



CURRENT REVIEWS

IN STORES SOON

- > The Elephant In The Living Room (2011/Nightfly/First Look Blu-ray)
- > Al Di Meola: Morocco Fantasia (2011/Inakustik/MVD Blu-ray)/Bill Moyers – Amazing Grace (1990 – 1994/Athena/Acorn DVD)/The Love We Make (Paul McCartney/2001/2011/Eagle Blu-ray)/Rimsky-Korsakov: The Leg
- > The Josephine Baker Story (1991)/Thurgood (2011)/The Tuskegee Airmen (2005/HBO Blu-rays)
- > Jean-Luc Godard's Film Socialisme (2010/Kino Blu-ray)/The Invisible Frame/Cycling The Frame (2009/1988/Icarus Films DVD)
- > In The Name Of The King 2: Two Worlds (2011/Fox Blu-ray)/Sinners & Saints (2011/Anchor Bay Blu-ray)
- > Arabia 3D/IMAX (2010/Image Blu-ray 3D)/Greece: Secrets Of The Past/IMAX (2006/Image Blu-ray)/The Last Hard Men/SkyRiders (1976/Shout! Factory DVD)

IN STORES NOW

- > Little Big Man (1970/National General/CBS Blu-ray)/Welcome To L.A. (1976/MGM Limited Edition Collection DVD)
- > Baaria (2009/Image Blu-ray)/The Moon & The Gutter (1983/Cinema Libre Blu-ray)/Branded To Kill (1967)/Tokyo Drifter (1966/Criterion Blu-rays)
- > Absolutely Fabulous: Absolutely Everything (1992 – 2004/BBC DVD Box Set)/Dr. Willoughby 1
- > The Rocketeer – 20th Anniversary Edition (1991/Disney Blu-ray)
- > The Simpsons – The Fourteenth Season (2002 – 2003/Fox Blu-ray) + Futurama – Volume 6 (Fox Blu-ray)
- > Fire Of Conscience (2010/Vivendi/Indomina DVD)
- > The Hollywood Knights (1980/Image Blu-ray)/Portlandia: Season One (2011/IFC/VSC/MVD Blu-ray)
- > Wasteland (2011/Cinema Epoch DVD)

www.fulvuedrive-in.com

REVIEWS

ESSAYS

INTERVIEWS

CONTACT

STAFF

RATINGS SYSTEM

SEARCH

Find

Category: Home > Reviews > Horror > Comedy > Astron-6 (Horror/Comedy/Shorts/Troma DVD)/Chillerama (2011/Horror/Comedy/Anthology/Image Blu-ray)/Gurozuka (2005/Synapse DVD)/Don't Let Him In (2011/U.K. Horror/Satire)/Little Deaths (2011/Spanish/Ima

MARKET PLACE

Astron-6 (Horror/Comedy/Shorts/Troma DVD)/**Chillerama** (2011/Horror/Comedy/Anthology/Image Blu-ray)/**Gurozuka** (2005/Synapse DVD)/**Don't Let Him In** (2011/U.K. Horror/Satire)/**Little Deaths** (2011/Spanish/Image DVDs)/**Haunted Changi** (2010/Singapore)/**Lust For Vengeance** (2001)/**Original House Of The Damned** (1996/MVD Visual DVDs)/**Kidnapped** (2010/Spanish)/**Vampires** (2010/Belgian Satire/IFC/MPI DVDs)

Picture: C/B-/C/C/C-/C-/C-/C-/C/C- Sound: C+/B-/C+/C+/C/C/C/C/C/C Extras: C-/C-/D/C/D/D/D/D/C-/C- Main Programs: D (Kidnapped/Vampires: C-)



The Horror genre is in such a state of schlock that it has affected production worldwide, including the use of various digital video formats making cheap-looking productions cheaper than ever and almost all with the originality of a group of psychotic plagiarists without the fun of *Monster Mash*. Despite a few writers who cover the genre, we still have received more titles than even we can handle, so I thought it would be a good idea to look at the state of said wasteland as 2011 ends.

The ideas have become so re cycled and lame that more than a few releases are collections of shorts or shorter including the goofy Troma set known as **Astron-6** which puts together so-called trailers and the like of films that do not exist and likely never will if we are lucky. Remarkably, they managed to fill two DVDs with this material, but it is a retro one-joke romp that never works. Not even lightly amusing, this is for fanboys and geeks only if that with extras that just add onto that material too numerous to list.

