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Trick 'r Treat is a 2007 American anthology horror film written and directed by Michael Dougherty. The movie takes place on Halloween night in Warren Valley, Ohio, and follows four interconnected stories that share a common element: Sam, a trick-or-treating demon who appears whenever someone breaks a Halloween tradition. Sam's presence is felt throughout the film as characters cross paths with each other. For example, a young boy named Charlie vandalizes jack-o'-lanterns and steals candy from unattended bowls, only to be caught by his school principal, Steven Wilkins, who laces the candy with cyanide. Meanwhile, Henry returns home after a celebratory night, where he finds his wife Emma's mutilated corpse displayed on display. The film features an ensemble cast, including Dylan Baker, Rochelle Aytes, Anna Paquin, and Brian Cox. Despite being delayed for two years and having limited screenings at film festivals, Trick 'r Treat received positive reviews and has since gained a cult following. They're about to carve Charlie's severed head as a group of teenagers, led by Macy, visit a flooded quarry for Halloween. The teens tell the urban legend of the "Halloween School Bus Massacre," where eight mentally disabled children were bribed into being thrown off a bus, resulting in their deaths. As they leave a tribute of jack-o'-lanterns, Rhonda is pursued by figures that turn out to be her friends in disguise, a prank planned by Macy. The actual victims rise as undead and attack the teens, leading Rhonda to abandon them to death. Meanwhile, Laurie joins her sister Danielle and their friends for Halloween, dressed as Little Red Riding Hood, but is attacked by a vampire-like man who turns out to be Steven Wilkins. Laurie transforms into a werewolf and kills him. As the night proceeds, Kreeg, a Halloween hater, encounters unusual occurrences, including Samhain greetings and eggs on his front door. He's ambushed and attacked by Sam, but manages to knock him down with a shotgun. However, instead of killing Sam, he accidentally hits a candy bar that had fallen on his lap. With this, Kreeg is able to "give" the candy to Sam, completing the tradition of handing out candies on Halloween. In the end, it's revealed that Kreeg was the missing driver from the School Bus Massacre, and he witnesses others upholding Halloween traditions as he gives candy to trick-or-treaters. The segment "The Halloween School Bus Massacre" was created by Michael Dougherty and served as the precursor to his film Trick 'r Treat. The animated short featured Sam, a young boy in orange pajamas, being stalked on Halloween night. Initially set in a graveyard, the story was revised after feeling like an overused trope about someone being dead all along. The film Trick 'r Treat was shot in Vancouver, British Columbia and initially slated for October 2007 release but was pushed back due to the announcement of a change in the script. The movie finally came out on home media in 2009 and had its first public screening at the Harry Knowles' Butt-Numb-A-Thon film festival in Austin, Texas. It received several screenings throughout that year including those at Sitges Film Festival, Screamfest Horror Film Festival, Fangoria sponsored free screening in New York, Ain't It Cool News co-sponsored screening at Grauman's Chinese Theatre, San Diego Comic-Con, Fantasia Festival and Terror in the Aisles film festival before being released direct-to-DVD and Blu-ray. Given article text here Trick 'r Treat, a horror film written by Michael Dougherty, was initially planned to be adapted into a four-issue comic book series by DC Comics' Wildstorm Comics. The adaptation was set to be released weekly in October 2007 but was delayed due to the backlisting of the film. Instead, the comics were later released as a graphic novel in October 2009. A second Trick 'r Treat comic book, titled Trick 'r Treat: Days of the Dead, was set for release in October 2015. The graphic novel tie-in of Dougherty's Krampus was also released alongside this comic. As of October 26, 2023, the film has grossed $27,909 in the United Kingdom. On Rotten Tomatoes, the film holds an approval rating of 83% based on 35 reviews, with an average rating of 7.40/10. The critical consensus reads: "A deftly crafted tribute to Halloween legends, Trick 'r Treat hits all the genre marks with gusto and old-fashioned suspense." The film has received widespread critical acclaim, with praise from Dread Central, IGN, Bloody Disgusting, Paste Magazine, and Common Sense Media. It has been ranked among the top horror films of the decade by several publications. Michael Dougherty has expressed interest in a sequel to Trick 'r Treat, which was initially announced in 2013 but remained unproduced due to changes in Legendary's management. In October 2022, Dougherty revealed that he was working on an active development for the sequel with Legendary Pictures. Michael Dougherty, the director of Trick 'r Treat, has expressed his commitment to creating high-quality sequels or prequels if he ever decides to continue the series. He believes that it's not worth releasing subpar content just for the sake of expanding on the original story. While he acknowledges the potential of some ideas, such as Trick 'r Treat Part 9: Sam Goes to Space, he wants any future installments to be on par with or even surpass the quality of the first film. The text also includes various external links and references to reviews, interviews, and articles about the movie, including its cult status, box office performance, and fan appreciation. These sources provide context and additional information about Trick 'r Treat's impact on horror fans and its enduring popularity. A website, Bloody Disgusting, published an article in December 2009 titled "00's Retrospect: Bloody Disgusting's Top 20 Films of the Decade...Part 3". This article discussed various films from the 2000s and possibly included Trick 'r Treat. In October 2017, Jim Vorel wrote for Paste that Trick 'r Treat is the ultimate "Halloween Night" movie. The film has had a significant impact in the horror community and continues to be celebrated. Trick 'r Treat has received awards from Screamfest (2008) and the Toronto After Dark Film Festival (2009). In October 2009, Bloody Disgusting reported that a Trick 'r Treat sequel was in the pipeline. Michael Dougherty, the film's director, spoke with Bloody Disgusting in October 2012 about the potential sequel. Samantha Highfill wrote for Entertainment Weekly in October 2013 that Trick 'r Treat had gotten a sequel and Michael Dougherty discussed what's next. In October 2019, Michael Dougherty shared his thoughts on Trick 'r Treat 2; whether it should ever happen. Bloody Disgusting reported on October 2, 2022, that Trick 'r Treat 2 is in "very active development" according to Michael Dougherty. Screen Rant shared an update from the film's director about Trick 'r Treat 2 on October 25, 2023. Some viewers were disturbed by the depiction of mild alcohol use, including instances where underage individuals were involved. Others felt uneasy about the portrayal of moderate levels of violence directed at children. Meanwhile, the film's climax, which takes place in Brian Cox's character's home and features Sam, is both suspenseful and intense, keeping audiences on the edge of their seats.

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