

[DVD Reviews](#) | [Game Reviews](#) | [Music Reviews](#) | [Manga](#) | [Misc](#)

MAIN/NEWS

Archives

DVD REVIEWS

Horror
 Anime
 Animation
 Asian Cinema
 Disney
 Movies
 Television
 Special Interest
 Easter Eggs

BluRay**UMD****GAME REVIEWS**

Playstation 2
 Playstation 3
 PSP
 GameCube
 Nintendo Wii
 Nintendo DS
 Gameboy Advance
 Xbox
 Xbox 360
 iPod
 PC
 Codes / FAQs

MUSIC REVIEWS

Anime OSTs
 Game OSTs
 Movie OSTs
 Metal
 Misc Music

MANGA

By Author
 By Title

MISCELLANEOUS

Books
 Gadgets
 Statues / Figurines
 Interviews

CONTACT / MEDIA

Advertising
 Contact Info



Haunted Changi

2010

MVD Entertainment Group

[Official Website](#)

Buy It Now

[PriceGrabber.com](#)

The Best Place to Buy Your DVD's

I've come to a point where I am so tired of so-called "reality horror." We've posted several reviews where we've gone back to cover where this all originated from and how it continues to manifest itself in the industry. Each time it seems that maybe it's finally going to go away some new film pops up and revitalizes it for whatever reason. Television isn't helping matters either with almost every cable network having their own reality ghost hunting show. Reality horror isn't limited to the United States either as most hopefully are aware.

Haunted Changi is yet another reality horror movie which shows the no matter what we veterans of the genre think, it apparently hasn't managed to run its course just yet although it is well past running itself into the ground. The film is the "original footage" of a crew of documentary filmmakers who ventured into Old Changi Hospital located in Singapore, a real location with a very checkered and tragic past. Another real element is that upon doing research there are those who believe that the hospital is the location of a number of unexplained and paranormal events thus giving it the title of "the most haunted place in Singapore." The film however dubs it as being the most haunted place in the world, a claim which will be disputed by at least a dozen other locations who have boasted the same thing.

The movie follows the four filmmakers, Farid Azlam, Sheena Chung, Audi Khalis and Andrew Lau who have a slightly different approach to this pseudo-documentary than what is normally found. Instead of this being a collection of footage the four are shown actually trying to create a legitimate documentary style film including an introduction piece on the history of the hospital. This covers Britain handing Singapore over to the Japanese, the rumors of torture that went on in the hospital afterwards and there are even a few segments with interviews from those who have also gone into the hospital. From this point forward however

Haunted Changi is just like every other documentary style horror movie that you've seen. There are scenes shot with night vision, moments of the crew fleeing from unseen forces, strange shadows and sounds, and the essential computer generated, post production visuals added. The only real advantage that this movie has over others is that at least they are trying to use an actual location and its history instead of fabricating some myth. The problem however is that the hospital has a known history for those who live in Singapore. Those of us living in the United States or elsewhere aren't going to be nearly as knowledgeable about its past and fewer still will probably even bother to research it. *Haunted Changi* though boils down to being nothing that

hasn't already been done in a dozen other horror documentaries combined with elements of paranormal television.

Where you will find success however isn't in the film itself but rather the viral marketing campaign. Those involved used Facebook rather effectively even going as far as having Lau's page feature a number of posts from those wishing him well after his death and paying tribute to him. Of course this also resulted in some rather uninformed individuals buying into it which is still the case since I did find posting on the other cast members pages asking if he was truly dead. This is why these types of horror movies, good or bad, end up being successful since there is still a portion of the general public who doesn't seem to know any better.

The DVD includes archival footage of Singapore seen in the movie which actually was provided by the United States so this is one of the few things which isn't a fabrication. There is also a collection of the crews blog as well as the first three chapters of Sheena's "novel" on what happened to them.

Haunted Changi is just more of what has already been done but it seems that this is proving to be the type of thing to launch some into a career in filmmaking. The same thing worked for Oren Peli with the release of *Paranormal Activity*, it worked for those involved with *The Blair Witch Project*, and it's going to work with plenty of others as well. Unless you're still infatuated with this type of filmmaking I'd pass over *Haunted Changi* in favor of some good, old fashioned filmmaking and if it's horror you're after, stick to the classics since these days most of the movies are nothing more than watered down rehashes of familiar territory.

-mike-

Directed by:
Andrew Lau

Cast:
Farid Azlam
Sheena Chung
Audi Khalis
Andrew Lau

DVD Features:
Aspect Ratio: 1.85:1
Audio: English Dolby Digital 2.0 Stereo
English Subtitles
16 MM Archival Footage
Film Crew Blog Archived
What Happened to the Crew of Haunted Changi
Theatrical Trailer