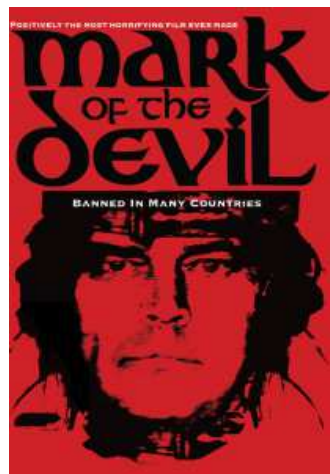


DVD REVIEW: MARK OF THE DEVIL (1970)



I had always wanted to see **MARK OF THE DEVIL** ever since I was a young and impressionable horror film freak. I read in a heavy metal publication one year that one of the members of Anthrax (if not all of them) were quoted as saying that **MARK OF THE DEVIL** was one of their favorite horror films of all time. I am almost positive that this was printed in some magazine, even though I tried looking for it online and nothing came of it. I wanna say that Scott Ian was the one that was quoted as saying this either in print form during an interview or on a televised interview on *Headbanger's Ball* or something. Needless to say, I had it set in my mind that **Michael Armstrong's MARK OF THE DEVIL** (originally to be directed by **Michael Reeves** of *WITCHFINDER GENERAL* and *SHE-BEAST* fame but whom died of a barbiturate overdose at the age of 25) was a film that was infamous in my head. The cover of the the VHS tape with the actress that has her tongue clamped by some medieval torture device made the film look out to be quite a bit of nastiness that I was extremely excited to see! After all, the film was "banned in many countries" and was described as "the most horrifying film ever made!". Hell, it came

with a barf bag when one paid to see it in U.S. theaters. What a promotional gimmick that was!

With all the hoopla I had read about this film and already had envisioned in my head, I was most certainly expecting the heinous nature of this film to exceed even my wildest expectations- so much so that when I finally saw it I was a little bit disappointed. The film was not a gore-fest, filled with countless acts of depravity but instead it had some memorable performances by actors **Udo Kier** as the Count Christian von Meruh whom is sent into the small village to monitor and take over the duties that Albino, played by the compelling **Reggie Nalder**, has been abusing his power to suit his own depraved needs and wants. In anticipation of Lord Cumberland's (**Herbert Lom**) visit, Christian has already reprimanded and humiliated the local witchfinder Albino as he was seen abusing the lovely barmaid Vanessa Benedict (played by **Olivera Vuco** also known as **Olivera Katarina**) whom Christian found desirable. If getting burned at the stake and tortured to death by corrupt officials only desiring money and power under the guise of religious authority claiming to exorcise demons and evil witches from the community.

The film does a wonderful job of mirroring the actual bullshit that really did occur all over Europe and eventually in the United States in the original thirteen colonies when European settlers were plagued by witches as depicted in some many books such as *IN THE DEVIL'S SNARE* which depicted the Salem Witchcraft Crisis of 1692 and so many other incidents in history. As violent and bloody as **MARK OF THE DEVIL** is at times, the film works on a very basic level depicting one evil pitted up against an even greater evil. Really, one is not sure whom will end up living or dying by the end of the film as there is so much treachery and backstabbing throughout the film. No one is loyal to anyone and everyone is fueled by fear of being labeled a witch.



Lines delivered by **Herbert Lom** with a complete stone-like seriousness such as the one scene in which the cute, blonde villager whom is about to get her tongue ripped out,

"We must never weaken in performing God's work."

The film depicts countless scenes of public humiliation, torture, villagers being burned alive and tortured in so many uniquely evil ways, what is quite sad is that most of what was depicted actually

occurred and is not a fabrication of a creative director or screenplay. The film is one filled with various scenes of sexuality and nudity, paired with gratuitous violence and some decent gore. With all that to look forward to, my favorite aspect of the film is the wonderful original music from **Michael Holm**. Every time I hear the soundtrack I am reminded of some of the optimistic and uplifting music composed by **Riz Ortolani** in *CANNIBAL HOLOCAUST*. For some reason, I just love it when movies depicting horrible acts against humanity have a very pleasant and "nice" sounding background music accompanying it. It just seems so wrong it's right.

