



THE PIT

A film by Lew Lehman

1981 / Canada / 96 min. / In English

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Synopsis:

Twelve-year old Jamie is an outcast in his small town—he is bullied, he shows signs of being a sexual deviant, and he has no friends aside from his demonic teddy bear, Teddy. Influenced by commands he hears from Teddy, Jamie lures his unsuspecting tormentors one by one to a forest pit that he has discovered on the outskirts of town, so that they can be devoured by the man-eating troglodytes that dwell at the bottom of THE PIT!

Background on THE PIT:

Part of the sub-genre known as “Canuxploitation,” THE PIT has built up a cult following amongst aficionados of ‘80s horror, “bad movies we love,” and films that defy easy categorization. THE PIT is just one of those movies—“A unique concoction of Canadian horror movie and After-School Special gone terribly, terribly wrong,” according to *Canuxploitation!*, a website devoted to those unique genre movies that came out of the Canadian tax shelter boom, often with their distinctive “Canadian-ness” intact. THE PIT was the only film directed by American Lew Lehman, who also served as president of the Directors Guild of Canada. Originally conceived as a serious and realistic examination of a young psychotic child, the finished film—for commercial reasons—wedded more fantastic horror elements onto to this storyline, leaving us with the delightfully twisted, trashy, and weird hybrid that is THE PIT.

After a limited theatrical release in theaters in 1981, the film was more widely seen on cable, VHS, and eventually DVD. Long out of circulation, Kino Lorber Repertory and Kino Lorber Studio Classics are proud to bring THE PIT back to U.S. theaters and Blu-ray / DVD in a new 2K restoration sourced from a preservation print held at Library and Archives Canada.

Further reading:

<http://www.canuxploitation.com/>

Crew:

Director
Writer
Director of Photography
Producers

Editing
Music
Art Direction

Lew Lehman
Ian A. Stuart
Manfred Guthe
John F. Bassett
Bennet Fode (executive)
Rik Morden
Victor Davies
Peter E. Stone

Cast:

Jamie Benjamin
Sandy O'Reilly
Mrs. Lynde
Marg Livingstone
Mrs. Benjamin
Abergail
Mr. Benjamin
Sgt. McNally
Miss Oliphant
Butcher
Allan

Sammy Snyders
Jeannie Elias
Sonja Smits
Laura Hollingsworth
Laura Press
Andrea Swartz
Richard Alden
Jack Zimmerman
Lillian Graham
Patrick Patterson
Gerard Jordan