

Peelers (2016)

By [mermaidheather](#), 3 years ago

793
views

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helpful (1/1)



I'm inching closer to getting my convention reviews done. I have actually kicked my writing up a gear over the last couple of days in order to push through these reviews. Not that I mind writing them, I just don't want a lot of time to pass between watching them and getting the reviews done. I was feeling pretty sleepy Saturday while watching the screenings for various reasons. After the screening for [Yoga Hosers](#), I got a bit of a second wind after I got up and walked around a bit, and grabbed a quick snack. About a month back, director Sevé Schelenz emailed me about his film **Peelers**. He offered to send me a screener of the film, but since I knew I would be hitting some conventions, I was hoping to catch it at one of them. I remember Sevé Schelenz from his film [Skew](#), which I liked fairly well. Even though I forgot the name of the movie by the time I hit the convention, I blame everything that was going on at that time or I'm just getting old, **Peelers** ended up being my favorite film from that weekend.

It is the last day that a strip club will be in operation. Blue Jean (Wren Walker) is the owner of the club and has been bought out by a businessman (Al Dales) but that doesn't mean that Blue Jean won't do everything she can for her customers. Her girls and staff are up to the task and go all out. A few guys show up from the nearby mine, that is owned by the same businessman, also ready for a fun time. There is a talk between them of being rich after discovering oil in the mine. They are also worried about something else, but they are keeping that somewhat quiet. One of them starts to feel sick so heads to the bathroom. While there, he starts to throw up what looks like oil and starts to become violent towards others. This stuff isn't oil after all and now it is time for Blue Jean to do whatever she can to protect those around her.

Peelers was given to us by writer Lisa DeVita and director Sevé Schelenz. This movie has a bit in common with the movie **Night Of Something Strange**, even though they are completely different with their respective stories. Both are about zombies if you really want to call them that. Both have their zombies come back to life, even though it didn't annoy me near as much here. And both are in the comedy/horror genre. The other film leaned towards gross-out humor, not that **Peelers** is really above that. While I loved **Night Of Something Strange**, **Peelers** managed to edge it out as my favorite movie from that weekend's screenings. What helped, though it certainly wasn't the main reason, was that it had a **The X-Files** feel to it at times. If you have ever watched the show in length, I'm sure you will have come across the alien virus, or whatever it was supposed to be, that looks like oil. I don't know if that was an inspiration for DeVita and Schelenz when making this movie, but that is what it reminded me of. The theme of the movie isn't all that new either, as there have been some zombies vs. strippers before. I didn't care about that, though. If you give me good characters and a good story, I don't care how many times a movie like it has been made already. **Peelers** managed to do just that. The most appealing part of the movie was the characters. While Blue Jean, what kind of name is that anyway, is a pretty tough woman when she wants to be, it is also easy to see that she cares about the people who work for her. We don't get a lot of backstory to her past, but it is obvious she played ball at some point, which comes into play once the zombies show up. There is also Remy, played by Caz Odin Darko, a bouncer with some feelings for his boss. And we get Logan, played by Madison J. Loos, who I think is Blue Jean's brother or she treats him as such anyway. The strippers are almost minor characters, but that doesn't mean that they get overlooked. One is pregnant and another does something pretty wild while on stage. Even though there isn't much for backstories here, the characters are still fun and easy to side with. The pacing of the story was also very well done. Things start off a little slow, but once the action starts, it doesn't let up all that often. The comedy was also well done. There are some funny lines as well as some funny situations. As I said, it isn't really above gross-out humor, but it doesn't rely on it in the slightest. Personally, I found it a good mix of horror and comedy. It isn't too heavy on either side which just makes it all the more funny or tense when it is needed. I mean, when you put a woman who is about to give birth in the mix of things, it has to get tense and funny at the same time. This brings up the very last scene in the film. I'm not going to give anything away, but here is a hint. If you know one of my favorite things in the horror genre, you will know something like that happens at the end.

