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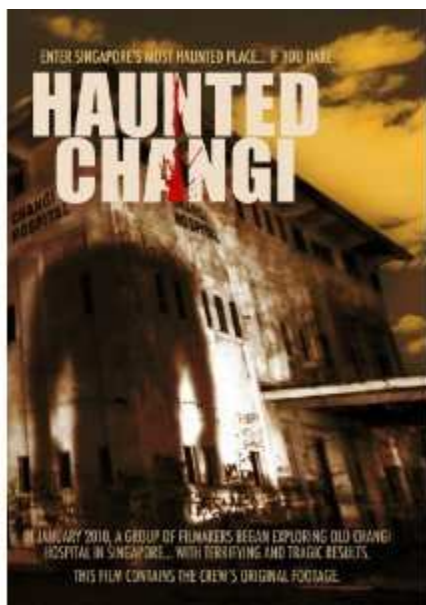
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Haunted Changi DVD Review

December 8, 2011 No Comments

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When aspiring documentary director Andy was struggling to find a focus for his latest film, Old Changi seemed to be the perfect solution. Abandoned since 1990, the dilapidated mental asylum has played host to a number of hideous scenes of violence over the years, including a stint during World War II when Old Changi served as a Japanese Hospital where doctors and soldiers tended to torture and kill their adversaries. The research starts off mundane enough, until it gets dark and the three filmmakers begin to see things in the halls and tunnels of the abandoned building. Andy befriends a homeless girl who is living deep in the tunnels and makes the mistake of heading down to her makeshift chambers that night. What results is a Blair Witch like experience with paranormal forces that will cost someone their life before it all ends.

I know that the whole found footage craze may be starting to wear thin with some horror fans but I still enjoy it when it is done uniquely. Shooting the movie in the abandoned Old Changi Hospital provides Haunted Changi with that twist that makes the movie enjoyable. The movie starts out a bit slowly; however once they head to Changi things ramp up nicely.

I liked the poke that director Andrew Lau took at the current reality ghost hunting craze by adding his own team of paranormal investigators. They go so far as to bring a child along for their work which is just creepy. The resulting exit from the premises was amusing and picked up the pace of the movie right when it needed it. The main characters are all good in their performances as well. When Andrew starts to change and lose control it comes off as a little campy but it still fits as we see dementia start to set in.

Special features kick off with a selection from the book "What Happened to the Crew of Haunted Changi?" that chronicles the events of the team's fatal visit to Old Changi and her life after the incident. I really thought it was a unique special feature and the payoff of reading the entire thing is worth it. Crewblog Archived is a collection of blog entries around the making of the movie. The Theatrical Trailer is included as well but I would probably watch the movie first as some of the better stuff is in the trailer.

I enjoyed Haunted Changi quite a bit. The location shooting at Old Changi Hospital is very spooky and really drives home a claustrophobic feel. As my first venture into Singapore Cinema, I couldn't be happier with the movie. It is definitely worth checking out.

Special Features:

- First 3 chapters from the book What Happened to the Crew of the Haunted Changi?
- Crewblog Archived
- Theatrical Trailer

Haunted Changi is available on DVD as of November 22, 2011, courtesy of MVD Releasing.



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