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Banshee!!!

2008

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The Best Place to Buy Your Stuff

Have you ever seen a really bad video game show you how terrible it looks on the cover? No and if they did it probably failed to see the light of day. This scenario brings me to the movie *Banshee!!!* And apparently this film needs to have three exclamation points to go with the title. The cover of this film depicts a bad looking CGI creature that might as well look like a Gargoyle with Down syndrome. If you are not quite sure what a Banshee truly is, by definition it is a mythical Irish spirit that appears as a precursor to some one's death.

In this film they take the idea of the Banshee and totally warp it. *Banshee!!!* Starts off with a smidge of promise as we see three guys in their mid-twenties probably getting drunk and high in their parents basement looking at hot chicks on TV because they can't get laid in real life, yes people used the TV for this before there was the internet as this scene takes place in the seventies. I'll just cut to the chase and say five minutes of non-sense happen and then a car crash and they all die.

Then we fast forward to present day and see that very car at some place getting junked. They investigate the car and some lump of disgusting mass rolls out and they bury it, however not quick enough as a dog takes a lick. Fast forward more and then you see an old man from the car scene and the dog relaxing at home and the dog runs away to go back to that very spot where the mysterious mass is, then comes the most cliché and generic plot set-up in horror. Young adults going camping, can you take a wild guess what happens to them? They all become millionaires and triumph over any danger they face and NONE OF THEM DIE! And I am being completely sarcastic. The reality is this is set-up with a similar plot like any *Friday the 13th* or *Sleepaway Camp*, or hell even *Cabin Fever* and for giggles *The Ruin*. Different foes will of course emerge from each film but it's the same one by one, they die until the final confrontation occurs and usually one or two survive.

As I had stated earlier the film then really begins when it revolves around a group of most likely collage kids going on a camping trip. The previous incident with the junking of the car apparently unleashed some kind of evil that would be the Banshee. The group discovers the creature as it mimics one of the campers and causes the rest to hallucinate by sound which I guess would be kind of similar to a banshee screaming? Once the guise is up all hell breaks

loose and it's a run for your life situation with the people remaining.

They finally get a break and come across at an isolated house. Then comes copious amounts of character interaction and back story revealed as one of the characters goes onto examine his boyhood love for one of the other characters. Which as the story goes on you will discover this weakness will lead to a fatal mistake as the Banshee is able to infiltrate its way to the house. While this creature seems almost unstoppable, its simple weakness is also unveiled while the characters talk inside their only refuge. The final moments of the film go by fairly quickly as they must find a way to survive and defeat the creature that is stalking them and obviously trying to kill them for no apparent reason. I think we as viewers have accepted that there is no plot reasoning for a monster attacking a group of people, in fact that is the reason it seems these days.

For the special features section of this flick you get the usual commentary which blabs on and on about the creation of the film and the actors involved and any hardships that might have come along the creative process. The Bloopers & Outtakes & Deleted Scenes were kind of hard to decipher between because they all seemed the same to me, a little bland on the humor and as I like to say living up to that deleted scene status they are credited for. One thing I did like was the trailer for the film *Assault of the Sasquatch* which features some of the same cast from this film and *A LOT* less CGI which appeals to me greatly and inspires me to want to track down this particular film.

My thoughts on Banshee!!! Was that it was an alright film for what it was doing and it really did waste little time getting into it. Some of the acting was a little awkward and at times grating to swallow. While I hate CGI they did do some great cinematography during the night scenes to cover up this blemish of a creature which helped the film. Own-worthy I think not for this film, but rent-worthy is an ok recommendation for this film.

-Derek-

Directed by:
Colin Theys

Written by:
John Doolan
Gregory C. Parker

Cast:
Ashley Bates
David McCarthy
Kevin Shea
Kerry McGann
Iris McQuillan-Grace
Troy Walcott
Mike Forgette
Leo Petry
Greg Natcher
Ken LaMothe
Cristina Santiago

DVD Features:
Aspect Ratio: 1.78:1
Audio: English Dolby Digital 5.1
English, Spanish Subtitles
Deleted Scenes
Bloopers & Outtakes
Commentary
Theatrical Trailers