



The Rumour Machine

news film gossip coming soon reviews

Home: [DOMINATOR \(2003\)](#)

News:

Events: Written by Alan Grant, Directed by Tony Luke.

Info:

Film Gossip: Cult director Jim van Bebber, who thankfully has nothing to do with this film, once criticised the original SPIDERMAN blockbuster for its unconvincing, computer game style CGI graphics that characterised the overblown action scenes. Jim, who often did his own stunts in lively zero budget classics such as DEADBEAT AT DAWN, was right to do so, because it is ever more frequent that bloated Hollywood "epics" suck the integrity and the magic away from the cine camera.

Reviewers:

Interviews: If the predominantly live action SPIDERMAN looked like a Playstation game at times, then the British rock-horror travesty that is DOMINATOR shows how much worst a full fledged cartoon can be. Block headed polygons and FINAL FANTASY 7 monster rejects are thrown to us in spades, and despite some striking looking backdrops, is a sluggish, lifeless mess of a film that cannot be saved even by the brief presence of the excellent Alex Cox.

Links:

Contact:

Guestbook:

Site Map:

In a convoluted beginning, it is hurriedly revealed to us via voice-over that some serious upheavals are happening in the bowels of hell, the place where Lord Lucifer tortures dead rock stars for eternity. When Desecrator – a Cthuloid monster – challenges the rule of Lucifer, war breaks out. After the tentacled one secures the all-powerful key to hell, his general Dominator steals it from him, causing further squabbling.

In his bid for domination, er, Dominator fends off demons sent by his old boss, causing a seemingly endless conflict. Up on earth, in the near future, Dr. Payne (voiced by HELLRAISER's Doug Bradley, also the film's exec producer) and his burly, mute assistant Sydney, save the planet from supernatural threats such as the reanimated dead, one of whom he beheads near the start of the feature to crudely clue us in on the situation.

Working out of his secluded mansion, Payne is distracted by the heavy metal group upstairs, who happen to also be his three daughters, Tara, Fina and Molly. The trio get themselves, and possibly the whole world, in deep trouble after they unwittingly invoke one of poor dad's occult texts, which – surprise, surprise – opens a rift in the fiery underworld that allows a pissed off, foul mouthed Dominator (Dani Filth) into the land of the living.

Dominator demands to be sent back, where he can continue his conflict, and takes a fancy to Payne's three daughters. Desperate to keep the Dark Lord away from his daughters – who incidentally think that Dominator is a bit cool – he frantically searches his library of forbidden tomes to find a way to send him back. Unable to even close the rift, the demonic trio of Lady Violator (Ingrid Pitt), Extricator and Decimator, come through, and engage in some super powered fight scenes...

Irritatingly derivative, DOMINATOR wears its cinematic influences on its patchy, frayed sleeve, which we cannot help but notice. Dominator himself, heavily armed and armoured, built like a brick shithouse and wearing an armour-plated mask, looks a dead ringer for the monster out of the PREDATOR series. Desecrator, as mentioned earlier, is a poor man's rendition of Lovecraft's Cthulu. That is one baseball bat strike against the movie, and a hopeful lesson that one cannot show the unshowable, unless you want a run-of-the-mill giant squid.

Other creatures, such as Violator and her companions, look like FINAL FANTASY 7 rejects, complete with Japanese style pointy faces and oddball juxtapositions of twisted technology and monstrous organisms, and skull-headed Extricator looks a bit too much like Marvel creation

Ghost Rider for my liking. Fat, mute and thick assistant Sydney could be Gnaghi of Michele Soavi's DELLAMORTE DELLAMORE, and the zombie connotations hammer this association home like a nail in the foot or a splinter in the eyeball.

Filmmakers cannot always be faulted for using images ingrained into popular culture – and consequently our own consciousness – but it's rather what is done with them that is most objectionable. Put simply, these copied and pasted bits of cinematic iconography are used to engineer one clumsy fight sequence after another, to the accompaniment of a coat hanger in the ear heavy metal soundtrack, and hindered by some sluggish animation that makes its block headed subjects look like they are swimming in treacle. To add insult, the voices of the well-known cast horribly mismatch the gaping fish mouths of the "characters", and when they are legible they frequently say "fack", and of course "bloody", just so we cannot help but notice it's a film made by cheeky Brits.

Special Features

A Brief History of Hell (6 min animated feature with Doug Bradley).
Interviews With Cast.
Sci Fi Channel On Air Interstitial About DOMINATOR.
Music Video
Picture Gallery

Many thanks to Clint from Eclectic DVD for this screener

Visit the website: www.eclecticdvd.com

Reviewed by Matthew Sanderson

This site was last updated on Thursday, April 28, 2005. By administrator@rumourmachine.com