Chillerama has almost the same concept, but we get four "films" that are meant to be as gross and offensive as they can be, but it still boils down to its own one-joke fiasco that never goes anywhere. Adam Green (**Diary Of Anne Frankenstein**), Joe Lynch (**Zom-B-Movie**), Adam Rifkin (**Wadzilla**) and Tim Sullivan (**I Was A Teenage Werebear**) are the four directors of the main pieces, but they are not funny, are sloppily done and

Christian Recovery

Christian Recovery, Structured Christian Recovery. (888) 236-1549
www.TheRecoveryPlac...

Drug Rehab Centers

Many Approaches to Alcohol & Drug Rehab. Insurance & Financing OK.
TheDrugRehab.com/Dr...

Medical Detox Treatment

Do You or Someone You Love Have a Drug Problem? We Can Help!
MedicalDetox.org/Drug...

Stop Drinking Now

A New Way To Help Alcoholics Stop Drinking In Just 8 Weeks!
DrinkLessNow.com

> **Conan: The Adventurer – Season 2, Part 1 (Shout! Factory DVD)**
 > **Underworld Trilogy – The Essential Collection (2003 – 2009/Screen Gems/Sony Blu-ray Box Set)**
 > **Fright Night 3-D (2011/Touchstone Blu-ray 3D + Blu-ray + DVD w/Digital Copy) + Fright Night (1985/Limited Edition/Twilight Time Blu-ray)**
 > **Rise Of The Planet of the Apes (2011/Fox Blu-ray + DVD w/Digital Copy)**
 > **Beauty and the Beast: Enchanted Christmas – Special Edition (Disney/Blu-ray + DVD) + Beauty and the Beast: Belle's Magical World – Special Edition (Disney DVD) + Ice Age – A Mammoth Christmas Special**
 > **Sid & Nancy (1986/MGM /Stars & Stripes Forever (1952/Fox Blu-rays)**
 > **Cave of Forgotten Dreams 3D: Humanity's Lost Masterpiece – A Film by Werner Herzog (Sundance Selects/IFC/MPI Blu-ray 3D + Blu-ray on one disc)**

this gimmick falls flat as well. Extras include trailers, some on-camera interviews, video commentary on all and Deleted Scenes on **Werebear**. The previous work from all four is weak as well.

Synapse has issued **Gurozuka** from 2005 in what is one of the lesser Asian supernatural thrillers of the time of what was a very, very bad and overrated cycle, though I give them credit for making it available and at least it has some ambition and intent. It is just not scary or effective at all. However, it is not a joke or a comedy, so those who liked that cycle (very much that is) should see it once to be completist about it as a killer with a Japanese “deign” mask kills those who visit a certain house. A trailer and making of featurette are the only extras.

A better attempt as satire is Kelly Smith's U.K. satire **Don't Let Him In** (2011) whose title is meant to take a shot at the film **Let The Right One In** remade in the U.S. as **Let Him In**. There are no vampires here, but a serial killer called The Tree Surgeon who decorates trees with the body parts of his victims. Unfortunately, this goes on far too long and anything that might have worked fades quickly after the first 20 of its long 79 minutes. Maybe this one should have been a short. Extras include a trailer, behind-the-scenes featurette, feature-length audio commentary by Smith, Co-Writer Chris Andrews & Co-Producer Mike Mindel and making of featurette.


On the other hand, Vincent Lannoo's own satire **Vampires** (2010) is about the title subject and is one of several tired “found-footage” releases here that has an idea that could work if **True Blood** had not beat them too it and outclassed it. The vampires are Belgian as is this project and I is a shame it was not trying to be more Belgian and less Hollywood as this could have been more fun. Unfortunately, it becomes about as generic as its title, though it has a good start which fades quickly. A trailer and deleted scenes are the only extras.

It took three people to bring us the Spanish torture porn fiasco **Little Deaths** (2011) which also sells out any originality, ethnicity, national flavor and differences in a project that is doomed to be as bad as all the others in this now pretty-dead cycle. What a bore, boldly or otherwise, I was not impressed. A trailer and behind-the-scenes featurette are the only extras.

