

princess gets kidnapped by a big evil bat-thing. Or when Ash splits into two separate Ashes and gets into a fight with himself. The list goes on and on.

The director, Sam Raimi, is another one of those over-the-top guys who likes to overdramatize every scene with as many weird camera angles and strangely coordinated actions as possible. He also has a great eye for the humor in each scene. You will laugh at some scenes just because of the way they look.

And let's not forget the special effects. Not so cheesy that they distract you from the action, but just lousy enough for a laugh. Check out the scenes with the Army of Plaster Skeletons closing in on the castle of the good guy to see what I mean.

The film's one weak spot is the raw-ther lousy acting. The delivery of the best one-liner is often as funny as the gag itself. I still can't figure out if it's intentional or not. There is one good actor in the cast of No-Names: Bruce Campbell, the guy who plays Ash. First of all, he looks perfect for the part: Square jaw, striking eyes, good hair, romance-novel body. Second, the script gives him all the best lines. Third, he's got a wonderful range of facial expressions, ranging from Ticked-Off-But-Still-Noble to Ouch-That-Really-Hurt to Whoops-I-Forgot-My-Line. That rubber face of his makes the film shine.

Scenes To Watch For: Everthing. The highlights are stuff like Big Ash vs. a dozen or so Little Ash-holes in a scene straight out of Looney Tunes. And the hysterical book-stealing scene, where he first has to contend with the fake Necronomicons (one of which opens to reveal a special effect that gives a whole new meaning to the phrase "rubber face"), then a hoard of angry skeletons who play Three Stooges gags on him. The whole film is an absolute scream from prologue to epilogue.

Stuff To Fast Forward Past: Nothing I can think of.

Favorite Line: Good Ash pulls his shotgun on Bad Ash, and says, "Good. Bad. I'm the guy with the gun". Kaboom!

Judgement: What, I have to tell you I loved it? You couldn't tell? With a plot and look that might have come from a heavy metal album cover (but without a soundtrack to match... the only thing the director overlooked), Army of Darkness is one hell of a good timewarp! A warning: it is not for the squeamish. "R" rated all the way.

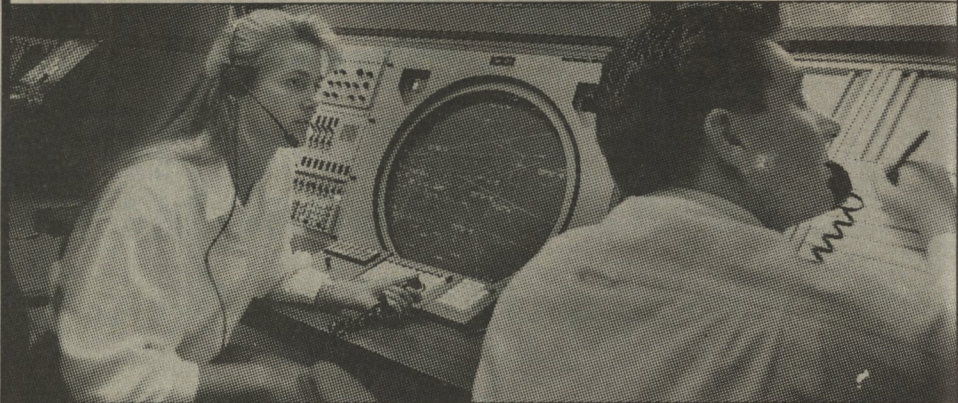
Available at: Everywhere. The only difficulty in finding this film is what area to look in. Some places keep it on the horror rack, others on the fantasy rack, others in the comedy section. Ask the helpful, friendly staff to help you search it out.

Next Week: Let's do the timewarp again, this time in the other direction! A warrior from the distant past breaks through to Downtown L.A. in *Beastmaster II: Through the Portal of Time*. See you... whenever.

TRENT DRAKE

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