it - not that this helps in any way. Not only is MONSTER DOG a tame, badly produced and horribly predictable feature, but Alice's performance as the power and charisma of a piece of cardboard. Blank faced and inexpressive, he cuts a wholly unimpressive presence, and the disembodied dubbing - by another actor - distances us from both he and the Spanish supporting cast.

Not only are performances flat, but also the film's imagery. Reminiscent of Spanish produced films such as Stuart Gordon's CASTLE FREAK (1995), MONSTER DOG has a drably lit old house to act as a gothic backdrop to the various set pieces. As if to alleviate the dullness of the setting, director Claudio Rigasso tries to add a bit of a spark by means of coloured lighting. But rather than add a hallucinatory tone, we're instead treated to dry ice, coupled with eye scratching, overly bright colours.

Although made during the resurgence of the werewolf film, MONSTER DOG lacks the impressive, flesh twisting transformation scenes that distinguished classics like AN AMERICAN WEREWOLF IN LONDON and the original THE HOWLING from the pack. Having to make do with fluffy masks and furry suits, the filmmakers wisely play down the set pieces and go for the mystery set up instead. As such, we're pretty much given the awe-inspiring task of guessing whether it's the old man, or Cooper himself.

When Cooper is asked near the beginning how he will find his home with the absence of a map, he replies with the pregnant line "With my nose. When I was a kid I could find my way home just by the smell". That, and other howlers such as "(my father) was afflicted with that disease...Sometimes when the moon was full he'd leave the house and go wandering through

the fields like an animal. One time my mother found him under a bush..." means that MONSTER DOG is a no-brainer to add insult to injury.

A Substance Films/Eclectic DVD Release. Many thanks to Clint at Eclectic DVD for this screener.

All Regions

Special Features:

Trailer Reel

Reviewed by Matthew Sanderson

This site was last updated on Tuesday, March 29, 2005. By administrator@rumourmachine.com