

‘Tucker & Dale vs. Evil’ Perfectly Blends Comedy With Gore

Submitted by [BrianTT](#) [1] on October 7, 2011 - 12:06pm

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Rating: **4.0/5.0**

CHICAGO – Alan Tudyk and Tyler Labine may be unknown performers to a majority of readers – they’re far from household names – but to the right audience, the people who might be interested in something called “Tucker & Dale vs. Evil,” they RULE. The stars of “Firefly” and “Reaper” have been bubbling on the periphery of fame for years and they prove why yet again with their best film project to date, a funny, clever horror/comedy hybrid of the kind that Sam Raimi used to make and that so many have tried to produce in recent years but have fallen remarkably flat. There’s nothing flat about this clever genre flick. For the right audience, it’s pretty great.

It’s almost surprising that the redneck horror movie hasn’t been skewered before. You know the kind, movies like “Cabin Fever” that play off hillbilly horror fears of the deadly people in the woods about to kill sweet, young suburbanites who take the wrong exit off the freeway. “Tucker & Dale vs. Evil” plays off those archetypes – the suburbanite’s fear of a man who lives in a cabin, wears overalls, and goes fishing. Of course, most of the people who live in cabins in the woods aren’t psycho killers despite the urban legends you may have heard. In fact, Tucker (Tudyk) and Dale (Labine) are sweet, normal guys.



Tucker and Dale vs. Evil

Photo credit: Magnolia Pictures

The titular pair happens to be fishing at night when they spot a group of young people (including Katrina Bowden of “30 Rock” and Brandon McLaren of “The Killing”) skinny dipping. When Allison (Bowden) spots them, she falls into the water and needs to be rescued by Tucker & Dale, the latter of which takes a liking to her. He takes her home to his new cabin in the woods (which couldn’t be creepier looking but they

haven’t had time to fix up or take the evidence of a maniacal previous tenant off the wall) and makes her pancakes.

Of course, Allison’s friends think she’s been kidnapped by the new version of Leatherface, a fact made all the more certain in their minds when they approach the cabin at the same time that Tucker comes out swinging at bees with his chainsaw. In the ensuing chaos, one of the snobby brats ends up killed in an accident and the gang becomes even more convinced that Tucker & Dale have not only eaten their friend but will hunt them down next. What unfolds is basically a series of events in which really stupid college kids get themselves killed in the company of two freaked-out rednecks. And it’s great.



Tucker and Dale vs. Evil

Photo credit: Magnolia Pictures

“If they already ate her, what difference does it make?” “Some kid just hucked himself right into the wood chipper.” “They cut off his bowling fingers!” Too dark for you? Then avoid “Tucker & Dale vs. Evil.” This is a gore-fest comedy not unlike “Hatchet” or “Cabin Fever” in its willingness to get bloody and ugly, but it’s vastly superior to both. It’s a much smarter movie than we’ve seen in this genre in some time. It’s clever, funny, and consistently entertaining on every level (even if it does become disappointingly repetitive in the final act). It’s also gorier than you could even imagine, such as when a cop shows up to see the two gentlemen trying to remove the aforementioned fellow from the wood chipper. None of the gore is remotely genuine – it’s all of the extreme nature that makes it more comedy than horror – but don’t say I didn’t warn you.

The success of “Tucker & Dale vs. Evil” can be credited heavily to the clever script and pitch-perfect direction, but it helps that the title characters are played by two actors with stellar timing. It’s so rewarding for this fan of “Firefly” and “Reaper” to FINALLY see Labine & Tudyk being given material this smart and entertaining. This is the kind of movie that will barely be seen in theaters but have a HUGE shelf life through word of mouth and it couldn’t have happened to two more likable stars. Even if you’re not fans of the two leads, you will be by the time one of the most entertaining films of 2011 is over.

“Tucker & Dale vs. Evil” stars Alan Tudyk, Tyler Labine, Katrina Bowden, and Brandon McLaren. It was written by Eli Craig & Morgan Jurgenson and directed by Craig. It was released in Chicago on October 7th, 2011 and is also available On Demand.



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