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Sunday, June 3, 2012

Puppet Monster Massacre (2010)



Directed by Dustin Mills

One of the cool things about running a review site is the exposure to some unique films that are delivered to my desk. While Jason Segal triumphantly brought the Muppets' back for new and older generations to enjoy in theaters, director Dustin Mills tackled the most difficult type of indie film - one that totally relies on using one's skills as a puppeteer for the entire cast and operating on a meager budget. However, creativity can solve the biggest of problems in film making, and that type of artistry is apparent in his horror-comedy film *The Puppet Monster Massacre*.

Living with his delirious war veteran Gramps, young Charlie receives a shady letter that offers him the chance to win a million smackers if he can survive a night in the old Wagner mansion. Gramps smells a rat and is all against it, but Charlie wants to use the money to reopen their family business in hopes of giving credibility back to his family's name. He is not the only recipient of this special invitation, as Gwen, the girl he crushes over, horror film uber nerd Raimi as well as thug Iggy and his thug lady Mona receive the challenge letter as well.



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Little do they know that this contest is nothing but a trap setup by Dr. Wagner, an old Nazi scientist who has a major plan initiated around all of their demise. But I am sure with a film entitled *The Puppet Monster Massacre*, you pretty much have an idea of what is in store for the evening's attendees.

As the film moves closer to its conclusion, the mad genius' plan is fully exposed and shows that this film is not just a one-trick pony, silly puppet show. *Massacre's* creator Mills actually developed a strong overall story with unexpected plot twists to go along with the goofy entertainment of extreme violence and foul language stemming from cute little puppets for us to enjoy. Dare it be said that this film is as intelligent as it is funny and gory.

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Not since Peter Jackson's *Meet the Feebles* has anyone attempted to showcase graphic puppet on puppet brutality or have been successful at doing so. The only drawbacks include the voice work, but again that's indie film making for you, and it runs a bit longer than it should. However the film is filled with horror spoofs galore, the puppeteering is spot on and the mainly CGI backgrounds are actually pretty cool considering the budget and assist the film with its charm.

The Puppet Monster Massacre is available now at the film's official site (see below) and is worth 70 minutes of about as unique a film you are going to find out there. Mills has recently started up a Kickstarter campaign for a sequel, so you can learn more that there also.

RATING:



3 out of 5 Creeper Santa

REQUIRED READING

.....kindertrauma:....
It's a Horror to Know You::
Joanna Wilson of
Christmas TV History!

A Fistful of Awesome



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