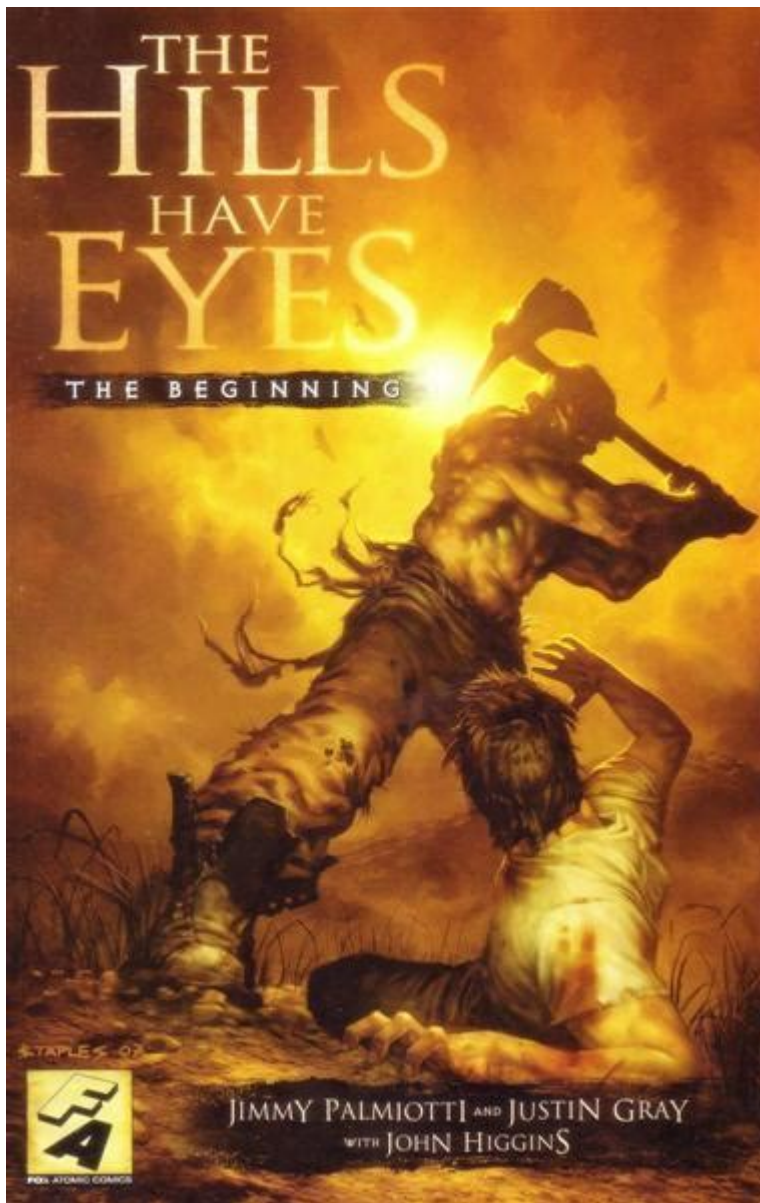


The Hills Have Eyes The Beginning Movie



The Hills Have Eyes: The Beginning is a horror film that serves as a prequel to the original 1977 movie, The Hills Have Eyes, directed by Wes Craven. Released in 2006 and directed by Alexandre Aja, this film delves into the harrowing origins of the cannibalistic family that terrorizes unsuspecting travelers in the desolate Nevada desert. With its intense atmosphere, gripping narrative, and graphic violence, The Hills Have Eyes: The Beginning explores themes of survival, the nature of humanity, and the moral decay that can arise from isolation. This article explores the film's plot, characters, themes, production, and its place within the horror genre.

Plot Overview

The Hills Have Eyes: The Beginning takes viewers back to the early 1980s, providing a chilling backstory to the events of the original film. The narrative centers around a family traveling across the desert to California, a journey that is interrupted when their car breaks down. They find themselves stranded in a remote area, ultimately leading them into the territory of a deformed and savage clan of cannibals.

Key Plot Points

1. **Setting the Stage:** The film opens with the introduction of the Carter family, who are on a road trip. Their car breaks down, forcing them to seek help in a seemingly deserted town.
2. **The Encounter:** As the family searches for help, they unknowingly enter the territory of a mutant family, descendants of miners who were subjected to nuclear testing decades earlier. These mutants are hostile and view outsiders as threats—or prey.
3. **Descent into Horror:** The family's attempts to escape and survive lead to brutal confrontations with the cannibals. The film portrays their struggle as they are hunted down one by one.
4. **Survival and Sacrifice:** The surviving members of the Carter family must navigate the treacherous landscape while confronting their worst fears and the savage nature of their captors.
5. **Climactic Showdown:** The film culminates in a tense and violent confrontation, where the remaining family members fight for their lives against the cannibalistic clan.

