

Jesus Christ Vampire Hunter

Eclectic

DVD

It's safe to say that *Jesus Christ Vampire Hunter* won't be on the Christian League's 2003 list of family-friendly viewing. A wonderfully kooky mixture of bong-fed high concept, low budget action shenanigans and sly, referential structure, director Lee Gordon Demarbre's movie stands as perhaps the only messianic vampire slayer musical in modern history, or certainly that I can recall. Summoned back from heaven, Jesus (Phil Caracas) finds himself in a world of trouble. Because before he can get down to the serious business of judging the living, he has to contend with an army of sunlight-proof vamps (as the movie's trailer tagline says, "In the year 2000, vampires no longer fear the sun, but they should fear... the son of God!"). There's also an angry mob of atheists and other obstacles, but things start looking up when he assembles his posse of kooky apostles. Mayhem ensues. If the execution is low-rent the staging is inspired, with Jesus blessing beer before taking a swig and using it as a weapon in spit-take fashion, and impaling vamps with hair sticks and their own crutches. And *Chicago* fans take note — there are musical numbers too! (It even ends with the rousing tune, "Everybody Gets Laid Tonight!") A true B-movie gem, *Jesus Christ Vampire Hunter* is the Friday night party rental for which you've been searching. For more information, visit www.eclectic.com. Copious extra features include audio commentary from Demarbre, Caracas, writer Ian Driscoll and other cast members, 40 minutes of interviews with cast and crew, an extended musical sequence, some blooper and behind-the-scenes footage (actually the first day of filming, which was an out-of-focus wash-out), trailers and more. (Stewart Radley)



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