

PARASYTE: THE MAXIM

ADIT HASAN

Genres: Thriller, Drama, Science-fiction, Horror

With winter 2014 came the anime adaptation of "Parasyte: The Maxim", from the manga of the same name. From source and cause unknown, small worm-like parasitic beings invade the human race, burrowing into their brains through their noses or ears. Once inside their brains, they take control and claim the host's body as their own. One such parasite attempts to occupy Shinichi, but owing to his ingenuity and a sliver of luck, the parasite is confined to his hand instead.

After a series of disappointing, derivative shows, "Parasyte" is a much-needed breath of fresh air. It is a show that takes complete advantage of its circumstances. With a rich, mature manga storyline to draw from, the anime only deviates from the source material in terms of the narrative to allow for modernisation since the manga was published in the '80s. It is unapologetic in its display of violence and gore and doesn't let excessive censorship disrupt the experience. The visuals have been overhauled to reflect more contemporary tastes and the animation is fluid; perfect for the scenes they depict.

The soundtrack excels at contributing to the atmosphere and augmenting the mood. It invokes the right emotions during the more stirring scenes and helps build tension when required, complementing the narrative while being discreet.

The show boasts both romantic drama and clever fight sequences, weaving them together seamlessly. But they take a back seat to character development.



ANIME REVIEW

Throughout the show, Shinichi and his parasite Migi grapple with mortality and its consequences, constantly evolving in their world views. The show frequently compares the genocidal parasites to humans with their inclination towards violence and apathy, calling into question who the *real* parasite is.

With all the elements done right and coming together harmoniously, "Parasyte" is a solid anime experience, one of the best in fact and well worth your time.



TAHMID

Year: 1995

Genre: Alternative Metal

White Zombie was the only band where a vocalist who expertly pulls off the cowboy hat, a yellow-haired female bassist, white boy dreadlocks, science fiction and heavy metal came together in unexpected harmony. *Astro-Creep: 2000* was White Zombie's final album together. As a fan I was sad to hear that they'd split, but perhaps it is for the best. One can only fly so high before their wax wings melt and they plummet. Unless one is Iron Maiden.

The album begins with *Electric Head (The Agony)*. It starts off quiet with some spoken lines. If you love heavy metal, then you'll love this. This song represents one end of the spectrum White Zombie operates in. I read the lyrics to this song in Rei Hiroe's manga, *Black Lagoon*, and decided to listen to this album.

Real Solution #9 is incoherent, and not because of guttural singing. It sounds like the rock monster from *Chowder* sang it. *Grease Paint* and *Monkey Brains* switches between deep, slow vocals and bursts of screamed lines.

Track seven, *Electric Head (The Ecstasy)* would represent the other end of

the spectrum White Zombie operates in. Both of the tracks are good, but I prefer *The Agony* to *The Ecstasy*.

The eighth track, *More Human Than Human*, is definitely the cherry on top of White Zombie's swan song. It is their undoubtedly their most popular song.

The next track, *El Phantasma* and the *Chicken-Run Blast-O-Rama*, starts with a brilliant intro from the drums, the rest of the instruments complimenting it. It is a rare track which allows non-drummers to appreciate the drums. The drumming is prominent throughout the track. The last line of the final track of the album, *Blood, Milk and Sky*, goes "... beauty never dies." This may have been an allusion to the end of the band. As sad as that is, this is my favourite song from the album, the deep voice it's recited/sung in, the intro, the music, and even the background vocalists, all so lovely.

In 1998 White Zombie finally split up. Rob Zombie (vocalist) went to pursue his solo career as well, Rob Zombie. The two artists are different but Rob definitely carries the torch lit by White Zombie.

This is Alternative Metal. I'd ask people who don't listen to metal normally to give this a try. I'd ask people who do listen to metal to keep an open mind. Don't be a part of the haterism. Damn haterists.