

■ Forgotten film

Quality ^{out} of Control

While movies such as "The Astro-Zombies" may not be considered classics, they are worth a preliminary watch

BY RYAN NYBURG
PULSE EDITOR

Sometimes it seems there are so many movies out there that people don't know about that it feels like a shame to waste a Forgotten Film article on just one movie. So let's sacrifice an iota of quality in exchange for quantity and spread the love over four movies. While not all of them are the best pieces of cinematic work out there, they are certainly entertaining, which gives them a whole bundle of cultural currency.

The first film on our docket is the brilliantly titled 1969 non-classic "The Astro-Zombies." Other than inspiring a wonderful song by the Misfits, the film is a deliriously awful synthesis of bad

movie clichés, which never belonged together in the first place.

By somehow combining sexploitation, espionage, zombies, science fiction and hot pants, the film's plot is as twisted as it is incomprehensible. But how can you find fault in a film that stars both John Carradine and Tura Satana? The best (read: only) version of this is the 1995 Image Entertainment DVD release, which has great cover art and little else. It can be purchased at fine budget racks everywhere — a fun time well spent with inebriated friends.

Next up, the slightly higher quality (but hardly any more stomachable) 1981 Italian horror film "Quella Villa Accanto al Cimitero" ("House by the Cemetery"). Directed by horror auteur

Lucio Fulci, the film is almost a standard haunted house film, minus the sense of logic. The film concerns a family that moves into an old, creepy house where strange things start happening.

Full of dark atmosphere, humorous-to-blood-curling special effects and a wickedly nihilistic ending, the film contains the distinctive mark of its director. While not his best work — it's hard to beat "Zombie" or "The Beyond" — the film has enough mindless joys in it to make it a worthwhile experience. For those not willing to shell out for the "Lucio Fulci Collection" version of the film (packaged with "The Beyond"), there are a couple of cheap editions available, specifically the Diamond Entertainment edition. The transfer is adequate, and the retail price is about what most people would

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COURTESY

Sex and zombies make this clichéd movie a good time for all.

Student becomes first convicted illegal downloader

BY BETH DEFALCO
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHOENIX — An Arizona university student is believed to be the first person in the country convicted under state laws for illegally downloading music and movies from the Internet, prosecutors and activists say.

University of Arizona student Parvin Dhaliwal pleaded guilty to possession of unauthorized copies of intellectual property.

Under an agreement with prosecutors, Dhaliwal was sentenced last month to a three-month deferred jail sentence, three years of probation,

200 hours of community service and a \$5,400 fine. The judge in the case also ordered him to take a copyright class at the University of Arizona, which he attends, and to avoid file-sharing computer programs.

"Generally copyright is exclusively a federal matter," Jason Schultz said, an attorney with the Electronic Frontier Foundation, a technology civil liberties group. "Up until this point, you just haven't seen states involved at all."

Federal investigators referred the case to the Maricopa County Attorney's Office for prosecution

because Dhaliwal was a minor when he committed the crime, Krystal Garza, a spokeswoman for the office, said.

"His age was a big factor," she said. "If it went into federal court, it's a minimum of three months in jail up front."

Although Dhaliwal wasn't charged until he was 18, he was 17 when he committed the crime. Prosecutors charged him as an adult but kept it in state court to allow for a deferred sentence. Garza also said Dhaliwal had no prior criminal record.

The charge is a low-level felony

but may be dropped to a misdemeanor once he completes probation, she said.

A call to Dhaliwal's attorney, James Martin, was not returned.

A man who identified himself as Dhaliwal's father, but refused to give his name, returned a message left Monday at Dhaliwal's parents' home. He said his son had made a mistake and was trying to put the case behind him.

Brad Buckles, executive vice president for anti-piracy at the Recording Industry Association of America, said estimates say Internet

piracy has cost the industry up to \$300 million a year in CD sales alone.

The FBI found more than \$50 million in music and movies on Dhaliwal's computer. The illegally copied property included movies that, at the time of the theft, were available only in theaters. They included "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind," "Matrix Revolutions," "The Cat In The Hat" and "Mona Lisa Smile."

A federal task force that monitors the Internet caught on to the student and got a warrant, Garza said, adding that Dhaliwal was copying and selling the pirated material.

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