



The Charles Band DVD Collection Vol. 1 (DVD Review)

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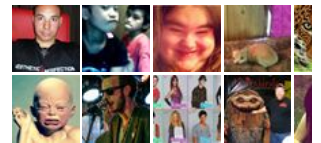
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The Charles Band DVD Collection Vol. 1 (DVD Review)

by Chuck Conry 0 comments 02 July 2014, 14:48



The Charles Band DVD Collection Vol. 1 (DVD Review)

Rated: UR/Region: 0/1:33/Number of disc: 4

Available from Full Moon Entertainment

Meridian (1990)

Directed By: Charles Band

Starring: Sherilyn Fenn, Malcolm Jamieson, Charlie Spradling

Two American students go to Italy after graduating from art school, one to work in restoration of paintings, the other because she's inherited her father's castle. When the restorer visits her friend at the castle, they invite the players of a traveling sideshow to dinner, and are slipped drugs, leading to an orgy of abandon. The woman who owns the castle keeps having visions of a young woman who has been stabbed in the castle. After talking to her nanny, she finds that the "vision" woman is her father's sister, who was murdered brutally as the consequence of a 15th Century curse put on her family, and that she is the next in line, and the troupe they have entertained is a part of the curse.

You might find in this twisted tale about twins and beasts and such that the best thing on screen and about the movie is clearly Sherilyn Fenn. You may recall her from David Lynch films and Twin Peaks, but she is hands down the best reason to watch this one. She gives a great performance in an otherwise lackluster affair. We have the classic tale of a good twin and an evil twin, it gets corny in spots, but we have a bit of nudity to go along with things to help hold you over in the dull spots. The film could have used more gore and perhaps better pacing, but it is still interesting enough and watchable enough to give you some enjoyment out of it.

Extras

- Behind the Scenes

Crash and Burn (1990)

Directed By: Charles Band

Starring: Paul Ganus, Megan Ward, Ralph Waite



Unicom is a powerful organization overseeing most of the world after i... ppe. They have banned computers and robots in an attempt to insure "life, liberty, and the pursuit of economic stability". When a Unicom Synth robot infiltrates a southwest TV station and kills the manager, a revolutionary against the gestapo-like corporation, a lowly Unicom delivery man must help the rest of the station survive through the incoming "thermal storm".

Well, it isn't Terminator that's for sure! Then again what is? We are planted into a strange world here that is full of some pretty bad graphics and maybe equally as bad characters, but the film still will maintain just enough for you to at least finish it. I know that isn't saying much about the film, but it will probably be one of those deals where you either love it or you hate it. I don't see much of a window for an in between here. Truth be told, there probaby isn't enough Robots here, but there probably wasn't enough money to have a ton of that sort of stuff here. If we had more action and we had more robots I'd have enjoyed what we ended up with a whole lot more.

Extras

- Behind the Scenes

Doctor Mordrid (1992)

Directed By: Charles Band and Albert Band

Starring: Jeffrey Combs, Yvette Nipar, Jay Acovone

An unspeakable evil has come into our dimension and wants to rule over Earth, and only a mysterious sorceror known as Doctor Mordrid can stop him.

It takes some getting use to when you see Jeffery Combs in a film that isn't a full on horror film. There are some horror elements here. We have some gorey stuff here and there. There is also a big fantasy and action side to things making the movie a bit of a hybrid and Combs to his credit does a fine job of trying to make everything he has to work with here actually work. There is a romance angle tossed in for Combs and I'm not sure that works as well as you'd think, but the special effects for the time seems like a 90s time capsul that makes for a not so bad time watching overall. If you like Jeffrey Combs that should be all the reason you need to watch this one. If you don't dig his work it might not be for you.

Extras

- Behind the Scenes

Head of the Family (1996)

Directed By: Charles Band

Starring: Blake Adams, Jacqueline Lovell, Bob Schott

Lance and Loretta are having a torrid affair behind her husband Howard's back. The problem is that Howard is brutal thug who is bound to catch the cheating pair sooner or later. To solve this problem, the lovers hatch a plan involving the Stackpoole family: a collection of misshapen freaks who waylay unsuspecting travellers and dissect them in gruesome experiments. Unfortunately, things don't go quite according to plan.

Here is where we get into the battle of "good for Full Moon" vs. "Good for 1996". This was the year of something like Pulp Fiction and Scream, yet here we have a film that seems very much stuck in the early 1990s. I'd still make the argument that the movie is so weird that we still can't hate it overall. The film is campy, which is good. The film also gives us a bit of a crime caper mixed with a lot of odd characters. This all blends together to make for an odd and fun time watching. I'd not call it a great film by any means, but the movie has enough to remain entertaining. Band directed this one under a fake alias. I'm not sure why he'd not want to put his real name on this one.

Extras

- Behind the Scenes

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Meridian

Crash and Burn

Doctor Mordrid



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