

[Download free pdf] Horror Spoofs of Abbott and Costello: A Critical Assessment of the Comedy Team's Monster Films

## Horror Spoofs of Abbott and Costello: A Critical Assessment of the Comedy Team's Monster Films

*Jeffrey S. Miller*

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**Jeffrey S. Miller : Horror Spoofs of Abbott and Costello: A Critical Assessment of the Comedy Team's Monster Films** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Horror Spoofs of Abbott and Costello: A Critical Assessment of the Comedy Team's Monster Films:

4 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Abbott and Costello Meet the Who's Who of HorrorBy G. A

Siessel This is a great book that goes into the plot of their various AC meet...(fill in the blank) films as well as "Hold That Ghost" and "The Time of Their Lives". There is even a brief section on their quasi sci-fi films. Each major "horror/comedy" film is detailed and behind the scenes info is given. Actor/actress backgrounds as well as changes in scripts and plots are also added for a totally enjoyable book. A section supplying background info on Abbott Costello is given in the introductory chapter, and then it is on to my all time favorite "Abbott Costello Meet Frankenstein". A must for all AC fans!

13 of 17 people found the following review helpful. Don't Expect Too Much By Hollywood Writer This book proclaims to be a "critical assessment," though what the author ends up with is little more than detailed descriptions of seven of A C's films, personal asides and a desire to make odd homosexual allusions to scenes and characters. The vast majority of anecdotes on the making of the films are taken (though footnoted) from a number of previously published books and articles and the author provides little new information except for his own outlandish and baseless claims. His "critical assessment" might more accurately be described as "judgmental musings." The author often repeatedly makes the same comments about various sight gags being "more suited to The Three Stooges," or gives his opinion on whether certain jokes work, or not. Critical, perhaps. "Bitchy," certainly and more accurately. What is never clearly established is his credibility or expertise to make such comments on the merits of A C's material. Another annoying habit the author has is to make assumptions on the part of "most viewers." He proudly points out a bit of business, background action or technical flaw that he has discovered upon countless viewings of the films and makes the claim that "most viewers miss this." How does he know? Is it possible that the rest of the audience caught it on the first viewing and he is just now catching up?

The book is poorly written and, aside from the time it occasionally takes to figure out his point, is a quick read. One's time might be better spent watching the films and drawing one's own conclusions. Also, any of the sources cited in the author's bibliography provide all the behind-the-scenes information and more, making them a better value if they can be tracked down.

17 of 20 people found the following review helpful. What is wrong with this picture? By Dave in Summerville I bought this book with eager anticipation. I read the few reviews available and they were very good. However, upon reading it, it did not take long for me to lose my enthusiasm. When I read the chapter regarding AC Meet Frankenstein, I was very disappointed in the "critical" assessment. It seemed that every move that Costello made was interpreted in a sexual way, and most of the time in a homosexual way. Are you kidding me??? Who gets that out of an Abbott and Costello movie? I have actually read sections of this book to friends and they have all reacted the same way: Aghast! What is wrong with this author? It is very disappointing and reminds me of much of what is going on today - The rewriting of history to support liberal philosophies, critical assessments from a liberal point of view, etc. Nevermind that these writings never make any sense whatsoever, they serve a purpose and I DO NOT AGREE WITH IT! So, take this for what it is worth. In the mean time, I will look for something else to read!

While Bud Abbott and Lou Costello are more famously known for their straight comedy routines, they did make a number of films in which horror played a crucial role. The first part of this critical reference examines the Abbott and Costello "Meet the Monsters" spoof films (Frankenstein, The Invisible Man, Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde and The Mummy). The second sections deals with Abbott and Costello's films with horror elements that do not follow this formula: Hold That Ghost, The Time of Their Lives and Abbott and Costello Meet the Killer, Boris Karloff. The plot of each film is examined in detail with special attention paid to the comedians' styles of comedy, the effect of the horror scenes, and the place of the film in the Abbott and Costello canon. The reactions of critics (then and now) and the influences the films have had on the horror and comedy genres and on pop culture are also discussed. A lengthy introduction provides background on the lives of Bud Abbott and Lou Costello and the development of Universal Studios as the premier horror factory.

"Detailed." --Communication Booknotes Quarterly "A fine book...all sorts of interesting facts...really pleasurable to read" --Cult Movies "Examines the duo's foray into motion picture parody." --Film History

About the Author Jeffrey S. Miller, manages Rocket Video, Hollywood's greatest video store. He has written articles for Filmfax, Television Chronicles and Midnight Marquee as well as over 100 documentaries on film history for Passport Productions. He has been an Abbott and Costello fan since childhood.