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Harry Knuckles and the Pearl Necklace

Posted by [damonthegreat](#) on 09/11/2006, 08:07 AM



“I hope you brought kneepads, ‘cause you’re going down!”



Whenever trouble rises in Canada there is one go-to-guy to call; a man who is a super spy and a fighting machine with a fist fueled by fur- Harry Knuckles (aka Spanish Fly). His history has been traced back through appearances in a few short films all created by director Lee Gordon Demarbre (of *Jesus Christ, Vampire Hunter* fame) and his lovely band of miscreants. Phil Caracas has portrayed Knuckles in all his adventures up to now when he meets his toughest challenge in the full length journey of *Harry Knuckles and the Pearl Necklace*.

After a very valuable necklace is stolen there is no choice but to turn to Harry Knuckles in hopes he can

recover the goods. He is hot on the case with his loyal sidekick El Santos, a lifelong friend and luchador wrestler, only to find out he has been set up by a group which turns out to be lead by Harry's evil brother Fuzzy Knuckles (also played by Caracas). As they try to get to the bottom of everything Harry and Santos have to fight, or wrestle, their way through a barrage of henchmen, including heavy metal purse snatchers, naughty nuns in lingerie, a virtual reality female assassin and even Bigfoot (in a very sweet costume). None of this seems to bother Harry because he will stop at nothing to get his long lost brother behind bars where he belongs.

When the back of the DVD showed this film was just a few minutes short of two hours I hung my head thinking this was going to be a very long and boring film to watch. Man, I was sure wrong!

The overall look and style of the film is mostly what gives it the hilarious greatness of a send-up of 70's action flicks. Everything is shot on gritty 16mm, and the voices overdubbed so they are crystal clear while not completely matching up with the mouths. In the sound department is really where the magic really happens. Every little movement has its very own "swoosh" or "whack" effect, sometimes even running is overly dramatic. Even though the sound F/X can be overdone at times the overall product is perfect and highly comedic.

The acting is one thing that could make or break this movie if overcooked. Many films trying to go for an older look and make fun of cinematic eras gone by use too much overacting in an attempt to poke more fun, but this just makes the whole product absurd and hand it right over into slapstick territory. What Demarbre and company have done correctly is have all actors play their role straight and serious. Nothing adds more to the laughs of cheesiness than acting like there is nothing cheesy about it.

Pretty much everything about this movie is funny in one way or another. When the great El Santos is supposed to be getting married in the wrestling ring and it turns out to be a set-up we, the audience, are treated to 10 minutes of great wrestling. The dialogue in the film is perfect with some priceless witty superhero-like lines – "I hope you brought kneepads, 'cause you're going down" or "we should have put down newspaper ... because you're nothing but a big pile of parrot droppings." Even the music is hysterical, with an arsenal of original music by The Hammerheads. Each one of the songs has a silly side to it like the *Rocky* inspired song during a chase scene with lyrics like, "I'm running on empty/I'm running on awesome!" Genius!

The Deluxe Special Edition DVD comes packed with great extras including two commentaries featuring cast and crew, a making-of feature, some interviews and footage of the film's premiere and after party. However, the best feature is the inclusion of the near half hour short *Harry Knuckles and the Treasure of the Aztec Mummy*, where our hero battles robots, a mummy and zombies.

This hairy adventure is sure to please the cult/independent film viewer and even those who are not (at least until *Harry Knuckles and the Golden Shower*). Highly recommended!

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