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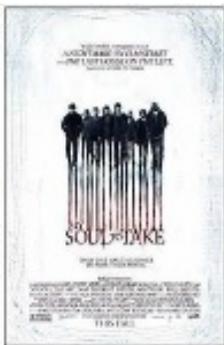
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'My Soul to Take' Movie Review

By Brian Salisbury | Friday, October 08, 2010

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'My Soul to Take'



Hollywood.com Says

So utterly awful that it should have been renamed 'My Time to Waste.'

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Wes Craven is a revered name in the horror industry. One cannot run down a list of the greatest horror films of all time without at least mentioning *A Nightmare on Elm Street*. But the nasty little secret about Wes Craven is that, apart from that spark of competence, he is one of the most overrated directors of our time. The man has no grasp of performance, storytelling or cinematography and has limped along since *A Nightmare on Elm Street* traded upon his own name. The only other rays of light in his otherwise bleak filmography are *A New Nightmare* and *Scream*. But the appeal of both of those films is how self-aware and referential they are, not only to other, better horror films but, again, Craven's own work!

So sitting down to view his newest film, *My Soul to Take*, I was skeptical, but, as always, hoping that Wes would prove me wrong. He did not. Take note of the title of this film and remember it well. Why? Because it will more than likely disappear from theaters in two weeks' time, and it will undoubtedly grace innumerable year-end Worst of 2010 lists.

The "story" revolves around a serial killer who dies and manages to parcel out his seven scattered personalities (or

souls, I suppose) into the bodies of newborns. Sixteen years later those newborns are nubile teenagers who — you guessed it — get murdered because of this shaky connection to what has since become the town boogeyman.

How best to adequately chart the failures of this film? I honestly don't know where to begin. The cast, true to Craven's impeccable lack of a nose for talent, is populated with some truly terrible young actors. Their line deliveries are flat and undisciplined, and it becomes impossible to sympathize with a single one of them. To their credit, these actors are done no favors by Craven's hallmark dialogue, which again is painfully weak and reflects his steadily waning comprehension of youth culture. Characters spit out nonsense that is so awful, you can never tell if it's a joke or if Craven is actually going senile. The dialogue from the killer is especially bad, which is fitting considering that Craven has ruined many a film by letting characters who should be silent spew forth unbearable babble (see the cops in *Last House on the Left* or the mutants in *The Hills Have Eyes* for reference).

This story is among the most lackluster of Craven's already unimpressive catalogue. From start to finish, nothing makes sense, nothing fits and all must be explained through exposition machines because none of what we're told is supported by a single preceding frame. If you want to run down basic writing faux pas made by the supposedly seasoned veteran Craven, how about the scene in which he goes down the line pointing at each teen and introducing them by name in a hackneyed, thinly veiled device. It's as if he's lazily saying, "Victim 1, Victim 2, Victim 3 ..." — which is appropriate, as this is the most he bothers to develop them. The whole "soul" aspect of the film, arguably its biggest draw, goes completely unvisited until the very end when it becomes so convoluted and shoehorned that it no longer seems integral to the film at all.

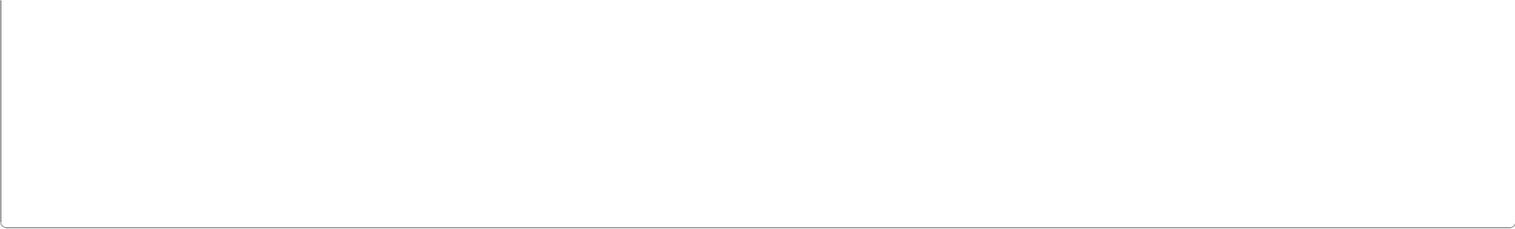
And beyond all of this, the film is savagely tedious. When examining the dialogue, the exaggerated — to a comic extent — high school experiences of the characters, and the after-school-special themes, Craven appears to be making a film aimed at 13-year-olds, forgetting that he's actually making an R-rated slasher flick. His complete lack of vision may also explain why this R-rated slasher film features not one good kill, which furthers the tedium. The 3D is so under-utilized that were it not for the fact that the screen would be rendered hopelessly blurry, I would advocate removing the glasses entirely.

It also feels so wantonly rehashed to the point that I'm not convinced this wasn't originally a script for another *Nightmare on Elm Street* sequel Craven had lying around for years. The meagerness of the characterizations, the sloppiness of the plot, the serial-killer trauma involving children, and even the voice of the villain all ring familiar in a way that bothers me and makes me think Craven was simply hurting for a paycheck when he slapped together this insult to horror fans. Being that its titular plot element is deceptively absent, perhaps Craven would consider renaming the film *My Time to Waste*.

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Sort by Newest first  [Subscribe by email](#)  [Subscribe by RSS](#)**Sovereigness** 22 hours ago

the movie was good, just because it didnt have shitloads of gore and nudity in it doesnt make it a bad movie, it just makes you too harshly judgmental, Wes Craven is an amazing director, and the movie was a perfect psychological thriller

[Like](#)[Reply](#)**WesCraven** 1 day ago

Cool story bro

[Like](#)[Reply](#)**Mario Vazquez** 2 days ago

Had I not seen this movie, I would shrug Brian Salisbury's review thinking he was just being harsh. HE IS 100% RIGHT ON POINT! Only, he mentions that this might have been a Nightmare on Elm St. sequel... I believe this was a script for the never released Freddy's Nightmares tv episode. Bottom line: 0/10*

[Like](#)[Reply](#)**ECM9991** 3 days ago

I just want to start out by referring to an episode of Drawn Together, where in the show, they made fun of the fact that Entertainment Weekly gave the show an F. They they went on to explain that the reviewers from EW were not their target audience, and that is why they do not like their show.

I believe the same basic principle applies here. This movie is meant for teenagers and young adults, around the ages of 16-25 or so. I fall into this age group, and I thoroughly enjoyed this movie. It actually is toward the top of my list of favorite horror movies.

Also, this reviewers whole point about the soul part of the movie not coming in until the end....at the end you figure out that the souls were the ENTIRE movie. It makes complete sense, maybe you were too busy thinking of ways to criticize

the movie then actually watching it, because you missed some important parts.

All in all, I would give this movie 4 out of 5 stars, and I commend Max Theriot for his role, I felt he did especially fantastic. I highly recommend all people between the ages above to see the movie, and everyone else as well if you are in for a good movie with a great story.

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