

Slashers Will Never Die!

Where we can geek out over horror films together :)

Horror Review: Scream Park (2014)



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PLOT

An amusement park is being closed down, so the workers decide to throw a party in the closed park when night falls...but two masked killers crash their party and now it's up to Jennifer to figure out who the killers are and what is going on.

REVIEW

Man, do I love my slasher films, especially of the 80's variety...so when I learned of *Scream Park*, I knew I had to see it. An 80's throwback slasher film set in an empty amusement park. It spelled FUN TIMES to me, plus Doug Bradley's name was on the DVD cover and I was sold. Originally made in 2012, but getting released in 2014, *Scream Park* pleased my slasher fan boy soul.

Unlike most 80's throwback slasher films, *Scream Park* didn't end in parody territory. It remembered it's a horror film and instead of laughing at 80's slasher films, it paid tribute to them and it never forget about what makes a slasher film good: suspense, gore, and somewhat likable characters. I notice in that most of these modern slasher films, they forget about these aspects. They'll cut out the chase scenes and get right to the kill and nearly every character will be detestable. I don't mind a few unlikable characters in a slasher film, but you have to balance it out with some ones you can root for.

Scream Park gave us an enjoyable group of teenagers. No one was developed, but no one came off as bland either. I didn't hate any of the characters to be honest. Some were fun, while some ere even quite likable. For me the standout was the final girl of Jennifer, who was well played by Wendy Wygant. Wygant gave an incredibly likable, yet believably tough performance. She came out of the film a winner and gave me a final girl I could root for. Sadly the rest of the actors didn't come off as well, with many coming off as pretty amateur, with Tyler Kale hands down giving the worst performance of the film. I haven't seen such a wooden, bland performance in such a long time. I don't think he realized he was in a horror film. Watching him "act" scared became a joke. Doug Bradley even shows up in a cameo to class up the joint, and made me wish he had a bigger role. I love that man.

The movie didn't just have one killer, but had two! Each killer worked and I liked their costumes. They were creepy and I enjoyed that the killers had two different personalities. One was a strong, silent type like Jason Voorhees, while the other was a funny, sick, horny bastard who kind of reminded me of Freddy Krueger. I don't know if this was done on purpose or if I just imagined it. Either way, each killer meant business. The film had some great gory deaths, each one practical that had me smiling from ear to ear, with one awesome stabbing that in particular stood out! The movie moved at a brisk pace and never was boring. The movie wasn't exactly scary, but the director, Cary Hill manages to still milk some suspense out of the film. The film had some nice atmosphere and the idea of an abandoned amusement park is a good one. He gave the film a small intimate feel that worked and didn't work for me.

Sadly by giving the film an intimate feel, he totally didn't utilize the idea of the amusement park. In fact at some points I FORGOT where it took place. I felt he could have done some much more with the setting. Think of all the places he could have taken us in the park. I felt the setting was a missed opportunity. As mentioned the film suffered from lackluster acting from some of the cast, but it was like some of them didn't act off one another. Like many slasher films, the characters do some INCREDIBLY dumb moves and finally the film lacked a truly good chase scene. In the end we got a small chase scene with the final girl, but I felt it should have been longer before we got

to the finale. In the end, I had a good time with the film. It didn't change the slasher subgenre but it didn't hurt it in anyway. It was a fun time that I will definitely watch again.

VERDICT



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