

Helsing) to squelch their diabolical plan. Will Billy save himself (and his girlfriend) or will he become one of the devils minions in hell?

THE SINS OF DRACULA is a strong effort from Griffin and company. It has a lot of 'meat' on its bones which will appeal to viewers across the board. For starters a disclaimer at the onset warns of consequences that could result for people living in a faithless society. You know...if you have pre-marital sex you'll wind up in hell with Dracula! Casual viewers might be confused but Griffin intended this to be a satire of Christian scare films and that's just one angle the film has going for it.

Another key point is how people in the theater group are seen as outcasts but they come together to form a collective whole. Billy initially abhors the idea of a gay man or people playing demonic games featuring 'witchcraft' but since he sins by having premarital sex he is no better than those whom he judges.

Like most of Griffin's output the focus is on comedy. However unlike the kindergartenish antics of his Frankenstein mess, this film is actually funny. The characters are a quirky bunch and never sink to toilet humor or other nonsense. Perhaps the one bit that strays a little too far into Wayans Brother's debauchery is an exorcism, but even that isn't too distracting. There is some gore, but for the most part the violence is never meant to be brutal or disturbing. I should also mention that all of the sex scenes feature characters wearing lots of clothing.

Vampire fans might be taken aback by the non-participation by Dracula (as portrayed by Michael Thurber). He never speaks (save for one last bit before the credits roll) and doesn't do much except stand around. He looks like he's going to die (for real) any second and isn't menacing in the least. It seems like Griffin was shadowing **DRACULA: PRINCE OF DARKNESS** for the most part which certainly explains certain scenes.

With strong dialog, nice characters and an interesting story **THE SINS OF DRACULA** impressed me quite a bit. A pleasant surprise worth seeking out.

SOCIETY

Brian Yuzna's debut as director (circa 1989) has always been a perplexing film for yours truly. On one hand the ideas it expounds are strange and different. Yet the way it was filmed renders it nothing more than T.V. pabulum fit for the Lifetime Channel.

The story revolves around Billy who doesn't fit in with his rich family. He feels paranoia at every turn...that 'something is' about to happen. That 'something' involves his sisters coming out party which includes incest, bugs and a 'society' composed of rubbery, fleshy things resembling humans. Billy's worst fears suddenly become reality when he is 'captured' and about to be 'fed' to a group of slimy "aliens" as he calls them. Can Billy escape their clutches, or will he become another member of their twisted group?

Yuzna crafted **SOCIETY** from the ashes of an aborted project with Dan 'O Bannen. Yuzna's taste for the weird and surreal paid off in good measures since there is nothing quite like the 'society' he conjures up. Along with the help of Japanese FX wizard Screaming Mad George, they crafted a film that remains quite unclassifiable.

Arrow Video's new bluray brings out the colors in the film like no previous version had before. Yet it also reinforces the generic look the film possesses. If you didn't know any better you'd swear this was made for television. Star Billy Warlock was also appearing on **BAY WATCH** at the same time **SOCIETY** was released which doesn't help matters any.



All in all **SOCIETY** remains watchable all these

years later, warts and all. Yuzna was one of the few directors working in the nineties making horror movies that were 'different.' Arrow Video's Blu-ray celebrates the Yuzna factor with a ton of special features including new interviews with the director, Screaming Mad George, Billy Warlock and co-star Devan Devasquez to name a few. A Screaming Mad George music video is also there for your viewing pleasure. A great disc worth plunking down your pennies for.

SPIDER BABY

The term 'cult movie' has been bandied about so much over the years it has become an overused phrase. Yet few movies truly earn that moniker, one that does is Jack Hill's **SPIDER BABY**.

This 1964 production (barely released in 1967) features the Merrye family, beset with inbreeding, whose members have slowly been regressing to madness and cannibalism. When 'normal' relatives come to access the situation they soon realize just how 'mad' their family really is.

The entire movie is filled with quirky and unique touches that place it miles apart from its so-called 'competition.' The two young Merrye girls (played by Jill Banner and Beverly Washburn) are into spiders, hating and carving up unlikely 'guests' such as Mantan Moreland. Their brother Ralph (a young Sid Haig) is a mindless goof who gawks (and seemingly rapes curvaceous Carol Ohmart) and kills rabbits for dinner. Speaking of which, aside from **THE TEXAS CHAIN SAW MASSACRE**, the dinner scene in **SPIDER BABY** has to be considered one of the most memorable ever filmed.

Towering above it all is Lon Chaney Jr. who delivers a wonderful performance as the Merrye caretaker Bruno. Aside from his heyday in the 40's, Chaney never lived up to the reputation his famous father had as a performer, but here he fires on all cylinders. His dialog delivery (always played straight but with a current of black humor) is heartwarming and sincere, as is his interaction with his loony co-stars. Chaney even 'sings' the theme song, another memorable bit that adds to the immense cult appeal.

Arrow Video has rendered Hill's magnum opus in a Blu-ray presentation that leaves no stones unturned. You get two featurettes from 2006 (used on the previous Dark Sky DVD) filled with memories from Hill, Washburn, Haig, Mitchell, Redeker and Schnazer. Another great piece focus' on composer Ronald Stein's career which Ted Newsom helped usher onto CD via Percepto Records.

Jack Hill's 1960 student film **THE HOST** starring Sid Haig is included as well. It's a sorta western that shares similarities with the third act of **APOCALYPSE NOW**. Also Jack Hill revisits the house where the film was shot, and a film festival discussion from 2012 is here as well. There are even more extras for the willing viewer to dissect. Needless-to-say this is a marvelous package well worth your time.

As a celebration is about to begin for the engagement of Jekyll and Miss Osbourne, the guests soon meet the mysterious Mr. Hyde whom Jekyll has just included in his will. Hyde maims and tortures each guest with great relish and gusto. One memorable highlight includes Jekyll tying up a general (Patrick Magee) whilst fucking his daughter doggy style! Later on the two deviants take turns shooting arrows into the poor slob! Little girls are raped and killed, a young boy is seemingly sodomized then sliced up, Jekyll's mom is forced to play the piano (!) and on and on it goes. Jekyll's fiancé succumbs to Hyde's madness by slipping into the bathtub where the magic potion is dumped...giving her equal parts dementia so they can screw and eat (!) each other in a sleazy, sick romantically filmed sequence.

