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## Friday Night Frights: The Puppet Monster Massacre DVD Review

August 19, 2011 No Comments

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After mad scientist Wilhelm Wagner sends his crazed penguin henchma—er, henchbird to bring back a host for his monster, he invited a handful of teens to his mansion with the prospect of receiving a million dollars should they be able to stay for the entire evening. Among the invitees is Charlie (Ethan Holey) who, much to the chagrin of his war hero badass grandfather (Bart Flynn), is not brave by any definition of the word. This point is driven home by his best friend and love interest Gwen (Jessica Daniels), who reminds him of his inadequacies more than once but claims she likes him anyway. Also invited is uber geek Rami Campbell (I love that name!)(Dustin Mills) and a wannabe British punk rocker named Iggy (Bart Flynn) who brings along his sex crazed girlfriend Mona (Erica Kissenberth). It soon becomes obvious that Wagner has an evil ulterior motive to inviting the teens over and that claiming their million dollars may be harder than they envisioned.

When I saw the cover for The Puppet Monster Massacre, I admit I dismissed the concept of an actual story as I made the assumption it would be nonsensical jokes and bad gore with no real narrative. This time around; however, I was totally wrong. The movie features a story that is more defined than many of the new live action horror releases and requires

the viewer to actually watch the movie from start to finish. There is a definite nod to House on Haunted Hill, Aliens and other classics but this is not a rip off of other movies by any means.

Sure there are some goofy crude jokes in the movie, especially whenever Grandpa is around. Puppet nudity also makes an amusing appearance but not to Team America levels. While these themes are present, they are not the only thing that drives the movie. Puppet Monster Massacre proves it is not a one trick pony relying solely on sex jokes and puppet fights to succeed.

Special features consist of a pair of commentary tracks featuring director/writer Dustin Mills and assistant director Brandon Salkil. The first one has Dustin flying solo and while it is informative, the second featuring both director and assistant works much better as they play well off of each other and keep the conversation interesting. Also included is some test footage of alternate puppet monster designs which is kind of neat as it shows a bit of the creative process that went into the design of the Geiger inspired creature.

The Puppet Monster Massacre is an oddball horror film filled with all of the staples of 80's horror...sex, nudity, gore, mad scientists, monsters and punks, which happens to use puppets in place of real actors. In other words, it isn't one for the kiddies to watch. The story is as well written if not stronger, than most indie horror films being released today and the movie is entertaining. Definitely on par with the best of Midnight Swim's offerings, The Puppet Monster Massacre is definitely worth a watch for horror fans.

## Recommended

### Special Features:

- Commentary Track by director
- Commentary Track by director and assistant director
- Discarded Monster Designs

The Puppet Monster Massacre is available on DVD now, courtesy of MVD Releasing.



- [Friday Night Frights: Attack of the Multi Pack! Review and Mega Contest](#) (0.335)
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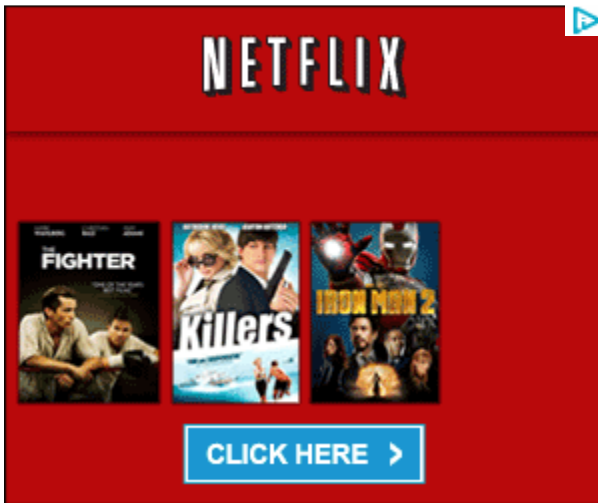
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