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2008

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The Final Phase to Dead Young Fleasings

I've disliked the fact the zombies have become the popular thing once again for quite some time especially with directors who have utterly taken no care to try and retain the feel of the genre and instead want to try and advance it to their own means. For the very few zombie films that have come out recently, there are more that are less than appealing or memorable. Every so often however the mentality of "hey, let's make a zombie movie" pays off even if it might not be something that's on the verge of being the next *Night of the Living Dead*.

*Colin* is the latest undead offering coming to the United States from the United Kingdom, a country which already won me over with *Shaun of the Dead*, but this isn't another comedy. Colin (Alastair Kirton) is our main character and something of an anti-hero depending on exactly how you look at things. Within the first ten minutes or so of the movie, Colin dies having previously been bitten by a zombie and, true to the mythology, Colin ends up coming back to life and soon begins to wander the streets which are now filled with a growing number of zombies.

While shambling almost aimlessly about Colin has a chance encounter with his sister who actually ends up saving him while he's being mugged for his tennis shoes. Linda (Daisy Aitkens) decides that maybe if Colin is taken back to their mother's house he might recognize some portions of his former life but for Colin it seems to be a lost cause. He seems to have been completely now fallen into the zombie mindset leaving little choice but to give up when the family flees for safer ground and once again leaves Colin to his own.

One of the most notable things about *Colin* is the budget which is allegedly a grand total of £45, or around \$75. For such an estimated low price tag, *Colin* actually looks extremely good when it comes to the visual element. The zombies are done decently. They might not be on par with those seen in earlier Romero films, but they do the trick for what is presented here and *Colin* does have its moments where there is gore. The zombies of course don't always need to be incredibly graphic as far as appearance goes as this is the ground zero of the zombies; the outbreak has only recently occurred and they haven't yet progressed to the stage of being decayed corpses with body parts barely hanging on.

*Colin* isn't necessarily an original idea. The premise of following a zombie has been done before and it's actually something that I've now watched two different films over the course of two weeks trying to portray though one of

these was going from a more comedic approach. What the film does do however is that it strips the dialog away quite a bit. There are some lengthy stretches of time where we continue to follow Colin with the zombies attacking the living or perhaps he joins a horde of the undead for a brief time. *Colin* though isn't a zombie who is about confrontation and he seems to avoid it whenever possible, not a bad choice really because if you're undead the changes are that you'll be taken out at some point by wise humans. Of course there's also the chance of finding one who isn't that bright which will provide a decent meal and this happens as well.

Much of what the film presents is the breakdown of society, what you might expect to see happen if an infestation of zombies did suddenly appear. *Colin* never actually gives us a reasoning behind why the dead have come back to life, it's just safer I suppose that we assume that it's happened and ask not the reason why. What we find is that survivors are banding together. Some of them have taken to the streets, determined to eradicate the zombie scourge. True once again to mythology those who are bitten have the chance of being infected themselves thus leading to the mindset of take no chances. This also leads to a rather grim "removal" of a few who have possibly been infected though this is done with a more implied approach.

The streets are filled with looters, some of who have no problems stealing from the undead. The movie is often filled with the sound of gunfire in the distance, exploding grenades or perhaps just the horrific moans of the zombies. Atmosphere is key and *Colin* really does do a great job at being a fairly accurate (we can assume) portrayal of what could very well happen. Of course we also have the film approach things with the idea of what might happen to a family member, something which has been addressed before and is always present in any zombie media, but since Colin is the main character it's even more important here.

*Colin* is available as both a single disc and double DVD edition. We only received the standard, single disc version which only contains commentary from Marc Price. Obviously for most zombie fans, the two disc edition is the way to go.

Although *Colin* isn't necessarily a unique offering, it's still done extremely well considering the limited budget. There are plenty of movies in the zombie genre which have been made for substantially more which aren't nearly as entertaining. Hopefully this will serve as something to remind those who want to attempt to make the "latest and greatest" new film featuring the walking dead that it only takes a bit of inventiveness, not a great amount of cash.

-Mike-

Directed by:  
Marc Price

Written by:  
Marc Price

DVD Features:  
Aspect Ratio: 1.33:1  
Audio: English Dolby Digital 5.1  
Commentary with Marc Price

Cast:

Alastair Kirton  
Daisy Aitkens  
Tat Whalley  
Leanne Pammen  
Kate Alderman  
Justin Mitchell Davey  
Kerry Owen  
Leigh Crocombe  
Helena Martin

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