The film follows our lovable duo Caesar and Otto as the holiday season approaches. Attempting to make it big in Hollywood, Caesar continues to take low tier acting jobs as stand ins, background players, and in this film's case department store Santas. Though it is not entirely original in concept, it's Campfield's chipper delivery which amps up the charm here. There's also a nice subplot about Otto catching up with an old flame and Caesar's bumbling cohort always is worth a chortle or two as he inadvertently thwarts Caesar's complex schemes for super stardom.





Don't expect miracles from the acting department. But do expect cameos from Joe Estevez (Martin's brother), Lloyd (TROMA) Kaufman, Debbie Rochon, Felissa (SLEEPAWAY CAMP) Rose, Brinke Stevens, Robert (MANIAC COP) Z'Dar, and Linnea Quigley who reenacts her death scene from SILENT NIGHT DEADLY NIGHT. This film serves as a regular Sunday afternoon at a comic convention autograph booth with the amount of B-Z listers showing up, but good for them for getting work.

The horror comes from a demented lunatic in a Santa costume who is checking off everyone who skipped attending Caesar's holiday party, among others. Though relatively bloodless, there are a few scenes of gore that play for laughs rather than winces and work most of the time (especially the aforementioned SILENT NIGHT DEADLY NIGHT homage). This film does serve to homage quite a few horror films of old that are set during the Christmas season (everything from sequels of SNDN to Pheobe Cates' Santa story in GREMLINS is referenced), and it's this self awareness that brings most of the charm here.

Again, this is low budget and campy to the nth degree, but having seen the last Caesar and Otto romp and this one, the improvements made to the script, directing, and most importantly the tightening of the bolts making up the comedy pairing of Caesar and Otto themselves have me looking forward to the comedy duo's next adventure. Caesar and Otto, like Abbot and Costello and Tenacious D before them, are always an entertaining comedy duo to watch and bring a lot of genuine humor to the horror genre; a genre that needs to laugh at itself from time to time.



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## PLANET OF THE VAMPIRE WOMEN (2011)

Directed by Darin Wood Written by Darin Wood

Starring Liesel Hanson, Jawara Duncan, Stephanie Hyden, Keith Letl, Paquita Estrada, Ashley Marino, Robert Michael Haley

<u>Find out more about this film here!</u>

Reviewed by <u>Ambush Bug</u>

Though many will be tough on this one for it's cheesy effects and even cheesier line

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delivery from a cast that was obviously chosen for their looks and not acting skills, I was shocked at how entertained I was by this sleazy little space horror film. Though this film seems more akin to the low budget sci horror themed films of the fifties and sixties, PLANET OF THE VAMPIRE WOMEN gives the sci fi horror genre a deep long slow hug and doesn't let go until the gore soaked finale.

Of course, this one starts in an intergalactic strip club and the attention to the girls dancing and the jiggling chesticles does make this film ripe for an appearance on late night Skinemax, I'm sure. But PLANET OF THE VAMPIRE WOMEN quickly drops its titillation for the most part to give us a film that takes its science fiction pretty seriously, even though the effects are bottom of the barrel computer animation. Despite that, I was charmed by the way the whole cast treated the script as if Shakespeare himself wrote it delivering lines about pleasure clones, space monsters, warp drives, and distant moons with nary a quivering lip or mock for the camera.



I also loved the monsters in this film which would make Sid and Marty Kroftt proud. Some of the moon monsters look as if they are straight from LAND OF THE LOST. Actually, minus the boobies which pop up and out every now and then, writer/director Darin Wood treats this material with the same acceptance of goofy sci fi effects and lore in the same serious tone as those old LAND OF THE LOST Saturday morning episodes.



The ending brings us right back to a bar filled with curvy cuties, all ready to be fanged and then battled by our space Van Helsings. Though most of the effects consisted of splattering corn syrup across faces and bodies, it still looked effective.

Light on scares, but heavy on fun, PLANET OF THE VAMPIRE sports a bevy of gorgeous women (some fanged, some not), but the real charmer here is the tone and script which won't be lauded as a masterpiece, but still makes this hour thirty running time speed by. And as the credits role, I think you'll be as surprised at how much fun you had with this film as I was.

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