

Short Review: “Plan 9 from Outer Space” (1956) by Dr. John L. Flynn



Plan 9 from Outer Space (aka Grave Robbers from Outer Space) (1956) Reynolds Productions, b/w, 79min. Director, Producer, Screenwriter: Edward D. Wood, Jr. Cast: Bela Lugosi, Vampira, Tor Johnson, Lyle Talbot, Joanne Lee, and Gregory Walcott.

Celebrated as the worst Science Fiction film ever made, Plan 9 relies on one of the most unoriginal plots (and sworn testimony!), wooden acting (thanks to the wooden direction of Ed Wood), cardboard sets (that shake when characters walk), laughable effects (with hubcaps standing in as flying saucers), and Wood’s own chiropractor to showcase Lugosi’s last role. Having failed with eight earlier plots to conquer Earth, pompous aliens rely on the titular plan of reviving the dead and turning the zombies loose on mankind. Had Kubrick chosen this film to torture Alex in “A Clockwork Orange” (1971) that might have been considered cruel and unusual punishment.

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