

ULTRACHRIST! (2002)

Category : DVD REVIEWS (N-Z)

Published by [Filmfanaddict](#) on 2006/11/29

Directed by Kerry Douglas Dye

Review by Dan Greene

Released by: Eclectic DVD Distribution

Year of release: 2006

Running time: 92 minutes

Rating: NR

Color Format: Color

Audio / Subtitles: English mono / no subtitles

Region Code: Region 0 NTSC

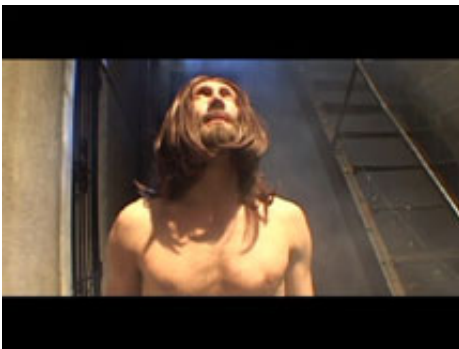
Aspect ratio: 1.85:1 (4:3 letterboxed)

16:9 enhanced: No

Special features: Behind-the-Scenes; Filmmakers Commentary; Archangel Ira's House of Erotic Massage; Trailer; Image Slideshow.

Trailer Online: [Yes](#)

Jesus Christ returns to Earth—with wacky results, of course—in the ultra-low-budget ULTRACHRIST!, a cheapie comedy that's filled with cringe-worthy puns and biblical one-liners, yet knows its limitations well enough to come off charming and entertaining.



Actor Jonathan C. Green practically channels Trey Parker in all of his faux-bearded, CANNIBAL! THE MUSICAL glory to play Jesus Christ, who has returned to Earth—well, New York City—after a two-millennia absence. And he's got a hankerin' to convert some sinners and shepherd in the flock. Only problem is, Jesus seems pretty naïve and directionless in this modern world of ours. Even more disconcerting: wireless technology is the one thing that can kill him. Why? Who cares! Luckily, J.C. stumbles from one kind soul to the next, getting plenty of help along the way.

His first new acquaintance, Murray Klein, lets Jesus crash at his pad for the night, then encourages the Savior to take his "magical" powers to the obvious next level by becoming a superhero. So, it's

off to the nearest tailoring shop, where Jesus meets Molly, a cute-but-lonely aspiring fashion designer who works as a seamstress to make ends meet. Not only does Molly design a skin-tight, spandex superhero costume for the Lord, but she also helps him find some new roommates—two of Molly’s friends, self-proclaimed “lipstick lesbian lovers.” With so many new friends rooting for him, Jesus dons the superhero duds and becomes... ULTRACHRIST!



Back up in Heaven, though, God the Father is scrutinizing Ultrachrist’s every move, and thinks he’s doing a piss-poor job of promoting Christianity on Earth. God sends the nebbishy archangel Ira (co-writer/producer Jordan Hoffman) down to Earth to keep an eye on Ultrachrist. It’s a good thing, too; a certain “devilish” character—the New York City Parks Commissioner—is gunning for Ultrachrist. Why? Again, who cares! Do Ultrachrist and his new disciples stand a chance against this unexpected foe?

Despite the washed-out, low-end, MiniDV footage, the set design that’s limited to basements and apartment interiors, the embarrassing sideways-wipe editing transitions, and every other aspect of the production that’s less-than-professional, ULTRACHRIST!’s saving grace is that it never takes itself seriously. The filmmakers and actors know that they’re making a crude, goofy, home-grown picture, and yet they throw themselves at the task full-force. The result is a lovable underdog of a movie that would be fun to watch with a group of friends. Preferably when drunk.

There are plenty of hammy biblical jokes (“Our Father, who art in Heaven... how they heck are ya?”), not to mention a hearty dose of Mel Brooks/Carl Reiner-esque give-and-take (News Reporter: “What are your hobbies?” Ultrachrist: “Oh, contrition, and... you know, working with wood.”), but there are also some clever—or just plain zany—moments as well. When Molly presents Jesus with his costume, he wonders what the “t” on the chest stands for. “The ‘t’? The cross. The symbol of Christianity,” she explains. “The cross is the symbol of Christianity? I hated the cross! Ouch!” Later, when Molly hesitates to show Ultrachrist her fashion sketches, he reassures her: “Molly, if I cared what people thought, I would never be able to preach the hard truths, or wear my hair like a girl.” And this is the one place—outside of SOUTH PARK—where you’re likely to see Jesus Christ pitted against Richard Nixon in a wrestling match, overcome by the groovy effects of Jim Morrison’s freak-out dust, or lifting the “ban” on premarital sex (because all of that sin was clouding his spiritual Spidey-sense).

Of course, if you’re a biblical illiterate, you won’t catch about 99% of the jokes. But we can all enjoy the Yiddish klezmer score... right?



The equally homemade-looking DVD includes a handful of special features. The Behind-the-Scenes featurette is really just a reunion of the cast and crew, where they drink beers and reminisce about the production. The Filmmakers Commentary includes co-writer/director Kerry Douglas Dye and co-writer/producer Jordan Hoffman, and is chock-a-block with trivia ranging from the genesis of the project, to the filming locations, to how you can schedule an appointment with Empress Asia, the real-life dominatrix featured in the movie. If you want to know all about ULTRACHRIST! (for whatever reason), the commentary shouldn't disappoint. "Archangel Ira's House of Erotic Massage" is a humorous essay about the delicate art of seduction-via-massage, and the Image Slideshow features behind-the-scenes photos with funny captions.

The artwork on the DVD packaging isn't doing the film any favors, though; it's pretty clearly someone's first attempt at using Adobe Photoshop.