

MIDNITE MOVIE MAMACITA DOES *EL TOPO!*

Granddaddy of late-night cult cinema exhumed in rare Alejandro Jodorowsky double feature at Chandler Cinemas

Phoenix AZ—November 3, 2008

To some pioneering midnight moviegoers of the early Seventies, Alejandro Jodorowsky's legendary *El Topo* (*The Mole*) was a phantasmagoric piñata filled with breath-taking imagery, deep religious symbolism and heavy—*really* heavy—insights into the circle of life.

To other insomniac hipsters, however, the surreal 1970 “taco Western” was the cinematic equivalent of a steaming crock of rancid menudo. Sickened and/or baffled by the non-stop parade of dwarves, amputees, giants and nude women wallowing in bizarre sex, gore and senseless violence, more than a few dazed and confused *cinestates* staggered out of theaters into the night feeling like one of the dismembered cast members: Had Jodorowsky just yanked the audience's legs out of its collective socket?

Classic or con? Now, a new generation of film buffs can finally judge for themselves as the Midnite Movie Mamacita presents a rare 35 mm theatrical screening of *El Topo*. Unseen for decades due to legal problems, the still-controversial cult classic heads up a double bill that also includes *Holy Mountain* (1973), Jodorowsky's seldom-seen follow-up film. The double feature will screen November 21 and 22 at the Chandler Cinemas.

El Topo (1970): Shot in Mexico on dilapidated sets originally built for a Glenn Ford/Harry Dean Stanton western, the cult classic follows a mysterious drifter (Jodorowsky) who wanders the desert where he encounters life, death, birth, infinity. . . and influences ranging from Clint Eastwood spaghetti westerns, *Freaks*, Salvador Dali, Luis Bunuel, Sam Peckinpah, Hieronymus Bosch and, apparently, a huge dose of very bad mescaline. Debuting with virtually no publicity as a continuing midnight attraction at New York City's Elgin Theater, Jodorowsky's wee hours jolt-fest soon became a word-of-mouth “must-see” and paved the way for later midnight movie faves like *Pink Flamingos*, *Eraserhead* and *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*.

Holy Mountain (1973): Was Jodorowsky a one-trick burro? See for yourself in this *El Topo* follow-up, financed by fans John Lennon and Yoko Ono. Although it boasted what was then the biggest budget ever for a Mexican-made feature, this very similar sophomore effort suggested that for many viewers, once was more than enough.

Friday November 21 *Holy Mountain* @ 9pm; *El Topo* @ 11pm

Saturday November 22 *Holy Mountain* @ 5 & 9pm; *El Topo* @ 7 & 11pm

Admission is \$10. The Chandler Cinemas are located at 2140 N. Arizona Boulevard, Chandler (behind Target), 480-821-1605

www.midnitemoviemamacita.com

Grindhouse Redux is presented by Bookmans Entertainment Exchange