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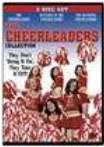
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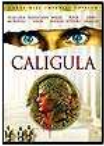




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## Banshee!!! (2009, Review)

By [Steven Tee](#)



Director: Colin Theys

Cast: Ashley Bates, David McCarthy, Kevin Shea, Iris McQuillan-Grace, Troy Walcott, Kerry McGann, Jess Wakefield

[MVD Visual](#) / Unrated / NTSC Region 1 / 16:9 Widescreen (Anamorphic) / Dolby Digital 5.1 Surround Sound / Color / 86 Minutes / [PURCHASE](#)

DVD Extras: Deleted Scenes / Bloopers & Outtakes / Commentary / Theatrical Trailer

The term banshee comes from Gaelic folklore in which a female spirit uses her piercing wails to warn of impending doom. Obviously, I just looked up the word banshee in my trusted dictionary, but I did know of the word in a non-formal sense. It's really funny what you can learn from Marvel comics, as an Irish superhero mutant called "Banshee" uses his powerful vocals to render enemies' auditory systems helpless. Director Colin Theys' banshee creature is definitely a different breed and his story is neither mythical or super-heroic. Theys' *Banshee!!!* is a stand alone creature feature that provides another take on a monster that can create a single, powerfully deafening wail.

Cocooned in a stasis pod for more than 25 years, a malicious banshee has been accidentally awakened and released in the backwoods of Connecticut just before a group of friends embark on a camping trip. Immediately, the banshee terrorizes the group and tricks them with hallucinations conjured up from the banshee's high frequency sound waves. Trapped in a local man's home, the friends are unable to flee the beast and must come up with a plan of attack before it wipes them out one by one.

*Banshee!!!* wants to be a roller coaster ride with thrills and excitement, but instead turns out to be a kiddie ride with brat puke all over the seat. The shame of it all is that the film's script could have been a thousand times better. Greg Parker and John Doolan's script is too simple with awkward dialogue and sizable loose ends. A considerable loose end would be the banshee having no back story or point of origin; it is just there to feast. If you're going to plop a creature into the woods and have it devour some kids for no damn good reason, you better have a kick ass story so we don't have these kind of questions. More head scratching questions stem from the dialogue as it is off-putting at times, with its abundance of misfired humor and nonchalant attitude which begs the question, what is the point?

Also, the CGI creature kills me a little bit each time I see it. The banshee suffers from a lack of detail presumably equal to the film's lack of budget, and the simplicity hinders the more upstanding editing and gore effects; the exploding head, the half-rip decapitation and the multiple impaling shows what could have been a real promise for *Banshee!!!*. The monster has wicked skills; it can make its victims hallucinate with sound waves, use spears to impale its victims, it's bulletproof and has an ugly and dark sense of humor. Unfortunately you can't damage it with a killer guitar solo as one of the main characters attempted during a poorly planned escape before his amp blew out.

The ending to *Banshee!!!* will leave anyone conflicted. The sole survivors stage a last chance epic battle against the creature, but unfortunately we don't get to see it and most is left to the imagination. The quick cuts of random scenes from the battle are only revealed in brief flashes of lightning to tease us with the notion of such a mammoth man-versus-creature war. Basically, we are cheated out of what could have been the best part of the movie which might have redeemed itself from its already aggravating layout. *Banshee!!!* screams action-horror and impales you with low-level entertainment. It's mindless popcorn entertainment value, to some extent. Though that might sound great

for Joe Schmo, the rest of the technical aspects just don't do it any justice and it falls flat of being cult creature feature film. There is a definite 70's to 80's feel with many modern day overlays, but that doesn't really help. It's just not very good.



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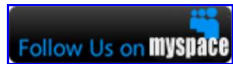
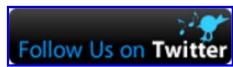
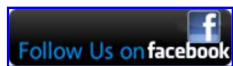


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