

Freddy In Space

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Every Other Day Is Halloween - A Journey Back To a Simpler Time

I attended my very first horror convention in 2005 - Hunt Valley, Maryland's Horrorfind Weekend. Standing at a table in the autograph room, with a big smile on his face, was a middle aged Dracula with whiteface and a badass mustache - this was my very first encounter with a horror host by the name of Count Gore De Vol. Prior to this moment, I had admittedly never even heard the name. Regardless, for whatever reason - maybe it was his infectious charm or maybe it was that mustache - both my dad and myself immediately took to the good Count. We shook his hand and got his autograph but it wasn't until I got home and began researching him that I realized Count Gore was a bit of a legendary figure in the world of horror and in fact a hero to many children who grew up in the 70's. No longer merely an amusing looking dude I saw at a horror convention, my fascination skyrocketed and Count Gore, real name Dick Dyszel, soon became my favorite present day horror host. I eventually reached out to him after I started this blog and he was cool enough to supply me with a couple DVD's for a giveaway. Needless to say, when I heard that a documentary was in the works about such a geniunely nice and fascinating guy, I couldn't have been more excited - excited to learn more about him and excited that he was going to be introduced to a whole new generation of horror fans, like he had recently been introduced to me.

Every Other Day Is Halloween is this documentary and it was just released last Tuesday (April 20th) onto DVD. I was lucky enough to be sent a screener copy, which I just checked out tonight, and i'm happy to say that it was an incredibly well made documentary about an incredible man - a man whose name you should know if you don't by now. Afterall, this is a beloved Rondo Award winning man who at one time managed to beat out Saturday Night Live in the ratings.

Very long story short, Dick Dyszel was not only a horror host but he was also a slew of characters for Channel 20 in Washington, DC throughout the 70's and 80's - including Bozo The Clown and the channel's Spock-like mascot, Captain 20. Count Gore became his most famous and successful incarnation, a character that still hosts a weekly program on the internet to this day. In fact, Dyszel was the very first horror host to present such a show on the web. Every Other Day Is Halloween is a feature length documentary that covers all of these things and provides tons of archive footage as well as interviews with Dyszel and those who were inspired by him - including 30 Days of Night creator Steve Niles.

If you're interested in the world of horror hosts, like I am, I highly suggest you check it out - whether you love Count Gore or don't know who the hell Count Gore is. It's a fascinating documentary not only about the Count's career and his impact on those who spent many a night watching him on the television, but also about the world of horror hosts at large - both past and present. In fact, if there's one complaint I have about the doc

it's that it takes the focus off Dyszel for a bit too long in an attempt to focus on some of the horror hosts he inspired, but ultimately these segments make it a more complete documentary about an underground world that as far as I know has never been captured in a documentary before (I was wrong - the documentary American Scary provides a look inside this very world). I've come away from the doc with an even greater appreciation for both Gore and his fellow hosts, all of whom do their thing not for money or fame, but out of a love for doing it. This being said, Every Other Day Is Halloween has clearly done its job and is in fact one of the more interesting and engaging horror related documentaries I have ever seen. Do yourself a favor and check it out - travel back to that magical time when kids looked up to the guys and gals that introduced them to horror movies as much as they looked up to sports figures and musicians. It's a time that may have passed, but guys like Count Gore are still doing their best to keep it alive for those who miss that time and those who missed out on that time, myself included in the latter.

You can pick Every Other Day Is Halloween up on Amazon or get it through Count Gore's website, where you can have it signed by Gore himself for just a few dollars more than it's available (unsigned) on Amazon. The first 1,000 DVD's include Channel 20 Club Card's - replicas of the ones that fans of the channel were sent back in the 70's. If you want one of those, be sure to act fast because i'm not sure there are too many left. (I got one, woohoo!).

Be sure to check out CountGore.com, where you can watch a new Creature Feature web program each and every week. Long live the Count and long live the horror host!

Posted by Johnny at 8:01 PM