

Horror movie fans 'Cursed' with Wes Craven's newest creation

Horrible special effects, weak acting and a basic plot seem to be the only frightening things in 'Cursed'

Blake Hinton
Reviewer

"Cursed," the new werewolf film by Wes Craven, is one of those odd films that had such a disastrous production behind the scenes that it has become more interesting than the movie. The film not only had to be re-shot entirely, but the individual sections had to be as well. This is hard to believe considering how bad the werewolf looks. Sadly, this is not a film like "Brazil" that had legendary production battles but turned out to be a great film. Instead, "Cursed" is lame, boring and occasionally unintentionally funny.

The plot of the story is fairly basic. The movie starts with a requisite famous person being killed. The viewers might remember this type of sequence involving Drew

Barrymore in the far superior "Scream." This time our "big star" is Shannon Elizabeth who is forced off the road by another car driven by Ellie (Christina Ricci). Ellie's car swerved when she hit some kind of an animal while in the car with her brother Jimmy (Jesse Eisenberg). Ellie and Jimmy go down in the woods to help the overturned car, but end up being scratched by a werewolf, which has eaten Elizabeth.

Soon after, strange things began to happen to the two of them. Jimmy becomes stronger and more confident which allows him to fight the requisite school bully and win the girl of his dreams. Think "Teen Wolf" but change basketball to wrestling. Meanwhile, Ellie begins reacting strangely too, especially at her job. Just to see how old this movie is notice how she works for "The Craig Kilburn Show." The only problem with that is that

show has been cancelled for a while. These strange reactions also cause trouble between her and her boyfriend Jack (Joshua Jackson).

As these changes get worse the two realize that the only way to stop the curse is to kill the werewolf that started it all. The movie would like to think this is providing an engaging mystery. The only problem is that there are only about three suspects, and if anyone is surprised by who the head werewolf turns out to be then they obviously haven't seen many mysteries before. Everything is telegraphed way in advance.

The biggest problem with the movie though is the fact that it isn't scary or thrilling or exciting or really anything. I'm not sure how this movie can be described as a horror film because there isn't a lot of horror in it. Most of the film is taken up by characters talking meaningfully about relationships and whatnot. This type of

quality also ran through "Scream." For a horror film, Sydney was a very three-dimensional character. Here though we have characters that are not only barely developed, but are as dull as dishwasher. Before this film was released it was described in some interviews as a character driven horror film. That was a major mistake. Character driven horror films are great, but not when your characters are these.

Then comes the acting which is another major problem with this movie. Everybody seems completely lost at sea. Christina Ricci, who is normally so trustworthy in films, struggles here giving a very awkward performance.

It's even worse when she tries to connect with the dull Joshua Jackson.

Neither of them have any chemistry at all. As far as Eisenberg goes, he doesn't really

make any kind of blip on the screen much like the rest of the cast.

One can only think that this is the last nail in screenwriter's Kevin Williamson's coffin. He wrote the excellent "Scream" but has floundered in film since. "Cursed" certainly does nothing to help his reputation.

Also, if one was wondering whether the werewolf effects were decent that is a resounding no. There are only two types in here. The really bad CGI werewolf and the werewolf costume that looks lame to put it bluntly. One can clearly see the werewolf costume in the parking lot scene early in the film. Why they would want to fully show something that silly that early who knows. In the end, nothing can really save this film. They had a good idea. It just went very wrong.

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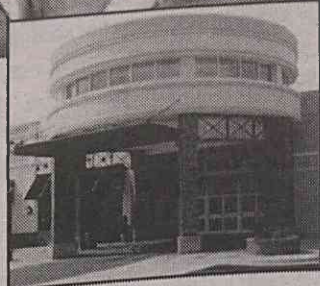
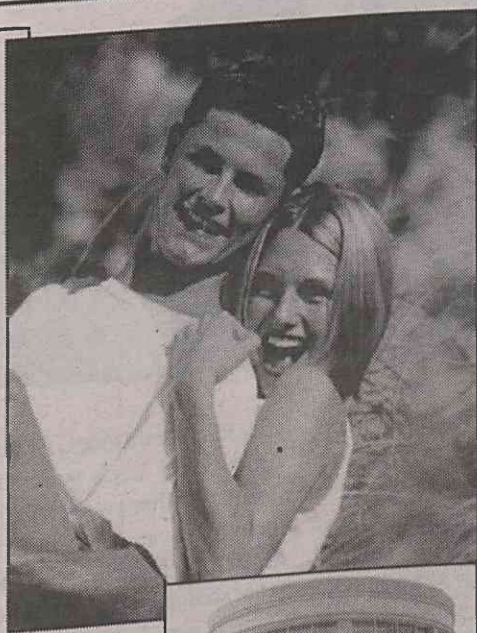
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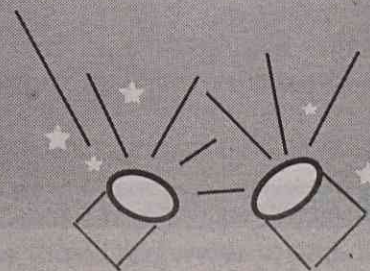
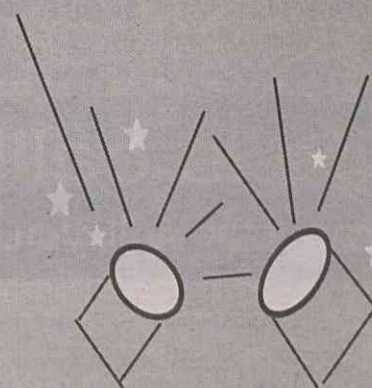
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