



Haunting Horror

Holiday flicks highlight Halloween

'Dead' remake deserves burial

By CAROL GLENN

Bring us your dead. A common saying on the Texas A&M campus (especially around Elephant Walk) is gruesomely brought to life in the cult classic remake "Night of the Living Dead" — social satire that was more effective the first time around and shouldn't have been resurrected.

According to George A. Romero, the original "Night of the Living Dead" attempted to depict "that because of man's inability to communicate, mankind will never successfully deal with any type of holocaust, any kind of major threat, which could be revolution, nuclear fallout or a disease such as AIDS." The remake carries on with this premise.

The remake portrays the '68 black and white, original screenplay by Romero without adding any unique twists, except, of course, that this time it's in color. A change that instead of being an improvement ends up adding to the shortcomings of this movie by taking away the mysteriousness that horror films try to create.

The film opens with a woman named Barbara and her brother arguing in a cemetery about his disrespect for the dead. Minutes later the two are attacked by a zombie.

The zombie kills Barbara's brother. She flees and runs to a nearby farm house. There she encounters six other survivors who arm themselves with rifles, fireplace poachers and an array of household weapons.

After several zombie attacks, the group discovers that zombies survive on human flesh and that the only way to kill the zombies is to shoot them in

the head or break their heads open. "Night of the Living Dead" brings to light many interesting themes dealing with social satire, but they are so deeply buried in the pretentiousness of the movie that you lose sight of them.

Probably the biggest problem of the movie is that the zombies are so fake looking that it is difficult to take them seriously. They bleed (I thought that when a body was embalmed that included removing the blood). Their makeup is incredibly thick which grossly takes away from any attempts at authenticity. And their body movements, although fairly stiff and rigid, still move with a fair amount of ease considering the biological fact that muscles begin decomposing immediately after death. And since dead people are the premise of the movie, it is vital to the believability of the film to make the dead appear as dead as possible.

Directed by Tom Savini, "Night of the Living Dead" stars Tony Todd, Patricia Tallman, Tom Towles, William Butler along with a cast of debut actors and actresses.

The cast's attempt at breathing new life into the plot sorely miss their target. Maybe it's because the film producers had to work from a shoestring budget; maybe it's because they weren't properly instructed; maybe it's because they were confused with the plot and how their character fit in.

Although I wouldn't say that "Night of the Living Dead" is a total horror flop (because it did squeeze a few screams out of me mainly because of surprise and not suspense), I would encourage the audience to rent the original instead of seeing the remake which is rated R and is now showing at Schulman 6.

CBS releases 'Picture Show' video for limited time, rocky \$90 price

By DON ATKINSON JR.

For the past 15 years, fans of "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" have been doing the time warp again and again.

The cult-classic movie was originally a box-office flop, but found new life in countless midnight showings. Years later, when the VCR became popular, "Rocky Horror" fans began to wonder when the movie would be released on videocassette.

The waiting is over. On November 8, CBS/Fox Video will release "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" to the home video rental market at a cost of \$89.98 per copy.

The "Rocky Horror" videocassette will be available only for a short time before going on a two-year moratorium. During that time, the video will not appear on pay-per-view TV or network TV. Also, anyone who missed buying a copy shortly after the re-

lease date will not be able to order the movie from CBS/Fox Video.

Bob DeLellis, president of CBS/Fox, North America, says the limited availability of the movie is because of its popularity.

"This is an event film and it will be an event video release."

Chris Horn, manager of The Paramount Theater, says that the movie will be a popular rental, although he doubts many people will actually buy the videocassette.

"I can see that the die-hard fans are going to buy a copy," he says. "But most of those are college students and probably won't have \$90 to spend on a copy of a movie."

Gary Elvis McCain, area manager of 2-Day Video, also doubts whether the video will be a big seller because of the prohibitive price.

"It's a big event," he says. "But I don't think

they're really releasing it to sell."

McCain adds that he doesn't think the video release will hurt the popularity of seeing the movie in a theater.

"There's still going to be those die-hard fans who like the effect of the theater. Getting up and dancing, and throwing rice and toast. You're not going to get that effect at home."

Both Horn and McCain say that they are not planning any kind of local promotion for the videocassette because of the \$90 selling price.

McCain says that not only will the movie probably not be that big of a seller, but other, more commercial releases, such as "The Hunt For Red October" and "Total Recall," will be available within the same time frame.

"Those all fall within a month of each other and are going to be more beneficial," McCain says.

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Fall Senior Induction Banquet



Wednesday & Thursday, November 7 & 8, 1990
6:30 p.m.
MSC - ROOMS 212-216

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Complimentary tickets may be picked up in the
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Speaker:
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