

TITLE: GHOSTBUSTERS

DATE: 21 6 1984

FILM VIDEO

DISTRIBUTOR: Columbia-EMI-Warner

FIRST RESUB

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: USA

CATEGORY: PG

CUTS NO CUTS

GENRE: Supernatural comedy

ENGLISH LANGUAGE SUB-TITLED DUBBED

FOR BOARD DISCUSSION

APPROPRIATE CATEGORY:	U	PG	15	18	R18	CUTS	REJECT
THEME		✓					
TREATMENT		✓					
VISUALS: NUDITY	✓						
SEX		✓					
VIOLENCE		✓					
HORROR		✓					
LANGUAGE		✓					
DRUGS							
CRIMINAL TECHNIQUES							
LEGALITY: OBSCENITY							
CHILDREN							
ANIMALS							
BLASPHEMY							
FILM AS A WHOLE		✓					

SYNOPSIS AND COMMENTS:

Dr Peter Veckman (Bill Murray) heads Department of Paranormal Studies at the University but seems more interested in getting off with women; he and colleagues Dr Egon Spengler (Harold Ramis) and Dr Ray Stantz (Dan Aykroyd) are called out to investigate a spook at the New York Public Library and see it - a transparent Victorian lady which turns into a vampirish monster when they approach it. Back at the university, their department is abolished and they decide to set up a company - 'Ghostbusters'. Their first call - and looking like their only one - is from a young woman, Dana (Sigourney Weaver), whose eggs explode and who seems to see some kind of satanic temple in her fridge. She hears the word 'Zool'. Veckman investigates and tries rather bluntly to pick her up. She is amused; he is shocked only by the junk food which now seems the only occupant of the fridge. They go into high-tech ghostbusting equipment - the speciality of Spengler - and zap down a little green apparition haunting an expensive restaurant, trapping it in a box. There is a spate of hauntings over the city, and the ghostbusters go into commando-type operations, imprisoning all the supernatural nasties in their special

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high-voltage equipment. Veckman meets Dana again and tells her they have found out that Zool was an old Hittite god; she agrees under his persuasion to 'exchange information' with her the next Thursday. Meanwhile, a government environmental inspector calls, wanting to know about their storage facilities; and gargoyles are coming to life on the New York skyscrapers. Dana goes back to her apartment, telling neighbour, weedy bore Lewis, that she will come to his party later, with Veckman. Dana is then attacked by a monster in her apartment and Lewis runs out of his party when another monster appears. When Veckman appears, Dana is possessed by Zool, the 'gatekeeper', and Veckman telephones his office and the others tell him the cops have brought round Lewis, calling himself 'keeper of the keys'. Ray realises the whole apartment block where Dana and Lewis live is a kind of supernatural conductor, built by a sect devoted to a god, Goza. The environmental officer appears at this point with a warrant to shut off their equipment, which he does, allowing all the imprisoned ghosts out. The ghostbusters make a deal with the mayor to try to stop what looks like Armageddon, and amid apocalyptic scenes in the city, Goza appears and tells them whatever they think of first will be the form of the destruction of the city. Ray thinks of the Staypuft Marshmallow Man and so the giant Marshmallow Man stalks the city until finally melted down by the ghostbusters' positon rays.

Quite a funny and imaginative comedy, written by Dan Aykroyd (of TRADING PLACES) and Harold Ramis; it could be this year's equivalent of TRADING PLACES' success. Dialogue is 'PG' level and so are the sex scenes: Veckman's suggestive innuendo and one scene where ghostbuster Ray wakes to find trousers undone and ghost hovering overhead - cut to beatific smile on his face, and I presume he is having his tummy tickled. At the beginning of Reel 5 there is some repartee about the environmental official, Mr Peck, being 'dickless'; "It is true - he has no dick," "well, Mr Pecker ...". This seems covered by 'PG'. The film is also potentially frightening for children since the first ghost in the library suddenly changes into a vampire-like being; gargoyles change into toothed monsters and there are frightening scenes with Dana: (a) in her apartment, gruesome arms come from round the chair and grab her, then whisk her off into the kitchen; (b) when Veckman appears there and she is Zool, there is an EXORCIST-type sequence: her voice is very deep, she levitates above the bed. Her head does not twist round but since she is the heroine, this could be quite frightening, especially to an audience not used to horror-film type themes and imagery. I feel that though this is frightening, it is not disturbing. Veckman is a downbeat, cool hero, who one knows is going to win through, especially when he likes the girl so much. Kids might identify with cool leader Veckman, technical wizard Egon, or supernatural geometrist Ray; and with the Sigourney Weaver heroine, despite her temporary possession. The jokey repartee and gang-type quality of the three 'ghostbusters' is such that potential fear is defused. A lot of kids are going to be scared out of their pants, but they will love it. There are also some rather nice bogey-beast type spirits. The whole supernatural thing is very well done, good special effects, and the Egyptian architectural quality of New York being utilised very attractively, a bit like in Q - THE WINGED SERPENT. Recommended 'PG'.