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Posted on Thu, Mar. 09, 2006

Horror and mayhem in Woodbury!!

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Horror movie fans have a clear choice this week: graphic savagery in the desert in "The Hills Have Eyes" or tongue-in-cheek mayhem in Woodbury in "The Monster of Phantom Lake."

"Phantom Lake," mostly filmed in Woodbury, is in the vein of "The Lost Skeleton of Cadavra": both an affectionate spoof of cheesy, low-tech horror movies of the '50s and a celebration of them.

It starts with atomic waste, dumped in a lake (from a barrel that is conveniently labeled "Atomic Waste"), and ends with most of the members of a teenaged campout dispensed by a Creature from the Black Lagoon-like mutant. The movie has draggy spells, but the cast of local actors is pitch-perfect (and busy — by my count, writer/director Christopher Mihm's name appears in the closing credits 14 times).

"The Monster of Phantom Lake" will be shown tonight at 7:30 at the Heights Theatre in Columbia Heights. Tickets are \$5. For more information, visit <http://www.monsterofphantomlake.com/>.

(Incidentally if your preference is for horror movies that kick it St. Paul style, keep your eyes peeled for "Summer School," which was shot here and will be shown in April at Oak Street Cinema.)

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