

JESUS CHRIST VAMPIRE HUNTER

(MVD)

Jesus Christ knows kung fu! And battles vampires. Many of them lesbians, which is why they can walk around in daylight. Or something. Jesus also rides a Honda scooter, cut his hair, trimmed his beard to sideburns, pierced his ears, and got some hip threads.

In *Jesus Christ Vampire Hunter*, there are brief (and painful) musical numbers, bad sound syncing (but anyone who's watched kung fu movies is used to that), but when atheists come streaming out of a jeep like clowns from a VW Bug and Jesus beats all their asses to bad techno, it's all good.

The movie's set in Canada, you really expect it to make much sense? Jesus is joined by a sex-hungry Mary in a shiny red jumpsuit, but she gets bitten, Jesus gets his butt stomped, and he's cleaned up by a cross-dresser. Jesus mopes a bit over lunch, but gets advise from a bowl of ice cream with cherries. Jesus must seek out

an ally in El Santos, a Mexican wrestler, cuz logically, who else could stand beside Jesus in a fight against lesbian vampires? And where better to stage a battle than at a hipster bar, Jesus "slaying

dead, and so did they. You promised eternal life, and so did they." Hmmm... But then a sadistic, entrail-nunchuck plastic surgeon and female wrestlers enter the fray, so the mayhem continues... After the battle, Jesus brings back to life El Santos' lesbian girlfriend (turns out she's bi, which makes El Santos very, very joyous unto the Lord), and Jesus also saves Mary (who, as a vampire, attacked him on a dirtbike in the final battle in the junkyard, which is metaphoric, I think) and her new lover, the Goth vampire lesbian who kicked her ass and killed the priest with the liberty spikes and G.B.H. jacket on the beach in one of the first scenes.



em" after a killer drum solo? He breathes the effects of lunch's extra garlic sauce on one lost soul, blesses a beer and spits into the faces of others, uses pool cues, a plunger, and a crutch as the need arises, and El Santos uses toothpicks and darts as stakes thru the hearts of his attackers.

An interesting concept comes when a "converted" priest states to Jesus "You rose from the

Winding down, Jesus says some wise shit in a park until one of the apostles calls him on his cell phone, and then the credits roll to the Kiss-like theme song with the chorus "It's all good, it's all right, everybody gets laid tonight." Bloopers and outtakes round out the spectacle, ending with girls kissing, as all religious kung fu vampire lesbian movies should. (PO Box 280 Oaks, PA 19456)

SCOTT HEFFLON



CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
(DREAMWORKS)
www.dreamworks.com

A retro chase picture that's about as different from the future *Minority Report* as possible. The premise is simple: Leonardo DiCaprio is a teenager with a spectacular gift for the con, and Tom Hanks is the agent sent to track him down. It's great to watch DiCaprio boldly charm his way into outrageously dangerous situations, and amusing (and sometimes hilarious) to watch Hanks get left in his dust after being *this close* to nailing him, time after time. Spielberg's best in ages.

KINDA LIKE...
Entertainment first and foremost. Which, it must be said, is where Spielberg belongs.

CW

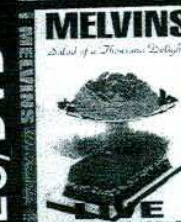


HAPPY TREE FRIENDS
VOL. #1: FIRST BLOOD
(STUDIOWORKS)
mondominishows.com

Irritatingly cute, animated critters get chopped, garotted, disemboweled, and otherwise splattered in the just-under two minute shorts. Not much beyond the "start out cute, then slice them in half" thing, but Happy Tree Friends has something sorely missing in current humorous animation: Comic timing. Far too often, "Sick and Twisted" animation gets bogged down with how naughty it is, and becomes something no taboo-breaking thing should become: Tedious. *Happy Tree Friends* doesn't have this problem.

KINDA LIKE...
Something you'll pass around to all your friends

CW



THE MELVINS
SALAD OF A THOUSAND DELIGHTS
(MVD)
musicvideodistributors.com

A DVD reissue of a damn-near-impossible-to-find VHS release capturing The Melvins in a tiny-ass club in Olympia in 1991. At least one of the cameramen appears to be shooting from the crowd, which also explains some of the jittery, potentially nauseating camerawork. The shots of the crowd show a rabid, frothing, crushing mass of bodies. The DVD reissue has a couple of bonuses (boni?), the most amusing of which is a 1984 video of the band.

KINDA LIKE...
Add a scratch-n-sniff card with puke, nicotine, sweat, and beer scents and it'd be just like the real thing.

BV



STANDING IN THE SHADOWS OF MOTOWN
(ARTISAN)
standingintheshadowsof-motown.com

A documentary on the backing musicians (known as The Funk Brothers) who made Detroit's premier soul label tick. The music is untouchable, the subjects are long overdue for some well-deserved attention, and the fact that the filmmakers' hearts are in the right place is unquestionable. The bizarre and intricate narrative pumps new life and appreciation into music that is engrained on the brain of every man, woman, and child born after 1945. A fantastic documentary.

KINDA LIKE...
The story is as interesting as the music is brilliant.

CW

VIDEO/DVD