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PROMOTIONS



REVIEW **DVD**

DVD BREAKDOWN



Distributor
Eclectic DVD / MVD

Year of Release
2001

Suggested Price
\$19.99

Running Time
85 Minutes

Color Format
Color

Rating
Not Rated

Region Coding
0, NTSC

Aspect Ratio
1.33:1

16x9 Enhancement?
No

DVD Format
Single Layered (DVD5)

Languages
English

Audio Formats
Dolby Stereo





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JESUS CHRIST VAMPIRE HUNTER (2001)



by Lawrence P. Raffel
Movies Editor

Sure, the title makes it sound offensive... but is the film itself really offensive? Well, yeah there's certainly enough going on here to ruffle a few feathers, basically just one more reason to like what's going on. It's a strange and wonderful journey here folks so if you're really not into experimentation or trying new things then you're probably barking up the wrong tree with this one. However, if you think you've got a good sense of humor and are in need of brushing up on your biblical and vampire 'isms in one fell swoop, then you certainly have come to the right place. Welcome aboard!

This is without a doubt a case in which the title definitely says it all. This film is about a vampire hunter and his name is Jesus Christ. End of discussion. Well, maybe there's a bit more to it than that. After a few of his pals are [chewed up](#) by some day walking vampires, Jesus strikes back with a vengeance. But first, he has to urbanize himself because sandals and a robe just ain't gonna cut it in the big city. With the help of Mary Magnum (apostle to the apostles) and [Mexican wrestler El Santo\(!\)](#) Jesus just may be able to put an end to the pack of bloodsucker's [lustful blood binge](#) on the big city.

If you've ever heard of a flick called *Nudist Colony of the Dead* (I should hit MAP with a review of this flick real soon) you may have an idea of what's going on here. If not, well then you're shit out of luck. It's silly, that's for sure but it's also all in good fun. The action scenes definitely have their moments and the original songs and musical numbers are nothing short of brilliant ([yup, musical numbers](#)). Not to mention the spinning Jesus on a cross that takes us from scene to scene (ala batman and wonder woman) and the craziest talking dessert since the spitting cupcake from *Cabin Boy*, good stuff. There's an ever growing [cast of crazies](#) present and no vampire is safe as they're [staked with just about everything](#) but the kitchen sink, including crutches, pool cues and even [plungers!](#) The filmmakers used their budget and locations quite well, they even managed to build a [makeshift air duct](#) for one scene, pretty impressive.

Quality wise this flick holds up quite well on DVD for a 16mm low budget flick (about 40 grand). Image quality does vary throughout, at times colors appear a bit washed out while other times they are quite vibrant. There are plenty of instances of print damage that creep up, in the occasional scratch and some speckles/film dirt. Considering what we have to deal with here, the film holds up quite well. Just don't go in expecting a crystal clear re master, the presentation serves the feature quite well.

Audio is presented in a stereo surround mix and is an oddity all on its own. It appears as if the audio was completely looped over the picture after the fact (basically a complete redub) and the dialogue never really matches with the audio. It's really only noticeable during close-ups so it's not too distracting. It even adds a bit of charm to the flick as well and just makes it seem all the more campy. Purists may find it to be a bit annoying, but I really doubt that purists will be treading in these waters anyhow. Dialogue is quite clear and the musical numbers (yes, once again musical numbers) also hold up quite well.

Extras? Oh yeah, we got extras. This thing is packed to the gills with extra goodness. Let's start off with a feature length cast and crew audio commentary that is quite entertaining. Next up is nearly 40 minutes of cast and crew interviews and about 25 minutes of deleted scenes/outtakes (with cast and crew commentary as well). There's also an extended musical number and a theatrical trailer. Things are rounded off with a still gallery and a trailer for another kung-fu action spoof called *Harry Knuckles*. It's all good here, a fun batch of extras. The only thing I noticed is that the extras seem a bit more pixilated than I'd like to normally see. It looks like the extras were compressed at a different rate than the feature to save space for a single layered disc.

What we have here is a great indie flick, which is nothing short of a good time. This film has it all... gore, action, kung fu and elaborate musical numbers. If a no budget flick shot on cheapo film stock doesn't scare you away then this flick is definitely worth your time. If you're not having fun making movies then you shouldn't be making them to begin with.

It's great to see oddities like this being released on DVD. For more info visit Eclectic DVD on the web at www.eclecticdvd.com.

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