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# The Puppet Monster Massacre

USA 2010

produced by

**Brandon Salkil, Sherriah Salkil, Erica Kisseberth, Delphia Grandoit, Amanda smith, William Hohmeis Mario Alberto Salcido, Dustin Mills**

directed by Dustin Mills

written by, music & visual effects by Dustin Mills, theme song by Jared Kaelber, puppets created by Kim N

*pup*

review by **Mike Haberfelner**

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1985, the middle of nowhere, USA: Teenaged Charlie is your typical loser: He never amounted to much in his life, is a bit of a coward, still lives with his gramps, a half-demented World War II veteran, and he doesn't even dare to ask the girl of his dreams Gwen out, even though it's obvious to everyone but him that she feels drawn to him as well. Then he is invited to spend a night in a haunted house in exchange a million bucks, which would change everything, and what's best, Gwen is invited too.

Of course, while the night in the haunted house is labelled as a simple competition, it is not, it's actually the plot of a mad N scientist from World War II to release his all-devouring monster on humanity, and the same time have his revenge on the soldiers who destroyed his lab and killed t

wife during the war, soldiers like Charlie's gramps.

At the mansion, Charlie and Gwen meet three other teens who were invited to spend the night, a punk, a sl and a nerd - in other words, typical cannonfodder -, and soon this quintet has to find out that there is next to nothing right in the mansion, and soon the cannonfodder teens drop like flies. It's only Charlie who grows w the experience, and he soon shows signs of courage, and even manages to ask Gwen out - only moments before she is killed.

The monster grows with everything it eats, and soon it becomes too much to handle for Charlie - but thank i his gramps is only half as demented as he seemed to be, and eventually he arrives with an army and a tank However, the whole arsenal the army has brought won't even scratch the monster, and the soldiers serve a perfect monster food ... and soon enough, the monster is big as a building and heads for the city ... Is it too much of a spoiler to mention everything ends happily nevertheless ...

I don't know if this came across in my review, but **Puppet Monster Massacre** is a comedy, a loving yet disrespectful spoof of genre cinema, especially from the 1980's. Actually, the film starts out as your typical pointless teen slasher, then throws in a bunch of **Aliens**-quotes before going the giant monster-route. Oh, and have I mentioned the film is entirely done with puppets? (Ok, the title **Puppet Monster Massacre** might have been a bit of a giveaway.)

And as a matter of fact, the puppets contribute greatly to the humour of the film, not only thanks to their hilariously basic, unsophisticated looks, but also because they take the horrific edge of the more violent sce (after all, there's no way you can find puppet gore not funny) without going for (too) cheap jokes.

Combine this with the fact that director Dustin Mills really loves, understands and respect the films he's spoofing, and you get ... pretty hilarious entertainment.

review © by **Mike Haberfelner**

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