Click to verify



========== Joko Anwar's Sequel Tones Down Scares for Atmosphere, Character Building Joko Anwar’s sequel to his hit 2017 film Satan’s Slaves, titled Communion, takes a more atmospheric approach than the first installment. The movie is another strong effort by one of the most effective horror storytellers today. The story follows the Suwono family as they return home after their mother's mysterious illness, which lasted for three years. As they settle back into their lives, they soon realize that their troubles are far from over. Unlike the first film, which was criticized for its lack of character development, Communion addresses this issue head-on. The new characters introduced in the sequel get a chance to shine, adding depth to the story. One of the standout aspects of Communion is its ability to maintain a creepy atmosphere throughout the entire movie. The apartment building serves as a foreboding presence from the start, setting the tone for what's to come. The family members who survived the first film each have their own storyline in Communion, with Rini, the oldest daughter, receiving the most attention. Her character gets a chance to grow and develop, making her return all the more believable. Communion does an excellent job of showcasing how different cultures approach death and funerals. The way the living care for the deceased is particularly noteworthy. The movie also expands on the lore of its world, revealing new information that changes the viewer's perspective on the original story. While this doesn't affect the first film in a negative way, it does alter the perception of one character. The story begins with an intriguing side plot involving a reporter and a police officer investigating exhumed bodies from a cemetery. This setup pays off in unexpected ways, adding to the overall narrative. Visually, Communion is stunning. Anwar's mastery of cinematography creates an immersive experience, making the setting feel even more ominous. In terms of scares, Communion takes a more subtle approach. While it lacks the jump scares of the first film, it strikes a perfect balance between atmosphere and world-building. The sequel feels bigger than its predecessor in every way, setting the stage for a potential third installment. With its well-crafted storytelling, impressive visuals, and effective character development, Communion is an incredibly well-made horror movie that will leave viewers in a lasting nightmare.The material contained within can be reused for any purpose without obtaining permission from the copyright holder. This license allows users to remix, transform, and build upon the content, as long as they provide proper attribution and comply with the terms. ========== Sharing knowledge — if you share or distribute this text in whole or in part, acknowledge the source (the original author), provide a link to the license, and indicate any modifications made. You may do so through various means but should not suggest that we endorse your use. ---------- The service uses cookies for advertising purposes as outlined in our privacy notice. Information such as order history or demographic details is used for targeted advertising. Privacy Notice and Cookie Notice have more information on how this data is handled. ---------- A family struggles to make ends meet with a terminally ill mother, living in a gloomy house. The atmosphere creates tension, mainly focusing on family conflict and terrorizing the viewer. This horror film reiterates why it remains one of my favorite films. ---------- The story follows Rini and her family after their mother's death. She is now alone with her father who has just lost his wife, a former singer. The family's situation worsens as they are stuck in the house without any means to leave. The supernatural elements escalate as they become trapped within the home. The main character does not believe these events, and thus she becomes the target of the malevolent force. ---------- The plot develops around a haunted house where paranormal activities intensify with each passing scene. Rani's non-belief is what makes her more vulnerable to the forces that surround her. ========== The movie's narrative is marred by inconsistencies, making it challenging to dismiss them entirely. A crucial plot point vanishes from view at one moment, leaving viewers bewildered. Similarly, an unexplained death occurs, which sets the characters on a predetermined course towards their ultimate demise. These plot developments feel random and unsatisfying. Another aspect that disturbs me is how characters in horror movies tend to downplay supernatural events. If I were facing a similar situation, I would undoubtedly alert my loved ones and take swift action. However, in films, characters often remain eerily calm, even when confronted with potentially life-threatening