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Vampires



Actor Thomas Ian Griffith wears some heavy make-up and fangs for the role of Valek, 'a 600-year-old vampire in search omnipotence, in the horror-action film 'John Carpenter's Vampires.'



Valek (foreground), a vampire played by actor Thomas Ian Griffith, joins his blood-sucking cronies in a battle against a team of Vatican mercenaries in a scene from 'John Carpenter's Vampires.

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er-with-the-heart-gold character, Katrina, who was bitten by a vampire, uses her telepathic powers to track Valek down.

At this point the film begins to lose blood. The vampires finally clash with Crow and his team. But they are cartoonish and ridiculous, more resembling kids in Halloween costumes than anything frightening. During the battle scenes, the film focuses more on blood and gore, losing any real dramatic tension in the script.

But even these problems don't hobble the movie as much as the poor writing that plagues it throughout. The screenplay — written by John Carpenter, John Steakley, Don Jakoby and Dan Mazur - is sluggish and slow, weighted down by its predictability.

Worse, the actors are caricatures nan real people, woods, despite a bravada turn as the smarmy Crow, is bogged down in an underwritten role. It is only after threequarters of the way through the film that a reason is given for why Crow is fighting these vampires at all. Baldwin gives a nice performance as the sympathetic sidekick, who, predictably, falls for Katrina. And Katrina (Lee) spends most of the movie looking as though she would rather be somewhere else.

As the movie dwindles to an anemic and incoherent conclusion, movie-goers are left feeling the same way.

Picks and Pans

"It had really good action. It didn't have any slow parts. It wasn't the greatest writing job, but I do like the vampire genre'

- Jordan Lewis

"I enjoyed it overall. I found it a little corny in parts. I liked the modern format of these vampire movies."

- Gawaen Stern

"I didn't like anything about it. It was funny, but it wasn't supposed to be

- Rick Jackson

"It was just like Carpenter's other movies: they begin interesting and fall apart. Carpenter just goofs it up at the end. They should bring in a relief director after the middle of his movies.'

-Pat Holmes

"It was sluggish and slow. The middle part was cottage cheese, it churns but nothing interesting happens.'

- Doug Holmes

"It was OK. It was predictable, but what movie isn't predictable?"

- Anna Schmal



Director John Carpenter (foreground) instructs actor Thomas Ian Griffith in a short 'Vampire 101' lesson during a filming break in his self-titled film about vampires.