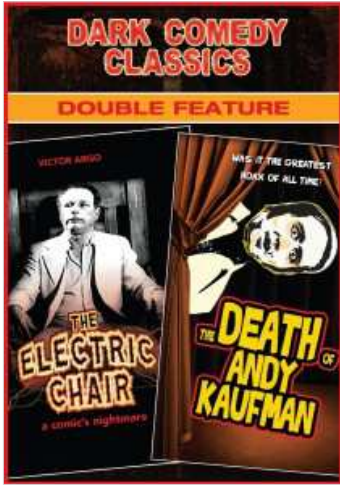


Dark Comedy Double Feature (DVD Review)

Chuck Conry | Nov 05, 2013 | Comments 0



Dark Comedy Double Feature (DVD Review)

The Electric Chair (1985)

Directed By: Mark Eisenstein

Starring: Victor Argo, Tony Corona, Jessica Dublin

Rated: UR/Region: 0/1:33/Number of disc: 1

Available from Wild Eye Releasing

THE PLOT

Victor Argo (Ghost Dog, Taxi Driver, True Romance) is a shoe store manager who attempts to revive a failed career as a stand-up comic by performing at a mysterious club where he finds himself sharing the stage with a looming, ready-to-shock electric chair... and performing before an audience of himself in the various stages of his life, and other friends, family and enemies – who are all subject to his cantankerous and biting routines on love, society, friendship and god. The Electric Chair features a stunning performance and rare leading role from the late, great Argo, one of New York City's most prolific and memorable character actors. Never before released, The Electric Chair is a true lost treasure of New York City filmmaking at its most inspired, sarcastic and dark – laced with shades of both Scorsese and Jarmusch – and striking a chord somewhere between Lenny and The King of Comedy.

HOWS THE MOVIE?

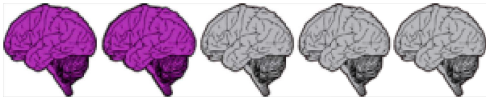
I feel there will be a lot of people that just won't know how to take a movie like this. I myself didn't know how to take it at first. I don't mean that as a way of saying that the film was bad, it is just very different. Which is good in its own right. It is a very art driven film and I think that could be what keeps it from mass appeal, but it could also be what makes you want to kick watching it as you watch it. Victor Argo takes his skills to the next level and I think once the credits roll he will be what you remember above all else.

Was it my type of film? Probably not. I do still appreciate it for what it was and I do respect Victor Argo greatly for the performance. It is a very deep subject matter on display here. That is also something I think we should praise the film for. I like complex and I like weird. In regard to this movie it does pack both so I can lean more on the like than dislike side of the line I was on when I think of the film as a whole.

EXTRAS

- None

THE MOVIE



The Death Of Andy Kaufman (2008)

Directed By: Christopher Maloney

Starring: Michael Kaufman, Alan Abel

Rated: UR/Region: 0/1:33/Number of disc: 1

Available from Wild Eye Releasing

THE PLOT

The Death of Andy Kaufman takes on the many mysteries and theories surrounding Andy Kaufman's death, and through exclusive interviews with family and friends, rare performances by Kaufman, and the filmmakers own personal investigation, we are brought closer to understanding mind and myth of one of the most celebrated and mysterious performance artists all time, often with unexpected results.

HOWS THE MOVIE?

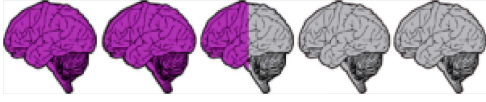
I first of all love the real DIY vibes of a film like this. This guy went out there and used what he could get his hands-on and did the film he wanted to do. It might not pack bells and whistles of other documentaries, but it does remain interesting and I did enjoy it for the most part. I am a giant wrestling fan so what I know of Andy Kaufman comes more from his history with Jerry The King Lawler than anything else. I haven't seen the Jim Carey movie either, so the story was in a lot of ways new to me here.

I also enjoy a good conspiracy theory as much as the next guy. I think we get more of that than anything else here and it is also fascinating how people can make stuff fit just right in their cases. Do I think Kaufman faked his death? No, I don't. I also don't think Elvis and 2 Pac are alive and well anywhere either. I still liked this anyway and I think most will as well. Documentaries can be fun and I believe this one if nothing else falls into that group.

EXTRAS

- None

THE MOVIE



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