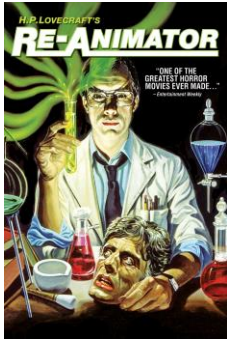


Short Review: “The Re-Animator” (1985) by Dr. John L. Flynn



Re-Animator, The (1985). Empire Pictures, 86 min. Director and Writer: Stuart Gordon.

Based on *Herbert West--Re-Animator* by H.P. Lovecraft. Producer: Brian Yuzna. Cast: Jeffrey Combs, Bruce Abbott, Barbara Crampton, Robert Sampson, and David Gale.

Based on the novel by H. P. Lovecraft, Gordon’s film was both a horror thriller and a send-up of sci-fi movies. When Herbert West (Combs), a dedicated young medical student, develops a serum to bring the dead back to life, he and his roommate proceed to re-animate several friends. But since the revived corpses have sustained various degrees of brain damage, their dispositions are less than pleasant. The man-made monsters run amok, ripping innocent victims to pieces. Like George Romero's zombie trilogy, Gordon’s debut film relies on a brand of morbid humor to disarm the audience but instead disarms countless victims. One scene involving heroine Barbara Crampton and a lustful severed head is very crude indeed, and not to be missed! Make sure you rent the uncut version. The low-budgeter from Empire Pictures made all sorts of money, inspired a sequel, entitled “Bride of the Re-Animator” (1990), and made a household name out of Lovecraft’s Miskatonic University.

Copyright 2012 by John L. Flynn, Ph.D.