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## FAT WRECK CHORDS!

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## Articles

## zombie brigade

Zombie Brigade is a slow-goer. I hate to start off negative, but that is the overwhelming feeling one is left with when all is said and done. Even during moments of zombie/vampire action, my fast-forward finger was dreadfully trigger-happy. Never a good sign.

My secondary impression, a somewhat buried one, I'll admit, is that there is a mite bit of payoff if you're willing to slug it out with the film's lethargy.

It's kind of sad, given that the Aussies are known for some pretty kinetic low-budget horror. Or maybe that's just Peter Jackson.

At any rate, you can see attempts at tongue-in-cheek fun, but it tends to get muddled by the film's morphine pacing. Zombie Brigade has too much chatter and not enough action. When the zombies finally show up, the viewer is a bit hard-pressed to care. Sadly, these are dreadfully cheesy and low-brow and have the potential for great bad film fun, but even the film's occasional good elements get bogged down by the near-swoon induced in the viewer. A little patience, some friends and a keg are probably the right elements to act as a catalyst on the fun-zone that I know is in here somewhere.

How can there not be something good about a movie featuring pissed-off zombie vampires that return from the grave because their monument was destroyed to make way for a theme park based on an Asian animated super hero character? Oh, and it turns out they're not so much dead as ... well ... inbetween? ... due to some biochemical stuff the Vietnamese enemy employed, based on ancient tradition. Or something.

It doesn't really matter. They're zombie vampires, and that's what's important.

Apparently the government was all too prepared for this, though, because almost as soon as the outbreak occurs, the town finds itself surrounded by mines planted in the ground. What the fuck?! This is the most efficient way the government could come up with to hem them in and contain the contagion? Oh, well ...

The potential fun aspect of the movie finally gets rip-roaring (as much as it can in the swamped atmosphere of the movie) when a man who knows the old aboriginal ways, summons some zombies himself - zombies on his side, friends from the grave ... or something. And they're militarily dressed too.

Their first enemy combatant? One of the Asians, a victim of the zombie vampires returned as one himself ... and wearing the robot samurai (or whatever) costume of the cartoon character. He lops off one of the good guy zombie's heads before he and the other zombie vampires are defeated (a process that inexplicably takes place mostly offscreen! ... at least the movie tries to be humorous about this approach).

After this, there is what almost seems to be an attempt at touching closure for the zombies as the zombie vampires are ushered by the good zombies into coffins, etc. Apparently, though, being dead really sucks and pisses you off because the humans have to flee to let the zombies dispense with things (dispensing with things includes the burning of the town).

Ahem.

See? There's goofy fun here if you're patient enough to look for it.

Visit www.eclecticdvd.com.

article written by: Upchuck Undergrind

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