



THE PLAGUE: WRITERS & DIRECTOR'S CUT needs support

Posted by: **Hal M** on 7/10/2007

In the fall of 2005, the film, THE PLAGUE, was taken away from its writers and director during post. After an 8 year struggle to get the film made, the footage was re-cut from scratch by the producers without the involvement of the film's creators. Stock footage was added, new dialogue recorded, and the film completely restructured. It was released to dvd in September of 2006 at a running time of 88 minutes under the title CLIVE BARKER'S THE PLAGUE, though it was not based on any of Barker's work (it was an original screenplay by director Hal Masonberg and co-writer Teal Minton) and Barker, personally, had very little to do with the making of the film. That version of the film in no way reflects the years of hard work, creativity, or artistic intent of the writers and director of the film. Nor do they feel it reflect any conversations, development ideas or intentions that were shared during the three-year collaboration process. It is solely and completely a "producers' cut"

However, after having been removed from the film, director Hal Masonberg, in an unprecedented move, took it upon himself to finish the film anyway with the materials available to him (the film's dailies on dvd and a Macintosh computer-turned post-production facility). The film was originally shot in Super 35mm by veteran cinematographer, Bill Butler (JAWS, THE CONVERSATION, ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOOS NEST, FRAILTY), who was also not invited to partake in the film's post-production process.

The response to this Writers & Director's Cut by those who have seen it has been through the roof. However, without further support, this film may never see the light of day as the film's current distributor, Screen Gems, has no plans to release this cut.

I ask that you take a look at this site. On it you will find an hour-long documentary containing interviews with, not only director Hal Masonberg, but many others including Dee Wallace and other cast members, film authors/ journalists.

There is also a link to a petition and much more info on what happened to this film.

The link is:

<http://www.spreadingthepague.com/>

Thanks in advance for your interest.