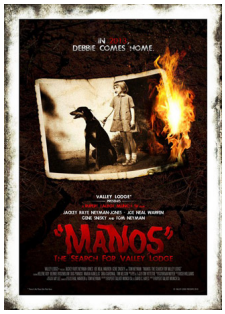
Every other vintage horror movie seems to be getting a film follow-up these days, so why not Hal Warren’s notorious 1966 Z-movie MANOS, THE HANDS OF FATE? Not only is director Rupert Talbot Munch Sr. sequelizing the MST3K favorite with MANOS: THE SEARCH FOR VALLEY LODGE, he has managed to return several of the original’s participants to the scene of the cinematic crime.



“This all started out as a goof,” Munch (pictured above) tells Fango. Having been invited to the 2008 Comic-Con, he decided to go in costume as Torgo, the weird servant of devil-worshipping cult leader The Master, who terrorizes a hapless family in MANOS. Once there, Munch continues, “I kinda felt obligated to display my nerd/acting chops and decided to never break character. For four days, I lived, breathed, fondled and gimped as Torgo! It was a labor of love—and pain.” It did allow him some serious interaction with the MST3K veterans who were carrying on the tradition with Rifftrax, as well as the creation of some MANOS fan films; you can check out video of these at the bottom of this page.

“After all of this, on a dare, I agreed to make a sequel to MANOS: THE HANDS OF FATE,” Munch recounts. “In MANOS: THE SEARCH FOR VALLEY LODGE, The Master is a powerful sorcerer who gathers his wives—a polygamy cult—to propagate an army to serve the elder god Manos. The wives are ultimately stripped of individuality and converted into demonic types with

supernatural strength/powers. In the first film, we were given hints of The Master and his powers, but it was never actually said what he and his followers were. Vampires? No. Undead? Maybe. I figured Torgo as a named demon/satyr type and just took it from there.”

He also brought on board as many of the original cast, and their families, as he could track down. Tom Neyman reprises The Master in THE SEARCH FOR VALLEY LODGE, with his daughter Jackey Raye Neyman-Jones also back as Debbie, a little girl in the first film who is now the grown-up heroine. MANOS ’66’s female lead, Diane Mahree, is also back as the character Maggie (pictured below, with video of makeup artist Tim Martin, who has worked on the ALIEN VS. PREDATOR, HELLBOY and SPIDER-MAN franchises, sculpting her prosthetic).

{flv}Tim_martin_manos{/flv}

“Diane was believed to have died in a car wreck in the late ’80s,” Munch notes, adding that she came on board the sequel “after carefully approaching me and scrutinizing the project and script. Only after she realized I am truly trying to make the best film I can—as opposed to a TROLL 2-type campfest, did she agree to participate. It turns out that shortly after MANOS, Diane was discovered by Ilene Ford and the Wilhelmina Modeling Agency and spent the late ’60s and all of the ’70s as a runway/fashion model. She was friends with Cat Stevens, Brigitte Bardot, Salvador Dali, Mick Jagger, etc. She led the fairy-tale life and helped define what today’s ‘supermodel’ is all about.”

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