

Movie Review

"Freddy" pays another visit

By DAWN WOOD
Herald Special

In the finale of Freddy flicks, Freddy's Dead finishes the series leaving almost everyone to R.I.P. though Freddy doesn't go out without a fight.

Freddy's Dead is Rachel Talalay's tongue-in-cheek, 3-D horror, surprisingly well-done for a film of its kind. Within the dark, sinister plots, there is a great script allowing for many moments of black humor, allusion, and understatement that are definitely worth a few laughs. And as well, there is some worthy social criticism.

'Do you know the terror of he who falls asleep' is the forward to the film from Nietzsche, providing a frame and structure for the motifs. Anyone who falls asleep falls victim to the tortures and pranks of Freddy (Robert Englund), who absorbs his prey by mentally dominating them in their most chilling nightmares. Nobody wants to sleep in this movie, but half the battle is staying awake.

The visual effects in the movie are nothing to write home about, but coming from a 3-D horror flick, they do deserve an honorable mention. Freddy embodies evil dream demons that fly out at him in 3-D, entering the audience after he is defeated. There are other memorable effects to view in the many nightmare sequences, where reality and dream are at times difficult to differentiate.

In describing Freddy, it's safe to say he appears to be about 305 years old, burned, partially decomposed, and is definitely better off left undisturbed. He likes to wear a scissorhand glove, flannel shirts, and cannot

leave the teenagers alone.

As a matter of course, by the beginning of the film he has terrorized all the young people in Springwood, Ohio. He attempts to bludgeon his own child with his scissorhand, and has the audacity to say that the problem is with the kids today.

The tone of the movie is established early when John Doe enters a dream sequence and his house is blasted into space. While his house is flying around above the clouds he looks out the window and who does he see on a broomstick, none other than Freddy, the wicked witch of Springwood.

If this reminds you of a similar dream sequence by a little girl named Dorothy, beware. The bizarre allusion to the Wizard of Oz is one of many references to other films that lets the viewer know what the movie is not. Also watch for a severed ear that evokes Lynch, and a brief appearance by Rosanne Barr and her hubby.

John is the last surviving youth of Springwood, and through Freddy's doings he is driven into a world that Freddy cannot enter (literally after colliding head on with a bus from hell driven by Freddy). With only one youth left in Springwood, Freddy is seeking greener pastures for his sadistic appetite. He ends up at a shelter for runaway youths where he meets Maggie (Lisa Zane) the social worker, Tracey (Lezlie Deane), Carlos, and Spencer, the youths.

The most serious social message in the film involves the relationship between parents and children.

The implications of parents who physically abuse their

children is dramatized by Freddy, who becomes a sadist/masochist as a result of his father's use of routine beatings. Freddy turns his pain into power by learning a mind-over-matter coping strategy, and later by developing his strategy, he surpasses the ability to cope with pain, and becomes immune to it. He threatens to continue the cycle of family violence, and would have, had his own offspring not been taken from him, which is one reason for all his shenanigans.

The movie sends out a militant feminist message in Freddy's failed attempt to capture and conquer the heroines, though he is successful in getting his male victims. The women are shown to be courageous, strong, and very determined to plunge into Freddy a whole arsenal of ninja weapons.

Freddy's Dead is not your typical movie, whatever kind of movie you deem it to be. Just remember to put on your 3-D glasses when Maggie does, and try not to laugh too hard when sitting so close to the edge of your seat.



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