The quality of the film, its content, and the continual screams of pain and agony throughout the feature can best be described as one of the grittier horror films in existence. It's raw depictions of nuns getting raped, as so occurs in the first five minutes of the film before the credits even have rolled through lets viewers get just a taste of what they have in store for them. It just continues to get worse and one really does not have a hero or "good guy" to vote for, even in **Udo Kier's** character as Christian because he does not always do what is

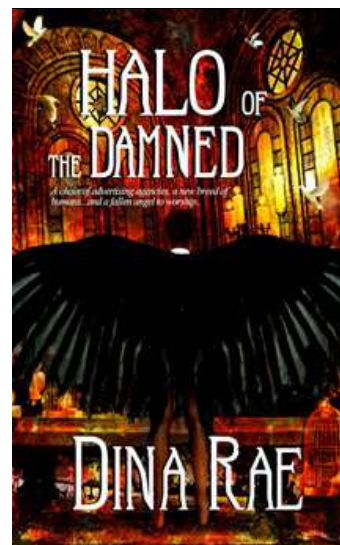


CATEGORIES

SHU-IZMZ STORE



FEATURED BOOKS



CONTACT INFO FOR FILMS, SCREENERS, OR ANYTHING WANTING REVIEWED

SHU-IZMZ is always accepting submissions of films, novels, short stories, comicbooks,

right. I really hated every damn character in the film and was just watching each scene to see what creative death or instrument of torture was going to be used next. In films like this, one only has to root for an even more painful and gory sequence of events to occur!

I recommend watching *MARK OF THE DEVIL* and than reading up on all the ridiculous shit that occurred all in the name of religion and how people's fears get the best of them and drive them to reprehensible acts of violence and cruelty. *MARK OF THE DEVIL* is one very cruel film to sit through.

The edition I am reviewing is the **Cheezy Flicks Edition** that runs 96 minutes and is not the crispest and cleanest transfer out there, but it sufficed. It is a bare-bones version with no real extra features except some trailers for other titles on the **Cheezy Flicks** label, as well as some hilarious Intermission segment. This edition does come with its own barf bag just as originally passed out at screenings at various movie theaters. I know that the **Blue Underground** version of the film is out on dvd and I personally feel that a high-definition transfer of the film is in order, too. I think *MARK OF THE DEVIL* is a film that deserves the all-star treatment!

Like 5

Related Shu-izmz posts:



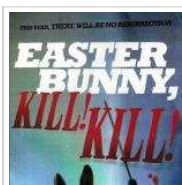
BOOK REVIEW: HELLUCINATION by Stephen Biro



REVIEW: SCORE (1974)



INTERVIEW: Travis Miller: Independent Horror Filmmaker



EASTER BUNNY, KILL! KILL! (2006)



DVD REVIEW: GUT (2012)

powered by nrelate

Tweet 2

This entry was posted on February 5, 2013. It was filed under [review](#) and was tagged with [anthrax](#), [cheezy flicks](#), [dvd](#), [gabyfuchs](#), [herbert fux](#), [herbert lom](#), [horror](#), [mark of the devil](#), [Michael Armstrong](#), [olivera wuco](#), [reggie naldor](#), [udo kier](#).

← Leave a Reply →

Your email address will not be published. Required fields are marked *

Name *

Email *

Website

and anything else that is horror, sci-fi, or fantasy related. Email me at shuizmz@gmail.com for mailing address and more info.

THE LADIES OF SHU-IZMZ



Get your Shuizmz t-shirts now!



Bryan Schuessler [shuizmz](#)

[shuizmz](#) Punk thugs and punk cops. I love this movie. [is.gd/oLLiq9](#) #GetGlue #NewJerseyDrive 13 hours ago · reply · retweet · favorite

[shuizmz](#) Being poor & choosing comic & horror books, movies, and records over decent food means Red Bull and Red Vines for dinner. TB was last night! 14 hours ago · reply · retweet · favorite

[shuizmz](#) @JamesWatnem Thanks for retweeting and favoriting the LIQUID CHEESE ZINE interview with Dave Kosanke! He was a swell guy to interview! #rad 14 hours ago · reply · retweet · favorite

[shuizmz](#) I love Will Ferrell Zerk

Join the conversation

CLICK ON KEYWORDS FOR RELATED ARTICLES

20th Century Fox action blood **Blu-ray** boobs books **Breaking Glass** Pictures bush **Chicago** comedy comicbooks contest Core of Destruction Radio **cult** documentary **dvd** exploitation film giveaway gore