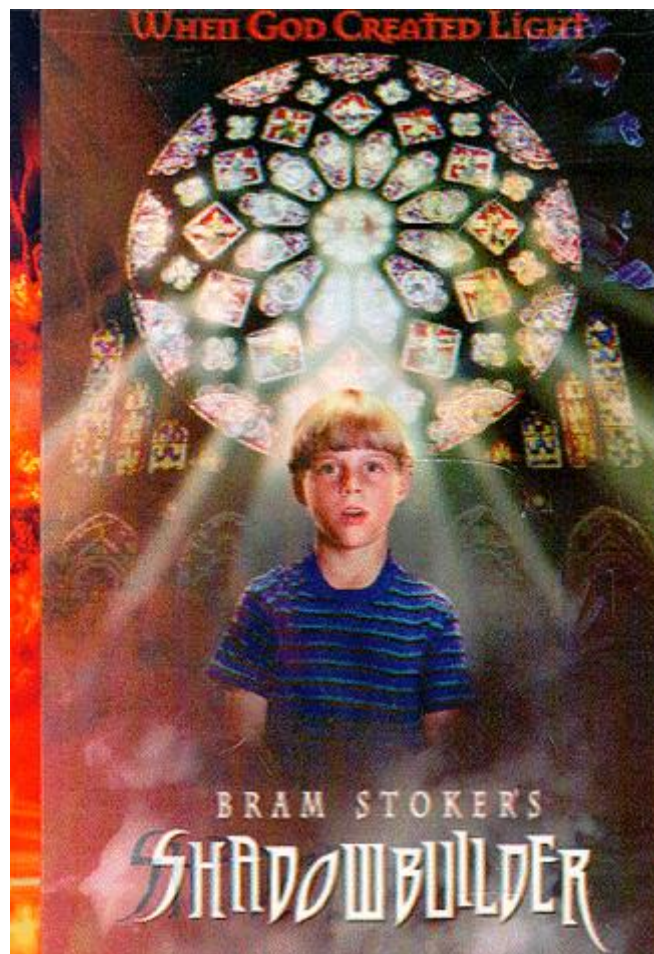


Bram Stoker's Shadowbuilder

US : 1997 : dir. Jamie Dixon : ? min
prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:
.....
Michael Rooker

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω □ € Z ☺	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
5148	1½	1	1	748	3 - - - -	No	Unseen



Source: Amazon.com

Amazon.com review:

“Father Vassey (Michael Rooker) has a problem. Using his two 9mm, laser-sighted cannons, he’s tracked down and killed the holders of a heretic ceremony meant to bring a demon into the world. Not just any demon, for this one’s reason to be is nothing less than uncreating creation. The problem is Vassey’s too late. The demon has manifested and escaped, and is now on the hunt for the soul of

a young boy who is believed to be saint material, due to the stigmata he had at birth.

The film is directed by Jamie Dixon, heretofore a special effects supervisor, who shows canny restraint where special effects are concerned. The shadowy demon of the title is depicted often by a fluid black cloud, which is functional without losing its eeriness or credibility. The acting is solid, never campy, though Michael Rooker sometimes feels out of

place. And the climactic scenes, built up to with good pacing, are fraught with peril and excitement.

All in all, this is a worthwhile effort for a first-time director, and that makes it one of the best direct-to-video releases I've seen in quite a long time. I just wish I could locate the Bram Stoker story it's supposed to be based on." - Jim Gay

Amazon.com customer reviews:

"Using Bram Stoker's name seems to have been a good selling point for this movie. Pity it failed to live up to the hype. The special effects surrounding the demon at times were exceptional, but they just didn't create the atmosphere and tension to follow up with it. What resulted was a creature that generally looked good, but just didn't come across as something to fear. I think they failed to realise the basic formula for a good horror (show the creature as little as possible), and seemed to throw him on screen more than he was off it. Sadly, though the script was quite good, some of the acting failed to bring it across well. What remained was a wanna-be-horror that was just good, and nothing more." - bcnz from NZ

" **"BRAM STOKER'S SHADOW-BUILDER"** is a great addition to ("**BRAM STOKER'S THE MUMMY**", "**BRAM STOKER'S BURIAL OF THE RATS**", and "**BRAM STOKER'S DRACULA**") Every movie that is under his name is blessed with

horrifying salad dressing. This movie is better (to me) than "**DRACULA**". It add some much more horror and wit to the screen [*sic*], than in "**DRACULA**" when the movie turned out to be a depressing love story. Not better than "**BURIAL OF THE RATS**", but this movie is close. Much better than "**THE MUMMY**". This movie has lavish special effects, spectacular ritual scenes and a horrifying conclusion. I suggest to you all to rent "**BRAM STOKER'S SHADOWBUILDER**". Also if any one knows the story it is based upon I would deeply appreciate it if you e-mailed me. Thanks!" - shantijdd@mailasia.com

(JIMBO D) from Franklin, Massachusetts

"The first half of the movie is filled with an almost creepy excitement. The "Shadow-builder" lurks just beyond the protective barrier of light like some demonic Lovecraftian horror. But, ironically, it is the very appearance of the creature as it steps into the light that catapults this movie straight to the video shelf. The acting was standard and unmemorable and, though visually exciting, the ending was predictable. An annoying Rastafarian junkman (a la Jar Jar Binks) is entirely out of place and contributed nothing to the plot of this supposed horrorfest."

- viewer from Memphis, Tennessee

No further information currently available. The boy's identity is not known. The 1970s cycle of movies obsessed with the devil has come around again at the turn of the millennium, with showier visual effects of course, but no indication of having learned from the mistakes of the **OMEN** and **EXORCIST** sequels, or their legion of imitators. As for Bram Stoker, since the cinema never proved very fruitful with its "adaptations" of Poe – surely a more filmic writer – the attachment of his name to the title (as avidly as that of Stephen King) is certainly no guarantee of authenticity. Even his best-known work, I gather from friends who have waded through it, is a stultifyingly dull read.

See subject index under **HORROR**.