



**LEST WE FORGET** The Citadel's Vimy will cover the famous battle right in time for Remembrance Day.

KRYSTINA SULATYCKI



## 30 days of the right horror fixins

### filmreview

#### 30 Days of Night

Now Playing

Directed by David Slade

Starring Josh Harnett, Melissa George, and Danny Huston

KEVIN CHARLTON

Arts & Entertainment Writer

A bloodthirsty gang of vampire character actors rarely get the opportunity to have work in a group to freely feast upon human flesh, which explains their excitement at hearing that David Slade had begun adapting the graphic novel series *30 Days of Night* to film. Few vampires could pass up on a delicious human feast during the darkest part of the Alaskan winter, where the sun won't rise for almost a month.

With *30 Days of Night*, Slade takes what most people like about a Halloween horror film, throws it in a mixing pot, and spreads it all over a roll of film. When you sit down in a horror movie, you're not expecting Oscar-grade acting and sweeping emotional moments—you're expecting B-grade acting, death and gore, and freaky stuff to jump out at you.

A little bit of ass-kicking never hurt anyone, either, and with *30 Days of Night*, the mix is right on the money and allows the audience members to have a bit of fun while being freaked out of their minds.

The small, secluded Alaskan town of Barrow is thrown into an orgy of vampiric delight as the sun sinks below the horizon for the last time for 30 days. They lay an uninterrupted reign of terror and destruction

upon the town, and although most people have already left, the remaining few are left to try and survive the night that will seemingly last for an eternity.

The characters are, as expected, a little one-sided. There's some interesting ideas, from the pot-smoking-and-growing grandmother (Elizabeth Hawthorne), to the senile old guy (Chic Littlewood) who keeps forgetting his wife has been dead for years; ultimately, however, every character remains very thin. Really, all they ever get is the basic motivation that they want to survive the terrible ordeal of swarms of vampires, and thankfully, this lack of character development doesn't really even hinder the film, as *30 Days of Night* prefers to jump right in the action.

The vampires in this flick don't care if you're running around with a wooden stake covered in garlic: the only way to kill them is a well-placed axe straight to the jugular, or good old-fashioned UV light from our good friend the sun. The methods used to kill vampires are quite creative, ranging from death by logging tractor to the ever-so-brutal axe.

The past few years haven't had much in the way of a good horror film, with most of them using extreme gore as a scare tactic for the audience rather than properly written suspense or just downright creepiness. Saw, for example, keeps getting worse and worse in this regard. But *30 Days of Night* seems to get a balance of violence and genuine scares, even if it isn't a very intelligent film.

*30 Days of Night* aims to keep horror fun and entertaining while still trying to remake the vampire movie into something that will make you wet yourself. This film draws up one survival guide that you'd never want to have to follow.

## PROFESSOR OF THE WEEK

DR. DEANNA WILLIAMSON  
HUMAN ECOLOGY 301

Dr. Williamson has been at the University of Alberta both as a student (completing her undergraduate and PhD degrees here) and as a professor. She has now been an academic staff member for 11 years having started teaching here in 1996. Dr. Williamson said that she "contributes to the preparation of beginning level professional human ecologists, whose practice focuses on the enhancement of well-being of individuals and families in their everyday lives," and that she tries to do the best that she can in each key area of her job. Her students feel that she has done exceptionally through learning everyone's name in a fairly large class, generating engaging discussions and creating an overall exceptional environment for learning.

Do you have a professor that's unique and shows their value of undergraduate teaching? Nominate them! Email [avpa@su.ualberta.ca](mailto:avpa@su.ualberta.ca).

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