Andrew Lau's **Haunted Changi** (2010) takes place in Singapore in a haunted hospital (a locale that is already played out) and is no better than the bad films it imitates or better than **Gurozuka**, yet less ambitious and with the same dull results except it tries to tie in the Pearl Harbor attacks into this early on and the results are embarrassing and dumb. And this was based on a book? Extras include the first three chapters of that book, WWII archive footage (!) and Crewblog Archived. Yawn!

Lust For Vengeance (2001) and **Original House Of The Damned** (1996) are both from Director Sean Weathers and the twist is that these are African American Horror tales, but too bad they look like every other Horror film made by mostly white casts when they were more original. Badly shot on frame-limited video, the former is a mess about women who must pay for being “bad” in what has to be one of the silliest cases of virgin/whore complex I have seen to date and the latter wants to be Romero's **Night Of The Living Dead** and sells itself as a 25th Anniversary event that is also from found footage. Very weak and barely worthy of the Black New Wave, true African American Horror successes like **Sugar Hill** (1974) and **Ganja & Hess** (1973, both reviewed elsewhere on this

amazon.com
and you're done.™



[Rise of the Planet of the Apes](#)
James Franco, Andy...
New \$24.99
Best \$18.89

[Jillian Michaels - 30 Day Shred](#)
Jillian Michaels, ...
New \$6.99
Best \$5.00

[Masterpiece Classic](#)
Maggie Smith, Juli...
New \$19.99
Best \$19.99

[Rise Of The Planet of the Apes](#)
New \$3.99
Best \$3.99

[The Help](#)
Emma Stone, Bryce ...
New \$16.99
Best \$13.42

[Masterpiece Classic](#)
PBS
New \$29.99
Best \$17.31

[Privacy Information](#)

site) have absolutely nothing to worry about. Both are issued from Full Circle Filmworks via MVD Visual DVD. Trailers and bonus clips are the only extras on each.

Finally we have yet another Spanish entry, Miguel Angel Vivas' **Kidnapped** (2010) is as good as anything bad here by default, as a masked group breaks into a family's house and demands money or they die. This has been done too much and often very badly as well, including Joel Schumacher's recent Nicolas Cage/Nicole Kidman thriller **Trespass** (2011, reviewed on Blu-ray on this site) which was not perfect, but at least it was more comparatively effective and the result knew its way around the genre more than this does. However, this is all tired and like everything else on this list, offered a sense of near déjà vu bad films and other releases always deliver. No genre is repeating itself more than Horror films and these ten releases confirm this. At least the actors here tried, which is an improvement over most entries on this list, equaling minimal to zero effort. Foreign trailers, a U.S. trailer and making of featurette are the only extras.

The 1080p 1.78 X 1 digital High Definition image transfer on **Chillerama** is on the weak side, both by choice (the various shorts are purposely degraded) and yet, this is all so bad that this looks the best by default. The DVDs are all anamorphically enhanced and the cheaper indie releases (**Vengeance, Damned, Astron, Changi**) are 1.78, while the rest as 1.85 X 1 save **Kidnapped** at 2.35 X 1. **Astron, Gurozuka, Him** and **Kidnapped** are very average and weak with poor Video Black, but the rest of the DVDs are very degraded and difficult to watch, so be warned.

The DTS-HD MA (Master Audio) 5.1 lossless mix on **Chillerama** is on the weak side with sound too much towards the front channels when it is active at all, but you also get monophonic sound, location audio drop outs (all of this intended at times!) and is sadly again the best on the list by default. Dolby Digital 5.1 can be found on **Deaths, Vampires, Him** and **Kidnapped**, while the remaining DVDs are Dolby Digital 2.0 with **Gurozuka**, winning in that category by simply having consistent Stereo (it sounds better than some of the 5.1 mixes) and the rest very, very rough.

Astron and **Him** tie it for second place for best sound and it is obvious the 5.1 on the rest of the DVDs that have it are really stretching out the sound in the lossy format.

Yup, this is bottom-of-the-barrel stuff, even celebrating the fact, but that is what makes a glut and so buyer beware!

- Nicholas Sheffo

Copyright © MIII through MMX fulvuedrive-in.com