Main Characters

The film features a range of characters, each contributing to the narrative's intensity and emotional weight.

Key Characters

- **The Carter Family:** The main focus of the film, representing the archetypal American family.
- **Big Bob Carter:** The patriarch of the family, a stern but loving father who tries to protect his family at all costs.
- **Ethel Carter:** Bob's wife, who embodies the nurturing aspect of family but is also faced with the harsh realities of survival.
- **Brenda Carter:** The teenage daughter who, despite her initial fears, becomes a strong survivor.
- **Doug:** Brenda's boyfriend, who represents youthful bravery but also the challenges of facing primal fear.
- **The Cannibalistic Clan:** The antagonists of the film, showcasing the horror of humanity stripped of

civilization.

- Papa Jupiter: The leader of the mutants, who embodies the primal instincts of survival and violence.
- Lizard: A key member of the mutant family known for his brutal nature.
- Gator: Another mutant who serves as a physical threat to the Carter family.

Themes

The Hills Have Eyes: The Beginning weaves several compelling themes into its narrative, making it not just a tale of horror but also a commentary on societal issues.

Isolation and Survival

The film explores how isolation can lead to desperation. The Carters, cut off from civilization, are forced to confront a savage reality that challenges their morals and humanity. Their journey becomes a survival story where the lines between good and evil blur.

Family Dynamics

The Carter family's interactions highlight the importance of familial bonds. As they face unimaginable horror, their love for each other becomes both a source of strength and a target for their captors. The film examines how crises can either strengthen family ties or drive them apart.

Primal Instincts

The mutants represent the darker side of humanity, showcasing how desperation can lead to horrific acts. The film poses philosophical questions about the nature of humanity: when stripped of societal norms, what are people capable of?

Production Details

The Hills Have Eyes: The Beginning was produced by a collaboration between several notable entities in the horror film industry. Directed by Alexandre Aja, the film was crafted with a keen eye for both suspense and graphic violence.

Filming Locations

- The film was primarily shot in the New Mexico desert, which provided an authentic backdrop for the harrowing story.
- The desolate landscape adds to the film's atmosphere, emphasizing the characters' vulnerability.

Cinematography and Special Effects

- The film's cinematography plays a crucial role in building tension, with tight close-ups and wide shots of the barren landscape.
- Special effects, particularly the makeup used to create the mutants, garnered praise for their realism and horror.

Critical Reception

Upon its release, *The Hills Have Eyes: The Beginning* received mixed reviews but was generally appreciated for its intense atmosphere and graphic content. Critics noted that while it followed the conventions of horror films, it also brought a fresh perspective to the genre.

Positive Aspects

- Intense Atmosphere: Many critics praised the film's ability to create a palpable sense of dread throughout its runtime.
- Character Development: The evolution of characters under extreme circumstances was highlighted as a strong point.

Negative Aspects

- Graphic Violence: Some viewers felt that the violence was excessive and detracted from the story.
- Predictable Plot Elements: A portion of the audience criticized the film for relying on common horror tropes.

Conclusion

In conclusion, *The Hills Have Eyes: The Beginning* offers a visceral and horrifying exploration of humanity's darker aspects. By delving into the origins of the cannibalistic clan and the survival story of the Carter family, the film invites viewers to contemplate the fragility of civilization and the primal instincts that lie beneath. With its intense performances, striking cinematography, and thought-provoking themes, the film stands out within the horror genre as a chilling prequel that captures the essence of fear and survival. Whether viewed as a standalone film or as part of a larger franchise, it leaves an indelible mark on the audience, ensuring that the horrors of the hills remain etched in their minds long after the credits roll.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main premise of 'The Hills Have Eyes: The Beginning'?

The film serves as a prequel to the original *'The Hills Have Eyes,'* exploring the origins of the Cannibal family and the circumstances that led to their isolation in the desert.

Who directed 'The Hills Have Eyes: The Beginning'?

The film was directed by Martin Weisz, known for his work on horror films and his ability to create intense and suspenseful atmospheres.

How does 'The Hills Have Eyes: The Beginning' connect to the original 1977 film?

This prequel provides backstory to the Cannibal family's history and their brutal lifestyle, linking events and characters to the original film's plot and themes.

What themes are explored in 'The Hills Have Eyes: The Beginning'?

Key themes include survival, the consequences of isolation, and the brutality of human nature, as the characters face extreme conditions and moral dilemmas.

What are some notable differences between 'The Hills Have Eyes: The Beginning' and its predecessor?

While both films feature horror elements and a family under siege, *'The Beginning'* focuses more on the backstory of the antagonists and the circumstances leading to their cannibalistic behavior, rather than just the survival of the victims.

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