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DVD review

Supervan is super kitschy if not a super movie. But who expects 70s drive-in cinema to be truly great? Sure, there are a few, but they are indeed a few.

Supervan is a quintessentially 70s film about a quintessentially 70s phenomena - van culture!

Yep, as the copy on the back of Cheezy Flicks' release of this hokum on wheels film hints, cultural marginalia got their 15 minutes of fame by way of the drive-in flick. Who'd have ever thought that van culture would warrant its own crazy movie?

Our van aficionado Clint is out to win \$5,000 at a van contest; see, he's trying to get out from under his dad's plans. Clint has bigger dreams than just owning a service station or garage or whatever it is that Dad does. Along the way, he meets (through nefarious circumstances) a woman who is also on the lam from her dad - this Dad turns out to be the villain of the piece. He's a rich, amoral bastard, the head of a motor company that sells shitty vehicles, etc., to make a buck. He's been too controlling of his daughter and is trying to find her. She's fled Daddy, you see.

Hooking up with Clint turns him into a target for Daddy, though the bigger reason is that Clint - friends with a genius nerd that works for the lady's Daddy - has procured the nerd's latest work of vehicular genius, Vandora. Vandora is sort of the van of the future (at least the van of the future as 70s cinema would see it). She also makes an obnoxious high-pitch noise when she's driving around, which tends to grate, however much one may be digging the cheese-fest unfolding on the screen. But I'll forgive the flick that. It satisfies the junk food cinema nodes of the mind.

She's also equipped with a laser (not rockets, as the packaging falsely indicates) that comes in handy when Clint is on the verge of getting the shit knocked out of him by some bikers he pissed off earlier. They were about to rape the motor boss' daughter when Clint rolled through, trashed a bike, saved the girl (these were the nefarious circumstances of which I spoke), and then saw his own van (this is before he gets Vandora, you understand) smooshed in a junkyard crusher.

Probably just as well; his van wasn't as cool as some of the vans in the contest, but Vandora was the coolest van of all - at least for this film's reality.

The film is doofy as hell (check), moderately exploitative (wet T-shirt contest, check), has bikers (check), a futuristic vehicle (check), over-the-top 70s culture (in the form of van-mania, check), has a silly if menacing boss with an idiot sidekick (check) and police (called bears in this movie, a vintage term) who are made to look silly (since this is all counterculture and what-not, check). So, yeah, we're in total drive-in mode.

Supervan is a singular and singularly silly 70s low budgeter but therein lies the fun. From car chases to scenes of revelry at the van fest and back again, this is full of the staples of cheese cinema mayhem.

Hence its release on Cheezy Flicks, of course.

70s drive-in fanatics and van aficionados (if there are any of those still around), check it out.



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AUTHOR: Upchuck Undergrind



Upchuck Undergrind listens to a little bit of a lot of things - just note the eclecticism of his reviews. He also reads voraciously and loves movies. He is a very open-minded Episcopalian (and student of Buddhism and Hinduism) who thinks Slayer is one of the greatest metal bands. Ever. In addition to his work with Corazine - for which he has written since its inception (he is a Fishcomcollective veteran) - he also writes for DJFix.com.

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