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Hi guys, here's the Rob Zombie's Halloween review. Good stuff.  
Hide the kids. Hope yr all ok, talk soon, Big P

DVD Review: Halloween: Night of Masks

Director: Rob Zombie

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Perri Pagonis

[perripagonis@yahoo.com](mailto:perripagonis@yahoo.com)

Make no mistake about it, rock musician/film director/graphic animator Rob Zombie is a horror genre superstar. He is the biggest selling talent ever on Geffen records, selling mountains of CDs with his former band White Zombie and as a solo performer. In 2003 he released his first horror film, *House of a Thousand Corpses*, which became an instant cult classic. He is a staple at horror and comic book conventions, writes, directs and stars in his own music videos, plays concerts worldwide and has his own graphic novel series entitled, *Tyrannasaurus Rex*. One could say he's an unusually busy guy.

Thematically, he really seems to like dysfunctional families. I mean the completely wacked-out, everything gone-to-smash stuff. His first two films chronicled the homicidal, sadistic, at-home and on-the-road craziness of the unrepentant and poisonous Firefly family. His new movie is a remake/reworking of John Carpenter's 1978 masterpiece, *Halloween*. Zombie adds prequel information and some new twists on what many film critics call, "the most influential horror movie of all time."

The audience sees the family and psychological background of future super-slasher Michael Myers as a ten-year-old boy. He is surrounded by a collection of the scuzziest, white-trashiest bottom feeders imaginable. His older sister is a slutty, ego-centric skeeze with a practically braindead, cave-snake looking boyfriend. His mother's live-in paramour is a grimy, wasted, unemployed dirtbag with a predisposition for verbally hazing all those around him.. The child's mother is an aging harpy of a nightclub stripper.

When you add this admittedly difficult household environment to the fact that little Michael has a big predisposition for chopping-up neighborhood cats and pet shop mice for entertainment purposes, you have a great combination for producing later in life a big, twisted, guiltless goon who juliannes everything around him with mondo-sized kitchen knives.

The new *Halloween* can be looked at through any number of academic and artistic filters. On one level it's just a story about a guy who has snapped his twig and exterminates everything around him because it's easy to do and he can't seem to stop himself. However, there are piles of Oedipal/birthing/re-birthing/identity confirming/subjective and objective/ visual and thematic metaphors running throughout the film. Deconstructionist theorists Jacques Lacan and Jacques Derrida would have a field day analysing the limitless masks (read personalities) that Michael wears on his killing sprees, while guys like Freud and his pal Karen Horney would go buck wild

with all the holes, crawlways, alleys and enclosed spaces which intended victims must pass through with unbelievable difficulty to stay alive. Theoretically, being born again with each successful escape.

Zombie's conceptual genius works on several levels. One, because he is first and foremost a rock star, he knows the value of good production. The filming of the movie is first rate. It looks clean, slick and stylized as anything made by Aaron Spelling or Jerry Bruckheimer. His second gift is that he knows which directors and writers to borrow tricks and material from. Like David Lynch or Stephen King, Zombie can make an ordinary object, say a child's clown mask or school crayon drawing, seem ominous and indescribably creepy.

He has matured as a director over the last several years. His first two films, *House of a Thousand Corpses*, (2003) and *The Devil's Rejects*, (2005) were wild, amphetamine blow-outs that frazzled your eyeballs and nerve endings. They were carnival rides that left you breathless and speechless as a film viewer. *Halloween* has a more paced, set-up for the kill progression that is never boring and catches you off guard with its delivery and blind-siding effectiveness.

Big kudos must be given to Malcolm McDowell as the always twitchy Dr. Loomis, Sherri Moon Zombie as the kindly-but-snakey go-go dancer mom, Scout Taylor-Compton as Laurie Strode and super-young actor Daeg Faerch as the young Michael Myers. He really steals the show with his chilling, there-and-not-there presence and has the most unnerving yet smouldering burned-out gaze I've ever seen on a kid.

The soundtrack is a great mix of 70s and 80s classic rock including favorites by Peter Frampton, KISS, Rush and Nazareth. Rob Zombie's *Halloween* is a great DVD for a summer night indoors. Turn the air conditioner way up, take the phone off the hook, and enjoy two hours of stylized, quasi grad-school, groovy-ghoulie horror that you won't soon forget. Then tell your neighbors that you saw it and not only will you be cooler than they are, but they'll probably leave you alone for some little time.