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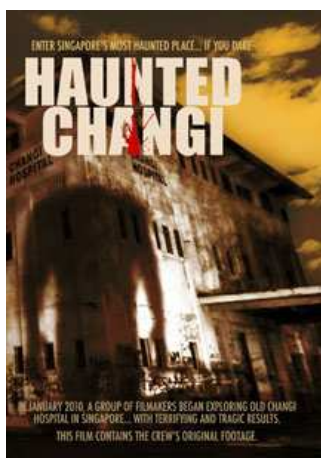
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Haunted Changi (2010) Movie Review

24 November 2011 Comments (0)



Haunted Changi

Director: Andrew Lau

Starring: Andrew Lau, Farid Azlam, Sheena Chung, and Audi Kalis

Reviewer: Horrorphilia Jason

Available on dvd via MVD by [Clicking Here.](#)

The Lowdown: Another found footage movie that should appeal to the Paranormal Activity fans.

I'm not quite tired of the found footage genre yet, but I think I'm getting close to it. I like the idea I just wish more of it featured other sub-genres besides supernatural or ghosts movies. It would be kick ass to see a balls out in your face slasher in this style. I can't fault this movie for that, so for what it's shooting for I think it mainly succeeds.

The movie follows four characters of a documentary crew that are filming a documentary about the Old Changi Hospital (OCH for the rest of the review) located in Singapore. It has a long history of ghosts, vampire ghosts, and other strange occurrences since it was closed down after the war. In World War 2 it was used by Japanese soldiers as a place to torture and kill Chinese, Singapore, British and other soldiers. Later it was used as a military hospital to treat Japanese and other victims. In other words there's a lot of dead souls and other malevolent forces there to wreak havoc on the living. So what we the viewer see, is the footage that was shot for the documentary and all the stuff that was shot for the behind the scenes special features that were to be included.

I thought the story was intriguing and the setting of OCH was fantastic. The building from the outside was dilapidated and creepy looking, and the inside was graffiti filled with broken windows, rusty metal, vines and other growth. Perfect setting for a horror movie, and I think they did a great job of utilizing the building and it's varied rooms and settings. Nothing's worse than seeing the same stuff over and over which is common in a lot of lower budget movies.

Since these types of movies are such character driven for it to be successful you have to like the actors. For the most part I liked the characters. The main cameraman Audi is rarely seen (makes sense), the director Andrew comes across as charming, the sound man Farid, is the comic relief, which I liked, and Sheena the producer was the only character I wasn't a huge fan of. The actress was ok but she came across as more annoying than what I would suspect her character would really be. The dialogue in the movie is about 95% English but most characters have heavy accents so they did have subtitles to help out. All the actors seemed to have a good rapport and felt like they could have been good buddies in real life.

For the horror aspect of the movie it was your typical ghost happenings. Freaky shadows appearing in video, headless bodies showing up in thermal scans, people appearing in a room and when you get close they walk around the corner and disappear. None of it was too original but a few moments of it really worked. I was surprised they didn't go for the jump scare angle more. I'm not your typical hater of those, so I was disappointed they didn't try it more.

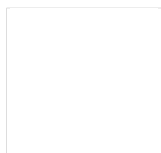
The final "confrontation" and aftermath was a little disappointing. The whole movie slowly builds up the story and I thought for sure it was because they were going for a big payoff. Not all of the characters were involved with the ending and it was kinda predictable. What happened was shot effectively and worked, but just not quite "grand" enough for my tastes.

The dvd from Mvd has some cool special features. One of the characters that survive the ordeal, writes a tell all book and you get to read the first three chapters. That may sound lame but it actually fills in some of the gaps and adds more to the story wrap up. Very cool. Like most of these types of movies it's played as a true story and they even go so far as to use the actors real names as the characters. If you search around close enough on the special features you can find an easter egg that reveals behind the scenes of the making of the movie. To wrap up the movie kept me entertained throughout but not enough to make it a high recommend. For Paranormal Activity and supernatural lovers then you may need to add an extra point to my final score. It's well made and a serviceable movie but just not my preference in horror.

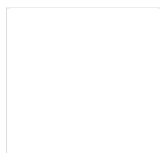
Final Rating: 6/10

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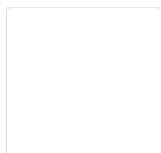




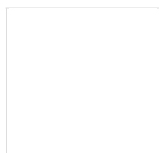
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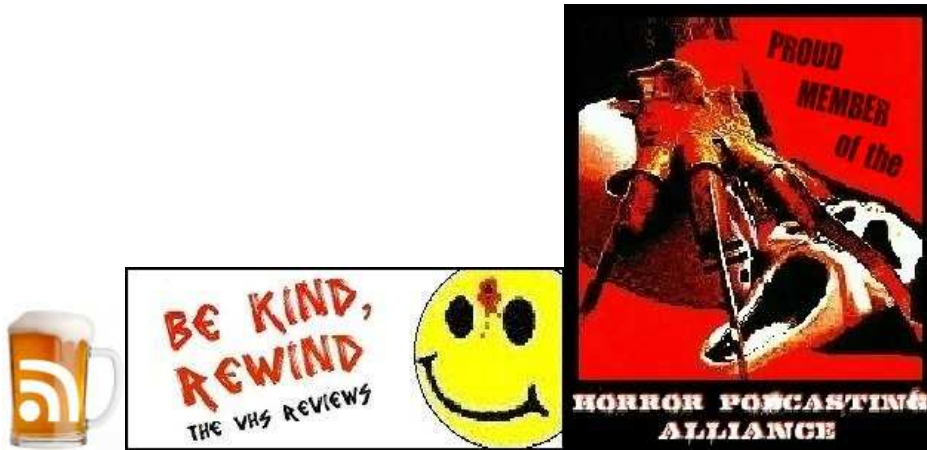
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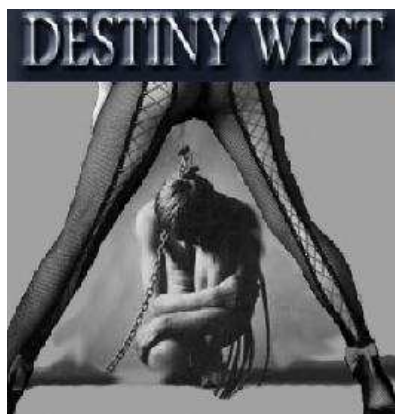
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Damnation Alley
Directed by Jack Smight
Starring Jan-Michael Vincent, George Peppard, and Jackie Earle Haley
Reviewer: Horrorthilia


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