THE BEST CLASSIC FILMS OUT NOW ON DVD AND VIDEO

BEAT STREET (1984)
Starring Grant Cramer, Suzanne Snyder, John Allen Nelson, John Vernon
Director: Stephen Chiodo
Rated MA15+ Out February 16 Rent/Buy

PITY POOR 50 CENTS: THE WALKING
biceps’ luscious finger finger would be made redundant in 1984’s New
York City, where, according to this film, gangs battled with dance
moves rather than semi-automatic weapons.

The second Hollywood film to cash in on the popular craze
of breakdancing, Beat Street acts
more as a fascinating cultural
document of early hip-hop rather
than a decently plotted or well
acted film.

The so-called “four elements”
of hip-hop are represented in the
central characters: Aspiring MC/ DJ
Kenny, his breakdancing younger
brother Lee and their graffiti artist friend
Ramón, with the trio embarking on a mission to
gain famous off their mad hip-hop skills, yo.

The film’s main attraction is the appearance of
several founding fathers of hip-hop: Kool
Herc, The Rock Steady Crew, Afrika Bambaataa
and Grandmaster Melle Mel & The Furious Five
among the more notable.

Kids. He did all that in two weeks.

Whether it’d be possible to do a
better job is debatable, because
this blend of car chases, shoot-
outs, goofy sci-fi, thriller, buddy-
cop comedy and blasting heavy
metal is about as satisfying as pop-
moviemaking gets.

Borrowing from Alien, The
Thing and The Terminator, but
anticipating elements of Twin
Peaks, The X-Files and Dances
Washington horror flick Flicks, this has Michael Nouri as a hard-
nosed LA cop who’s faced with an
outbreak of homicides committed
by seemingly ordinary citizens
out of a desire to get revenge for
something he wants, he steals it,
Kyle explains. “If something gets in
his way, he kills it. And right now,
he’s hiding out in your city.”

The so-called “four elements”
of hip-hop are represented in the
central characters: Aspiring MC/ DJ
Kenny, his breakdancing younger
brother Lee and their graffiti artist friend
Ramón, with the trio embarking on a mission to
gain famous off their mad hip-hop skills, yo.

This is undoubtedly dated and flimsy, but
those after some reasonably ace breakdance
battle scenes – and proof that you can actually
wear a raccoon’s tail on your head and still look
cool – will find much to love.

DVD extras: None.

JAMES JENNINGS

GIVEN HOW CELEBRATED 1980
The Terminator remains so under-
appreciated. Perhaps that’s why
Hollywood hasn’t yet remade it,
but the understanding
remains faithful to that genre with
its warmth, humour and
sense of wonder.

KILLER KLONS FROM OUTER SPACE (1988)
Starring Grant Chiodo, Ramon Chiodo
Director: Stephen Chiodo
Rated MA15+ Out February 16 Rent/Buy

WHILE THERE’S A PERVERSE JOY
in watching a film named Killer Klowns From Outer Space, you can be pretty certain from the outset that
the filmmakers haven’t set out to create the next David Dress Lewis Oscar vehicle. Instead, the unholy
trinity of Chiodo brothers Stephen, Charles and Edward birthed a tribute
to cult ’80s B-grade sci-fi flicks that
remains faithful to that genre with
its dopey humor, abominable acting, tragic special
effects and a bulimic plot so thin that
you can practically hear it throwing up
in a toilet cubicle.

The Special School—simple premise revolves
around grotesque alien Klowns, for reasons
unknown, landing their Big Top-style spaceship
near a small American town to harvest the local
residents as food (as alien Klowns are wont
to do). There are rare funny moments – the
KLONS’ conversion of a local zirconia convention.

money trouble? Just kid around.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT, THERE ARE
DOODLES MADE OF DIRT,
DOODLES MADE OF JELLY,
DOODLES MADE OF
FROG’S WARTS, OIL
BARTERED PRAWNS
AND A HUMAN
ON A CUMULUS
CLOUD!

available now to rent or buy

CAR-FANCYING alien slug that can
how from body to body. “He sees
something he wants, he steals it,”
Kyle explains. “If something gets in
his way, he kills it. And right now,
he’s hiding out in your city.”

Made for just $55m and directed
by Jack Sholder, best known for
1985 sequel A Nightmare On Elm
Street 2: Freddy’s Revenge (see
page 84), The Hidden rockets
into action from the opening
frames in which a dude walks
into a bank, calmly shoots up the
place and people, grabs some
cash and roars off in a Ferrari.
The chase that follows is top
notch and culminates in the fiery,
bloody spectacle of our perp’s
desire. A cop describes the
one-man crime wave’s stats as:
“He killed 12 people, wounded
23 more, stole six cars, most
of them Ferraris, robbed eight
banks, six supermarkets, four
jewellery stores and a candy shop. Six of the
ones he killed he carved up with a butcher knife. Two of them were

IT’S ASTOUNDING THAT THE HIDDEN
REMAINS SO UNDER-APPRECIATED
– AND IT’S DOUBTFUL ANY REMAKE
COULD BE AS GOOD.

JAMES JENNINGS

KILLER KLONS FROM OUTER SPACE (1988)
Starring Grant Chiodo, Ramon Chiodo
Director: Stephen Chiodo
Rated MA15+ Out February 16 Rent/Buy

WHILE THERE’S A PERVERSE JOY
in watching a film named Killer Klowns From Outer Space, you can be pretty certain from the outset that
the filmmakers haven’t set out to create the next David Dress Lewis Oscar vehicle. Instead, the unholy
trinity of Chiodo brothers Stephen, Charles and Edward birthed a tribute
to cult ’80s B-grade sci-fi flicks that
remains faithful to that genre with
its dopey humor, abominable acting, tragic special
effects and a bulimic plot so thin that
you can practically hear it throwing up
in a toilet cubicle.

The Special School—simple premise revolves
around grotesque alien Klowns, for reasons
unknown, landing their Big Top-style spaceship
near a small American town to harvest the local
residents as food (as alien Klowns are wont
to do). There are rare funny moments – the
KLONS’ conversion of a local zirconia convention.

money trouble? Just kid around.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT, THERE ARE
DOODLES MADE OF DIRT,
DOODLES MADE OF JELLY,
DOODLES MADE OF
FROG’S WARTS, OIL
BARTERED PRAWNS
AND A HUMAN
ON A CUMULUS
CLOUD!

available now to rent or buy

CAR-FANCYING alien slug that can
how from body to body. “He sees
something he wants, he steals it,”
Kyle explains. “If something gets in
his way, he kills it. And right now,
he’s hiding out in your city.”

Made for just $55m and directed
by Jack Sholder, best known for
1985 sequel A Nightmare On Elm
Street 2: Freddy’s Revenge (see
page 84), The Hidden rockets
into action from the opening
frames in which a dude walks
into a bank, calmly shoots up the
place and people, grabs some
cash and roars off in a Ferrari.
The chase that follows is top
notch and culminates in the fiery,
bloody spectacle of our perp’s
desire. A cop describes the
one-man crime wave’s stats as:
“He killed 12 people, wounded
23 more, stole six cars, most
of them Ferraris, robbed eight
banks, six supermarkets, four
jewellery stores and a candy shop. Six of the
ones he killed he carved up with a butcher knife. Two of them were

IT’S ASTOUNDING THAT THE HIDDEN
REMAINS SO UNDER-APPRECIATED
– AND IT’S DOUBTFUL ANY REMAKE
COULD BE AS GOOD.