

# Dark Eyes of London

*Films of the macabre, the strange, the unusual, plus anything else that fits the bill.*

Friday, 5 January 2018

## New Films Round Up #12 - Reviews of Watch Over Us (USA 2017), The Ice Cream Truck (USA 2017), Consumption (USA 2016), Jonah Lives (USA 2015), Peelers (USA 2016) and The Id (USA 2015)

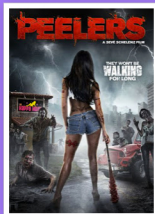
Well hello. It's been a while since I did one of these. So here's a round up of reviews of various movies seen last year that were generally too snifty to have been considered for publication by others. But not by me, obviously:

**Peelers (USA 2016: Dir. Sev  Schelenz)** Here's a smart, funny horror comedy that gets the balance between laughs and gross out pretty much spot on. Director Sev  Schelenz made the above average **Skew** back in 2011, and it's good to see that his earlier film wasn't a one off.

Ex cop Blue Jean is facing her last night at the Titty Ball lounge, a strip club that's being taken over by a big bucks businessman. Blue Jean and her assembly of sassy strippers are going to put on one last show for a loyal audience, joined by a group of local coal miners who have something to celebrate – they struck oil while hacking away at the coalface and figure they're going to get rich pretty quick. Actually they're going to get dead, as the oil is in fact a toxic substance which turns those in contact with it into, you guessed it, slavering infected creatures. And one of the miners is already in the throes of conversion.

From here on in **Peelers** is a fight for survival as the audience gradually becomes infected and the strippers and staff have to fight for their life. There's nothing new on the menu here, but the cast works really well together. Blue Jean, played by Wren Walker, is a feisty so and so (but with a heart of gold) and makes a great lead. The strippers are all well drawn characters and a very game bunch of actresses (Baby, who wears a nappy, has a rather, er, refreshing end to her routine) and they do a good job at keeping a rather slim set up lively. The gore is, like a number of films these days, a mix of old school prosthetics and CGI but sadly much of the film is very dark – budget restrictions, I'm assuming – which means the effects can't always be appreciated.

But I liked this movie – it's a Friday night beer and popcorn feature, no less, no more, but it had me laughing out loud on several occasions, and its 80 odd minutes zip along pretty well. Oh and make sure you carry on watching after the end credits, to catch Blue Jean doing her own dance and find out just how she managed to win a police motorcycle in a bet.



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