

'Thirteen Ghosts' makes good on promise to scare

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It has been quite awhile since I've been satisfied with a horror film. "Thirteen Ghosts" more than satisfied me: I truly enjoyed it.

The story begins with Rafkin (Matthew Lillard), an emotionally distraught psychic who has the power to relive other's pains and memories through touch. Because of this gift, he is able to aid Cyrus Kriticos (F. Murray Abraham) in his quest to hunt and capture ghosts. Rafkin has been contracted to find 12 ghosts for Cyrus, but while attempting to capture the last ghost, Rafkin encounters Ben Moss and Kalina, both novice ghost hunters with spell books and crosses. They inform him that in actuality, 13 ghosts are "needed." Rafkin has no idea what they are talking about. Suddenly, the twelfth entity appears and begins a murderous rampage, killing nearly the entire capture crew, including Ben and Cyrus.

But what was it that Cyrus wanted with these spirits? He keeps

them locked up in glass "cell blocks" in the basement of his home, also made entirely of glass. It is the Latin spells written on the walls that actually contain the spirits. After Cyrus' death, his distant nephew inherits the infested house.

The nephew, Arthur Kriticos (Tony Shalhoub), and his two children (Shannon Elizabeth and Alec Roberts) have recently suffered the tragic loss of his wife

and their home in a fire. They now live in an apartment with a hired hand named Maggie. One day they are informed of their new fortune and decide to take a trip out to have a look at the new haunt.

Upon arriving,

they bump into Rafkin dressed as the cable man. He enters the home despite the protests of Cyrus' attorney as Arthur and he enter the library to discuss legal matters. The rest of the family decides to tour the house, each going in different direction. Rafkin finds his way to the basement in search of the money Cyrus owed him. While down in the basement, Rafkin places special "ghost-viewing glasses" over his eyes so he can feel the energy of the spirits. He discovers what Cyrus was keeping in his basement and informs the Kriticoses they must

leave immediately. Of course, Arthur thinks Rafkin is crazy but takes his word for it and begins to search for his family. Cyrus' attorney sneaks away to the basement. He grabs a bag of money and pulls a lever that begins to close off the entire house. On his way back up, one of the cell doors opens and a mutilated young woman appears, poised with a knife in hand.

As you can probably tell, one by one the ghosts are released and begin to attack the family. Kalina returns to help save the Kriticos family and explain Cyrus' evil scheme. I can't say any more without giving the end away, so you'll just have to go see it.

I really enjoyed this film because it is very different from your typical serial killer flick. It is full of suspense, but has some gore. And best of all, it actually scared me. The plot was intricate and well-developed, which made it all the more enjoyable. I would definitely recommend seeing this film before it leaves theaters.



Rafkin (Matthew Lillard) is accosted by a spirit in director Steve Beck's new horror film "Thirteen Ghosts." The movie opened October 26 and is currently fifth at the box office.

Horoscopes

by Leah Boeringa

Aries (March 21- April 19): Remember to floss, not just before a dental appointment, but on a regular basis. Also, don't fib to your friends—even little white lies can snowball into big, gross scary wads of deceit. Your theme song for the week: "Dry the Rain" by the Beta Band.

Taurus (April 20- May 20): You are stuck in a state of constant paranoia. You can relax, no one is really on to you, at least not yet. Turn on your lights and feel free to open the drapes; for the next two weeks, your secrets are safe. Your theme song for the week: "Good Day, Sunshine" by the Beatles.

Gemini (May 21- June 20): You are having very bad luck with technology this week. Remember, if you do any computer work, to save constantly or you shall suffer immense consequences. Also, remember to feed your pets every day. Animals are people too. Your theme song for the week: "Here Comes Your Man" by the Pixies.

Cancer (June 21- July 22): Try to go this week without eating any red meat. If you are a vegetarian, avoid celery. Crabs look best in the color maroon this week but should avoid purple. Your theme song for the week: "Yellow" by Coldplay.

Leo (July 23- August 22): Perhaps you should just stay in bed for the next few days. Poor luck will be following you like greyhounds after a mechanical rabbit. If you are a superstitious person, don't walk un-

der any ladders or spill salt. If superstitions aren't your deal... why are you reading your horoscope? Your theme song for the week: "Iron Lion Zion" by Bob Marley.

Virgo (August 23- September 22): Eventually your past will catch up to you. Remember those old pictures of you in an obliterated state? (If not, it's because you were just that obliterated.) Well, keep an eye open for yourself while surfing the Net—bad things may surface! Your theme song for the week: "Over the Hills and Far Away" by Led Zeppelin.

Libra (September 23- October 22): Plan on finding a magic genie in a bottle of soda. Whether he is a good genie or a bad genie, you will not know right away. But avoid wishing for anything that can be manipulated into a weapon of mass destruction by an angry deity. Your theme song for the week: "Genie in a Bottle" by Christina Aguilera.

Scorpio (October 23- November 21): It is the time of year for big, soft sweaters. Scorpions prefer warmth to freezing, gray, rainy dankness... (Scorpions should not be living in Oregon.) If you don't have a nice sweater yet, go buy one. Try shopping at Goodwill—there will be something perfect there, just waiting for you to find it. Your theme song for the week: "Undone (the Sweater Song)" by Weezer.

Sagittarius (November 22- December 21): If you are single, do your best to present yourself positively

in public. The girl or boy of your dreams may be watching, and you don't want to disappoint! If you aren't single, expect a nice present from your significant other. Your theme song for the week: "Fly Me to the Moon" by Frank Sinatra.

Capricorn (December 22- January 19): Go into Portland sometime this week, strictly for pleasure. Take Tri-Met, MAX, or some other form of public transportation. Just make sure that you know how the system

works, and don't get stranded somewhere in Northeast Portland. Your theme song for the week: "Big City" by Operation Ivy.

Aquarius (January 20- February 18): You will find yourself on an adventure to the lower Oregon City Shaxis, where you may get yelled at by a woman of small stature named Kathleen. Avoid getting kicked out by ordering some hot chocolate. Your theme song for

the week: "Cup of Coffee" by Garbage.

Pisces (February 19- March 20): If you have a bad habit that you have been hearing multiple complaints about – stop it! Smoking, swearing, eating too much, drinking too much, dressing like a whore whatever it is, just knock it off before you get beat up. Your theme song for the week: "Crash Into Me" by the Dave Matthews Band.

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