

"Pet Semetary"-- back from the dead

Jason Sandhaus
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What happens when a film does moderately well at the box office? That's right, a useless sequel is made.

The sequel in question is Pet Semetary 2 (or II, if you prefer). In either case it doesn't matter.

I wasn't much of a fan of the first Stephen King creation, so when I heard that a sequel was being released I was shocked. In fact, I knew nothing about the sequel until two weeks before its release.

It's been four years since the original Pet Semetary was released, so why wait so long for a sequel. Who cares?!

This film follows the same path as its predecessor, but with a more tongue in cheek attitude.

Unlike the original, Stephen King had nothing to do with this film. And as my theory goes: King's involvement with a picture usually equals disappointment. Anyone see Sleepwalkers?? ZZZZZZZ

The film begins with the making of a movie. Edward Furlong, star of T2, is

watching his mother film a scene. She comes down smoky steps and approaches a coffin that is placed in a puddle. She

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knels down and a hand from beneath her reaches up.

All of a sudden a piece of electrical equipment falls in the water and young Eddie's mom is fried. A funeral follows and Mr. Furlong goes to live with his father in Maine.

Now he has to adjust to new friends and a new environment. By the way, his dad's a vet (as in veterinarian).

Furlong makes friends with a heavy set kid whose stepfather is the local sheriff. He doesn't like his stepson or his stepson's dog who keeps getting into his rabbits, which in several scenes are caught doing what rabbits do best. You figure it out.

The sheriff can't take it anymore, so he shoots the dog in the middle of the night while poochie is going after his rabbits. Pudgeboy hears the gunshot and runs

outside. He's too late. His mutt is dead. But wait a minute, isn't there some place you can bury something where it comes back??

He gets his buddy Eddie and off they go to the pet cemetery (correct spelling). Pudgeboy carries a stuffed animal that is supposed to represent his dog. They bury it and wait.

The next day it comes back. Only this version of wonderpup has red eyes, no heartbeat, and a hell of a temper.

The stepfather sees the dog. He knows that he killed el poocho and wonders what the heck is going on.

The dog isn't the only thing that gets killed. For lack of time, I will spare you. The stepfather gets his, and comes back as a better person than he was when he was really alive.

The town bully also gets his too, but that doesn't matter because he was an obnoxious punk anyway.

Later in the film, amidst all of living creations coming back from the dead, Mr. Furlong gets the bright idea to bury his mother in the pet cemetery so he can reunite his family. Some reunion.

Will she come back?? Will the family

live happily ever after??? Does it really matter?? No!!!

I can't say that I hated this film. I didn't. In fact, I enjoyed this one more than I did the first. This film is so stupid it's fun.

The director (Mary Lambert, who also directed Pet Semetary) had more freedom to do what she wanted without having Stephen King looking over her shoulder.

This movie is more gory than the first and has much more humor in it. This one does not take itself seriously at all.

It even has better actors in it. I couldn't stand the wimpy husband in the original

The most entertaining person in the film is the sheriff played by Clancy Brown (Highlander). When he comes back from the dead he is hysterical. He walks around with a gaping hole in his neck that was given to him by Pudgeboy's dead doggie. This film had better one liners than some of the comedies released this summer.

The people who liked the first will probably not like the second, but this is a movie to just sit back and watch. Don't expect anything from it. I certainly didn't. **1/2

Movie sleepers at a video store near you...

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There are many people out there who prefer to rent a video rather than enjoy the experience of watching a movie in a theater.

Why is that? Is it because going to a theater can practically put you in debt??? Or is it just that movies are coming to video quicker each year?? It may be both. Movie studios are frequently releasing films just to be rushed to video.

That is why I'm here. I am going to give you a few of my video sleepers. These are titles that aren't picked up immediately at a video store. But in any case, these are fine films that deserve recognition.

"Best Seller"---James Woods stars as an ex-hitman for a local businessman. He finds Brian Dennehy, an ex-security guard turned author. Woods wants Dennehy to

write a book about his former boss. They play a cat and mouse game with each other. Woods is an excellent villain/good

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guy. Truth is you don't really know what he is until the end of the picture.

"Internal Affairs"---Andy Garcia just joined the Internal Affairs department, a division of the police department that investigates cops. Richard Gere is under investigation by Garcia. Gere plays a cop on the go who makes it with anything that moves. Actually he plays a good low-life. This is probably Gere's best role. Filled with suspense and many plots twists. Women will hate pretty boy Gere by the end of the film.

"Manhunter"---The first film that featured Hannibal "the cannibal" Lecter. A burnt out CIA agent is summoned to track down a serial killer who murders entire families. William Petersen stars as the

manhunter who goes to Lecter for advice. Years earlier he helped put Lecter behind bars. Directed by the man who created Miami Vice. This is a good cop flick and a much underrated film.

"The King of Comedy"---Martin Scorsese's dark comedy about a Rupert Pupkin (Robert DeNiro). Rupert has always dreamed about being a comic. He even goes as far as kidnapping the king of late night, Jerry Langford (Jerry Lewis) so he can get his shot at the spotlight. One of Scorsese's best and most certainly underappreciated.

"Man in the Moon"---This film takes place in the early 60's. It centers around two sisters. The younger falls in love with an older boy. The only problem is he falls in love with her sister. Uh oh!! This film is kind of in the "My Girl" mold but this is a much better film. You will cry, if you have a heart that is.

"I Don't Buy Kisses Anymore"---Jason

Alexander of "Seinfeld" fame and Nia Peeples star in this bittersweet love story/comedy. Alexander is a heavy shoe salesman a la Al Bundy. He sees Peeples at a bus stop and falls in love. She wants to use him as a thesis for her Psych class, but she can't help but fall in love with Mr. Flabby. A cute movie that may cause cavaties. A film for those who love happy endings.

"Crooked Hearts"---Story about a family with serious problems. A film that is done right in every aspect. Good cast, good script, and excellent acting. A little depressing, but definitely worth watching.

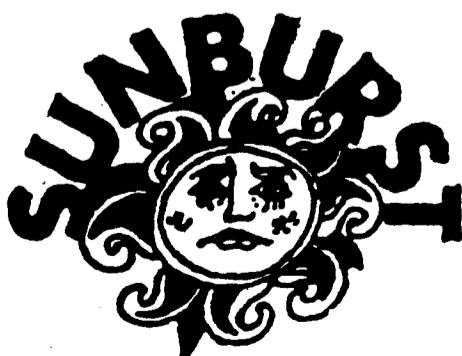
Well folks, this is the first installment of "video sleepers". If you get a chance check them out. You won't be disappointed. You can get "Final Analysis", "Fried Green Tomatoes", or "Ernest Scared Stupid" anytime. So go to your local video store and get these flicks.

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