

Shattered Ravings

Excursions into Sci-Fi, Fantasy, and Horror...and everything in between...

Movie Review – Hell on Earth (2011)

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[Hell on Earth](#)

Directed by [Ted A. Bohus](#)

Courtesy of Elite Entertainment and MVD Visual

Release Date: January 24, 2012



I just watched HELL ON EARTH, a fun horror-comedy that truly captures the nostalgia of 80s demon and monster flicks. I have fond memories of those days, sneaking into the theater (I was under age) to see DEMONS, SUBSPECIES, THE KINDRED and many others. Back then, there were no CG effects to supplement a few practical effects shots...oh no...instead, production crews had to rely on good old fashioned physical carnage. Just like this film.

If you are not familiar with HELL ON EARTH, here is the plot synopsis courtesy of the press release:

Seventeen year-old Bobby walks with the help of metal leg braces and lives with his nasty parents and repulsive sister, Peggy. He plays with “imaginary friends” provided by the mysterious and ancient Apocryphal Book of Tarkuhn, given to him by his eccentric and somewhat crazy Aunt Sadie. What he does not know is that the monsters and demons are only biding their time until the planets are aligned and they can get him to read the passage freeing their master from the “Hell” of another universe.

I have to preface the review by stating that this is probably one of the lowest budget films I've seen in quite a while. But the production team does a great job of using the money they have wisely. The resulting film is wildly entertaining.

What drew me in to HELL ON EARTH is its use of practical gore and demon effects. You can tell by looking at the hideous demon on the cover that you're in for a treat with this one...and it does not disappoint for the most part. The creatures are well done, although some of the zombie make-up is a bit cheesy.

My problem with the effects is the digital visual effects used for the electricity and explosions. Instead of looking impressive, they come across as looking cheap, like something from the original Nintendo era. Still, the practical gore effects make up for that.

The acting in HELL ON EARTH is actually not too bad for such a low-budget production. And the camerawork is pretty good as well. If I were forced to note a negative about the overall production, I would have to say the musical score didn't do much for me. It was almost too 80-ish.

Overall, though, HELL ON EARTH is one of a hell of a film and definitely worth checking out. Fans of 80s demon and monsters flick will especially be thrilled. But don't go into this expecting to see a big Michael Bay budgeted production. Just sit back and enjoy this film for what it is: simple fun.

MSB

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