I believe that **Peelers** was nominated for Best Special Effects. It didn't win, and I do agree with which film did get it, but this movie had to be runner-up. I don't want to say that things get really gory, but there are certainly some moments when the effects get to shine. There was some nice stuff here. I don't want to give too much away on this part of the film, though, as it could spoil some plot points. I will say that the makeup with the oil looks very cool. Just know that the effects were top notch and we will leave it at that. The acting was also very good. I don't recall if Wren Walker was nominated for best actress, but she should have been if she wasn't. She gives her character a lot of life even if her job isn't something most of us can relate to. I also really liked Caz Odin Darko in his role. It was kind of a toss up between him and Madison J. Loos for the lead male role. I also liked...well, everyone else! Usually, I can find someone I didn't care for, but that wasn't the case here. From the women who played the strippers to just the minors who come in the watch and drink, they were all really good.

If I had to complain about anything, it was that the strippers didn't do a whole lot to help defend their workplace. Not that it was their fault really with the way the script is written. One does her best and I can't complain too much about the one that was pregnant. The others get taken out fairly early on. It would have been nice if they had gotten to do more, but that is a minor complaint more than anything. Getting back to the zombies real quick. I mentioned that they don't stay dead until they figure out what kills them. What was nice is that the zombies never really just came right back to life. They take damage and seemingly take the time to recover from it which was a nice touch. By the way, what ends up keeping these zombies down is something that I don't recall ever seeing before. It was interesting and funny at the same time. So far, **Peelers** is still hitting the festival circuits. Here are some of the upcoming locations that you can catch it:

Scare-A-Con Film Festival - Sept. 30

ScareFest Festival - Sept. 30

New Jersey Film Festival - Oct. 1

Wreak Havoc Horror Film Festival - Oct. 1

Spooky Movie International Horror Film Festival - Oct. 6

Queen City Film Festival - Oct. 7

Northeast Wisconsin Horror Film Festival - Oct. 8

Sitges International Fantastic Film Festival - Oct. 8

Shriekfest - Oct. 9

... and lots more.

If you happen to be going to one of those, please check this movie out! You can also find more dates and information at the website for the film. As soon as I find out when **Peelers** will hit DVD or Blu, I will give an update about that. Nothing is official yet, not promising I will, but I might have some interviews from a few people from this film coming up. This hasn't given any weight to my opinion on the film since I found out most of this after I had already watched it. **Peelers** isn't for everyone, as some reviews have been giving it a middle group rating. Even so, I thought it was a great mix of horror and comedy and I'm very much looking forward to watching it again. Perhaps I will see it at another convention I will be going to. Check out this awesome movie if you get the chance to.

4 out of 5 I wonder if I could make it as a stripper

So... what do you think? [Please leave me a comment.](#)

2 Comments:

Vale:

Sounds like a decent movie, for some reason, it made me think of Dusk til Dawn when you described it

cattleworks:

Heather!

Based on your review I really want to see this movie!

The title really did nothing for me, although I guess it's a nice variation on the word "strippers," although I'm wondering if it has another meaning in the context of the film..?

Your description of the mix of comedy and horror made me think of another movie, via free-association, that also had a sharp mix of comedy and horror and also a title that doesn't quite give you any idea about what the film's about. Oh, and also because you saw it at a festival. I'm thinking of writer/director Alex Drummond's THE SHOWER, which was the title of the film I saw at the Buffalo Dreams Fantastic Film Festival, but now it's available on VOD on Netflix, I think, but as KILLER PARTY. Alex's film is also a nice mix of comedy and horror and I highly recommend it. The only thing I don't like is the new title, but comparatively, it's a better title than the THE SHOWER in that it actually sounds like a horror film rather than an art film or romance or drama or some other **** thing...

But, I've really gone off track here... sorry!

I think I bring up the other movie only because sometimes you see these films at a film festival or horror convention and they are these independent films and they really are very entertaining and well done and they stand out from some of the other films that you've been watching and you hope they do well.

And occasionally you WILL see someone do well on the film festival circuit and get a chance to do something higher profile that actually gets promoted on Youtube and TV as it opens at theaters, like the dude (whose name I ALWAYS forget, dammit!) who directed ABSENTIA and who went on to do OCULUS and, uh, something else. Okay, my brain fails me now, but Heather, I know you know who I'm talking about.

So, I'm just excited and anxious to see PEELERS now because you liked it so much.

And I'm right there with you when you say, " If you give me good characters and a good story, I don't care how many times a movie like it has been made already." Good review!

And thanks for posting the other festivals this film's playing at!

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