

Jeff Kirkendall's Thoughts For The Month Column

Thoughts, Opinions, Reviews, Commentary & More!

Hello and Welcome! My name is Jeff Kirkendall and I'm an independent filmmaker and actor from the Upstate New York area. This is the section of the Very Scary Productions website where I write about topics related to independent filmmaking, digital video production, acting, movies in general, horror movies in particular, my own indie movies, as well as anything and everything related or in between.

I decided to create this commentary page because I find that I often come across things that either interest me, excite me, intrigue me, or maybe just bug me. Any topic related to movies and cinema is fair game, from the most mainstream to the most controversial. For example I'll often read about movie projects that I have a strong interest in or opinion on, for one reason or another. This page gives me a forum to discuss these things. It's all about discussion and furthering understanding of our pop culture. Anyone who has feedback concerning what I have to say here, feel free to contact me (see the contact link at <http://www.veryscaryproductions.com/>).

I'd also like to point out that the following is just my opinion, and everyone is free to agree or disagree with what I have to say. Enjoy, and to all the Indies out there: Keep on Filming!

SUBJECT: DVD Horrors Movie Review – ***Never Sleep Again: The Elm Street Legacy*** (documentary) – June 2010

* About the same time the 2009 remake of ***Friday the 13th*** hit theaters, Jason Voorhees fans were also treated to the cool DVD documentary ***His Name Was Jason***. Hosted by effects guru Tom Savini, it provided a comprehensive look at the popular slasher film franchise. ***His Name Was Jason*** featured in-depth analysis of all the entries in the series, including interviews with just about everybody (with a couple exceptions) who ever had anything to do with Jason and his murderous cinematic exploits. Now, thanks to the same company and executive producer Heather Langenkamp, ***Nightmare on Elm Street*** fans are getting a similar treat in the form of ***Never Sleep Again: The Elm Street Legacy***.

This incredible two-disc set features hours upon hours of interviews, movie clips and more, giving Freddy Krueger aficionados everything they could ever hope for. The first disc is four-hours long and features in-depth analysis and discussion of the nine films in the franchise (counting ***Freddy vs. Jason***), as well as the ***Freddy's Nightmares*** television show from the late 1980's. ** All the people one would expect are present here, including Robert Englund, Heather Langenkamp (who also hosts), former New Line Cinema CEO Robert Shaye, Producer Sara Risher, and Freddy's creator Wes Craven, among others. But the disc also features commentary from actors most of us probably haven't heard as much from over the years, including Amanda Wyss, Mark Patton, Clu Gulager, Robert Rusler, JoAnn Willette, Jennifer Rubin, Penelope Sudrow, Ira Heiden, Lisa Wilcox, Tuesday Knight, Brooke Theiss, Rodney Eastman, Andras Jones, Kelly Jo Minter, Lisa Zane, and more. Anything and everything is discussed, from behind-the-scenes turmoil to critical and box office reception. The recollections, observations and opinions of the various participants are often enlightening, sometimes surprising, and always interesting. Highlights include the discussion of gay themes in ***A Nightmare on Elm Street 2: Freddy's Revenge***, the origins of the story for ***A Nightmare on Elm Street 5: The Dream Child***, and the incredible journey from script to screen for ***Freddy vs. Jason***, among other things.

The second disc features several hours of additional material, including interview snippets that didn't make it onto disc #1, a Horrors Hallowed Ground segment looking back at the locations for the original 1984 film, and a sneak peek at Heather Langenkamp's upcoming *I Am Nancy* documentary, to name just a few. *** It's also worth noting that interviews regarding the 2010 remake are included here, with most parties concerned having very little in the way of nice things to say about the effort. This is of course not surprising, as this same sentiment has been expressed by many *Nightmare on Elm Street* fans already.

Put simply, *Never Sleep Again: The Elm Street Legacy* is a dream come true for any fan of the series. It is a valuable gift to those who have grown up with these films, and actress Heather Langenkamp and the others behind this documentary should be commended. I highly recommend it.

* See my April 2009 TFTM column for a review of *His Name Was Jason*.

** One notable exception is actor Johnny Depp, however several of the participants talk about him with affection.

*** To read my review of *A Nightmare on Elm Street (2010)* see the May 2010 TFTM column.