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MARK OF THE DEVIL (1970)

Published by David Carter on 2013/2/19 (89 reads)

Directed by Michael Armstrong
Review by David Carter



Released by Cheezy Flicks
Running Time: 96 minutes
Rating: Not Rated
Color format: Color
Audio/Subtitles: 2.0 Mono English
Region Code: 1, NTSC
Aspect Ratio: Widescreen
16:9 Enhanced: Yes
Special Features: Intermission featurette, collectable vomit bag
Trailer Online: Yes



Short Version: Exploitation classic comes to DVD

Movies aren't marketed as well as they used to be. That's an odd statement to make, considering all of the advances in film merchandising that have occurred in the past twenty years. Now, films have websites, YouTube trailers, message boards, and even the occasional "alternate reality game" to entice viewers to plunk down their hard earned money at the box office.



Legendary exploitation distributors Hallmark Releasing bought the rights to the German film HEXEN BIS AUFS BLUT GEQUÄLT (WITCHES ARE TORTURED TO DEATH), which was made as a cash-in on the success of the Vincent Price vehicle WITCHFINDER GENERAL.



The fact that MARK OF THE DEVIL lived up to its other tagline "Positively the most horrifying film ever made" certainly didn't hurt ticket sales either. The tale of sadistic and corrupt witch finders and the horrors they unleashed on the peasantry in European villages is a familiar one, and DEVIL's spin on it is not much different than those that came before it.

MARK OF THE DEVIL is one of the few highly touted exploitation "classics" to deserve its reputation. Kier, Lom, and Nalder turn in excellent performances, particularly the latter two who seem to be having a contest as to

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Source: Box Office Mojo
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who can chew on the most scenery. The film's narrative is somewhat overwrought but forgivably so since all involved attack the material with such gusto. The legendary gore scenes have held up very well in the over forty years since they were filmed and will garner wincing out of some viewers even today.

Even a barebones release like this can be forgiven for a classic, and what Cheezy Flicks' print is lacking in polish is made up for by the inclusion of the vomit bag. A must-have piece of history for exploitation fans and an excellent film to boot.



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