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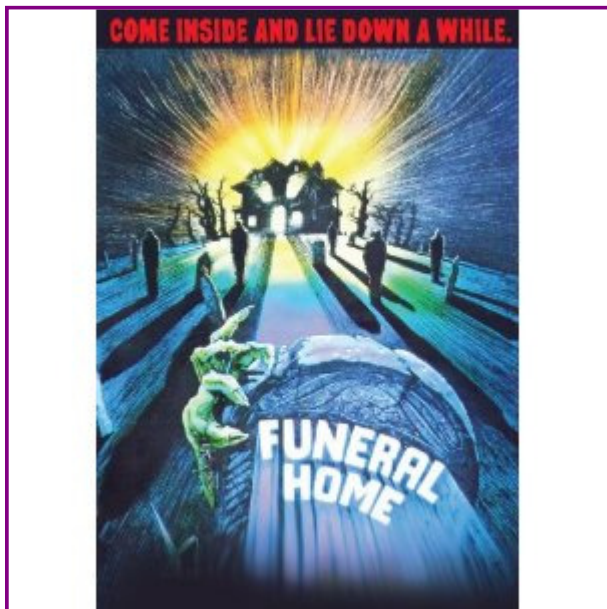


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Funeral Home (1980) DVD Review

March 25, 2012 No Comments

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When her grandma decides to turn the family funeral home into a bed and breakfast (logical decision, right?) Heather (Lesleh Donaldson) comes to her aid to help for the summer. Heather's Grandpa (aka Chalmers the Embalmer) disappeared years earlier, leaving Grandma Chalmers a funeral home and accumulating bills. Apparently word of the new premiere vacation destination travels fast, because in no time at all the new bed and breakfast is hosting multiple guests and vacationers. Heather seems to be in for a smooth summer as she works with Grandma, hangs out at the shore and even strikes up a promising friendship with a local boy who seems to be quite drawn to her. This idyllic life is interrupted by the voices Heather begins to hear in the basement. It sounds like 2 people arguing; however she is never quite able to find the source. Soon things get stranger when a traveller's car is discovered in a bale of hay and the driver is nowhere to be found. When others begin to turn up missing the police attempt to uncover the reason for the disappearances. Could they somehow be linked to the strange voices Heather is hearing?

Director William Fruet created Funeral Home as a more subtle slasher. There are a few good death scenes but they are at the end and are fairly brief. The story itself starts out slowly as we are introduced to the townspeople, including the simple minded groundskeeper and the somewhat incompetent deputy. The end is a bit of a twist (Spoiler coming!) that anyone who has seen many horror movies will see coming as soon as they hear the voices in the basement for the first time. The movie is basically a reworking of Psycho and while that may immediately sound like a reason to skip it altogether, I did find enough things that I liked that I enjoyed the movie.

A lot of the fun is in the eclectic characters that fill the script. From the oddball farmer who wants to keep the dead tourist's car to the other obnoxious businessman and his arrogant mistress who believes she is above staying at a bed and breakfast, there are some memorable performances. Lesleh Donaldson is convincing as the innocent young girl who just wants to help grandma out and has no idea what she has gotten herself into. Grandma herself is played perfectly by Kay Hawtry. She portrays that rough, self-sufficient countrywoman character perfectly.

Funeral Home is one of the many horror movies made in the 1980's, Funeral Home is a fun Canadian slasher that borrows (aka shamelessly rips off) the granddaddy of slasher movies. It has it's charms, however, and I enjoyed the cheesy plot and great characters. For horror collectors, it is worth picking up for the collection. For casual fans I would say this is a rental best watched over beer with friends.

Recommended Rental

Funeral Home is available on DVD as of March 20, 2012, courtesy of MVD releasing.



- [Friday Night Frights: Katarina's Nightmare Theater Whispers DVD Review](#) (0.845)
- [Bloodsucking Nazi Zombies DVD Review](#) (0.500)
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