situations. The cinematography is largely satisfactory, although the setup segment resorts to repetitive techniques, which, while effective in setting the mood, become predictable over time. There are, however, some standout shots, such as one where a ghoul ascends the stairs, adding a sense of tension and suspense to the film. As the movie progresses, it loses momentum, with events unfolding at a rushed pace. The narrative feels forced, particularly in its pursuit of closure. The final revelation is adequate but somewhat contrived, much like those found in M. Night Shyamalan films. It disrupts the flow and leads to an unsettling conclusion that fails to deliver on its promise. While Satan's Slaves may not be taken seriously by all viewers, it does offer a compelling experience for horror fans who appreciate Eastern Horror. Nonetheless, it is essential to approach this film with a relaxed mindset, recognizing its entertainment value rather than taking it as a serious horror epic. The movie serves as a remake of the 1982 classic Pengabdi Setan and maintains its original setting while introducing new characters and themes. The story revolves around a family struggling financially and spiritually, which is exacerbated by supernatural forces. Ultimately, the film suggests that salvation lies in selfless love rather than adhering to outdated social codes. Rating: 3.5/5 StarsHaving been out of the spotlight for so long, her music has started to fall out of style. Royalties have dried up, and there's not much hope for more money. Lacking the funds to pay for ongoing hospital care, the family have brought Mawarni home to take care of her themselves. Though the father, Bront Palarae, secretly urges his wife to leave for a better place, worried about feeding his kids, Rini hears him say this from outside the door. Soon enough, Mawarni is gone, but not forgotten. Strange sounds fill the old mansion as Mawarni’s bell keeps ringing at night, her records play without warning, and radios turn themselves on to play her song. When dad leaves the siblings—Tony, Bondi, and Ian, who is deaf and mute—in Rini’s care to go to the city for money, the kids are left to deal with the consequences of his moral weakness alone. The movie adopts the look of a classic European gothic horror, set in a old fashioned villa in a forest far from the city. If the house wasn’t creepy enough, it’s also near the local graveyard where Mawarni is supposedly buried. Moving in next door, a kind Imam and his open-minded son Hendra promise to help the kids, but they get trapped by the house’s power to isolate and scare. Tipped off by Hendra, Rini finds out a dark and disturbing secret about her mother’s past and her own origins. The story turns into a big conspiracy about a satanic fertility cult and their spies everywhere. Satan’s Slaves enjoys its oppressive atmosphere of supernatural fear and human helplessness as the kids are surrounded by faceless, umbrella-wielding zombies waiting to destroy their home. Rini is told by an old friend of their grandmother’s that the cult needs child sacrifices, but they can’t take the child unless the family gives it up. She is being asked to risk her life and her siblings’ lives to save “the family,” even though “the family” has its own problems. Rini’s grandmother, who recently died under mysterious circumstances, didn’t accept her daughter-in-law at first because of class differences and her job as an entertainer. She only started to like Mawarni after the kids were born, which was already years into the marriage. Mawarni, struggling to get pregnant, was desperate for a child and her mother-in-law’s approval. Instead of the lack of spiritual discipline the Imam blames for the demonic presence, it’s these social rules that seem to have opened the door to evil. The kids try religious solutions, but they don’t work. Haunted by their late mother, who feels abandoned by her family, her loving husband is now pushing her to die because she’s no longer useful and has become a burden. The only way to break this curse is through unconditional love and family unity, even with what Rini now knows about her history. Oppressive in atmosphere but filled with eerie beauty as shadowy figures slowly take over the misty Indonesian forest, Satan’s Slaves questions the idea of “the family” against strict patriarchal rules and finds that survival requires acts of defiance and self-identity. Screened at the 20th Udine Far East Film Festival. Original trailer (English subtitles) Every Final Destination Movie Ranked For over a quarter century, the Final Destination franchise has carved a unique spot in the horror market. Featuring some of the most memorable… Ranking Jurassic Park Movies It's hard to believe there have been seven Jurassic Park movies. Not because they’re not profitable…the franchise just makes