Written by Chris Alexander
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How a movie bearing the generic handle CREATURE ended up with as many theatrical screens as it has might confound contemporary horror fans. Usually grotty films of this ilk—especially those starring ubiquitous genre icon Sid Haig—are designed for the small screen and unsophisticated audiences. Perhaps it’s due to the pedigree of producer Sid Sheinberg, former head of Universal Pictures and legend in his own right. Maybe it’s because the film’s setup bears more than a passing resemblance to HATCHET, and the fact that HATCHET II garnered brief screen time, and some notoriety, paved the way. But whatever the reason, it’s thrilling to have such an unabashed old-school genre romp out there beside the latest monolithic Hollywood headache, and even cooler that there’s a dude in a slimy rubber suit on the poster.

And that’s really what CREATURE boils down to: a simple, good-time horror flick and yes, a dude-in-a-rubber-suit horror flick at that. A long-in-gestation pet project of former FX guy Fred Andrews, CREATURE sees a parade of somewhat more interesting than usual, slightly older than teenage kids (whose ranks include Serinda Swan and Amanda Fuller) get lost in the bayou, where they meet a grinning weirdo named Chopper (played by professional grinning weirdo Haig) and, of course, the creature of the title, an 8-foot-tall reptilian swamp monster named Lockjaw with a double set of teeth, a hunger for blood…and a really icky, batshit-crazy backstory. Oh, and a giant, glistening…well, why spoil the fun?

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