Written by Tony Timpone Thursday, 23 September 2010 13:49



In <u>Part One</u> of my look at the coming season's fright flicks, Pervula in the comments section wisely pointed out that there were actually four genre films opening on October 1, not three. CHAIN LETTER, previously slated for Oct. 8, will now go head-to-head (at least in LA and maybe a few other major cities) with the previously announced HATCHET II, LET ME IN and CASE 39. The smart money's on LET ME IN emerging as the box-office winner; the remake of the Swedish classic LET THE RIGHT ONE IN won raves after its Toronto Film Festival premiere, with many pundits predicting that the film's young stars (Kodi Smit-McPhee and Chloë Grace Moretz) may even nab Oscar nominations.

I caught New Films International's CHAIN LETTER—about a hulking maniac (THE HILLS HAVE EYES' Michael Bailey Smith) preying on kids who don't forward his titular e-mail—at last November's American Film Market premiere (see FANGORIA #290-1), and found this gory mess nothing more than another SAW wannabe. However, since I viewed an incomplete version, I'm hoping that writer/director Deon Taylor has had time to fix all the movie's problems (various inconsistencies and illogic, overall mean-spiritedness), as CHAIN LETTER's killer cast (NEW MOON's Nikki Reed, Keith David, the SAW sequels' Betsy Russell, DEADGIRL's Noah Segan, Brad Dourif, etc.) deserves better.



It's exciting to see Wes Craven back on the screen with an original chiller he calls MY SOUL TO TAKE, opening Oct. 8. The scream great has been busy in recent years shepherding well-received remakes of his past classics (equally effective THE HILLS HAVE EYES and THE LAST HOUSE ON THE LEFT; he had nothing to do with last spring's ho-hum A NIGHTMARE

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ON ELM STREET), but MY SOUL TO TAKE represents the first film Craven has both written and directed since 1994's NEW NIGHTMARE. Unfortunately, the film has been sitting on the shelf for a couple of years due to studio and title changes and the commercial decision to retrofit MY SOUL TO TAKE for the popularity-waning 3-D craze. The slick trailer looks promising, albeit a little too reminiscent of both the Freddy franchise and Craven's SHOCKER. Just the same, the filmmaker seems really jazzed about MY SOUL TO TAKE (see interview in next month's FANGORIA #298), and on this production, he did not suffer through the studio squabbles that ultimately torpedoed his CURSED and DEADLY FRIEND.



Tony Timpone's Elegies: Fall Frights, Part Two

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