money easily. Because there’s… Ranking the Poohniverse Movies With the Twisted Childhood Universe continuing to expand...what else could we do but rank all the installments? Hey…we did it for the public domain Mickey Mouse… Every Public Domain Mickey Mouse Slasher Ranked For reasons beyond understanding…we’ve had no less than FIVE Steamboat Willie inspired slasher movies since the cartoon hit public domain in 2024. For… Ranking V/H/S movies and segments from the Amateur Night To Hell and Back Every ========== Joko Anwar's Nightmares and Daydreams Episode Rankings - A Fan's Perspective As a fan of the V/H/S franchise, I can confidently say that Joko Anwar's anthology series has captivated my attention. The Indonesian filmmaker behind Satan's Slaves and its sequel has done it again with his Netflix debut. Let's dive into our rankings of this chilling anthology series. The Insidious Franchise Ranked - From Prequels to The Further However, before we begin, let's take a moment to acknowledge the iconic Insidious franchise. Every horror fan has their own favorite movie within this series, and we're about to rank them from best to worst. Ranking Evil Dead from Cabin Fever to Home Invasion Similarly, fans of the Evil Dead franchise can't agree on their personal favorites. Will it be Sam Raimi's cult classic or one of the more recent installments? Our rankings will help you decide. Every Horror Fan Has a Favorite - Scream Franchise Ranked But what about the Scream franchise? Fans may not always see eye-to-eye on this one, but our list will provide a definitive ranking from worst to best. Halloween Franchise Rankings - Will Your Favorite Make the Cut? Lastly, fans of the Halloween franchise can't agree on which installment is the scariest. Our rankings will help you determine if your favorite will be included in our top 5. 28 Days Later Review - A Resurrection of a Forgotten Genre In 2002, Danny Boyle's 28 Days Later breathed new life into the zombie genre. This classic film helped revive a dying genre and paved the way for future success stories. With its release, major zombie productions resumed, and the Walking Dead phenomenon took off. The Impact of 28 Days Later - A Turning Point for Horror The impact of 28 Days Later was immediate, and it's no surprise that so many involved in its production went on to achieve critical and commercial success. Director Danny Boyle won an Oscar six years later, writer Alex Garland scored an Oscar nomination, and actors Brendan Gleeson and Naomie Harris secured nominations as well. A Legacy That Lives On - The Influence of 28 Days Later 28 Days Later's influence can be seen in many zombie stories that followed. Although it may not be a traditional zombie movie, its impact on the genre cannot be denied. The film's success paved the way for other horror classics like Shaun of the Dead and The Return of the Living Dead. A Lasting Impact - The Power of Zombies At the heart of 28 Days Later is a timeless concept: humans are the most dangerous part of a post-apocalyptic world. This theme, reminiscent of George A. Romero's work, makes Jim's character all the more compelling as he navigates a desolate London.After being exposed to the virus, Selena's perspective undergoes a drastic shift as she is forced to confront the harsh realities of survival. She develops a ruthless pragmatism, dispatching her infected companion Mark with deadly efficiency. This stark contrast highlights the distinction between those who have experienced the apocalypse firsthand and those who are merely survivors. The swift demise of Jim's parents serves as a poignant reminder of the new world order. While Selena and Mark acknowledge the inevitability of death, they refuse to accept it as a natural part of life. In contrast, Jim's reactions to this gruesome scene underscore his struggle to adapt to the brutal new reality. As he navigates the treacherous landscape, he discovers the depths of human depravity in Major Henry West. Director Danny Boyle's masterful direction weaves together a narrative that is both haunting and thought-provoking. Writer Alex Garland's script owes allegiance to an impressive array of sources, yielding a cinematic experience that is at once visceral and intellectually stimulating. The film's zombies may be fast, but their Achilles' heel lies in their susceptibility to starvation – a clever twist that subverts traditional zombie lore. The influence of 28 Days Later can be seen in many subsequent zombie films, including Train to Busan. This landmark movie's impact on the genre is undeniable, and its enduring popularity a testament to its staying power. Despite being released over two decades ago, 28 Days Later remains a vibrant and exciting experience that defies the temptation to dismiss it as an outdated relic. # 4.5/5 Rent/Buy on VOD from Fandango at Home and Amazon