

Aquarium of the Dead

Aquarium of the Dead is a 2021 American zombie^[1] comedy-horror science fiction film directed by Glenn Miller and written by Marc Gottlieb and Michael Varrati.^[2] The film stars Vivica A. Fox, Eva Ceja, and D. C. Douglas.^[3] It is a spin-off to The Asylum's Zoombies franchise.^[4] The film features zombie-like aquatic animals.^[5]

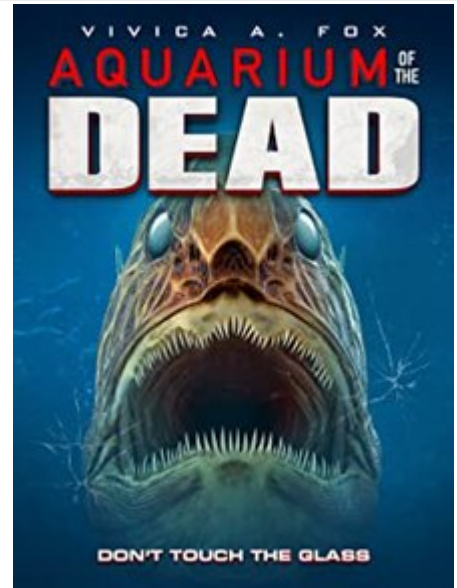
Plot

At the Shining Sea Aquarium, Dr. Karen James and two workers attempt to tag the resident octopus. The octopus goes into cardiac arrest as the result of the procedure and seemingly dies, then reanimates, attacks Karen, kills the two workers, and escapes into the ducts.

Meanwhile, aquarium scientist Miranda Riley receives a transmission from the Eden Wildlife Zoo warning her to dispose of any epinephrine the aquarium received. Her colleague Daniel Hanley assures her that he took care of the disposal before leaving to guide Skylar, a tourist, on a V.I.P. visit to the aquarium. Miranda meets with Senator Bailey Blackburn, who is responsible for securing additional funds for the facility, but they are interrupted by Karen warning them of the octopus. They alert security chief Eddie "Clu" Cluwirth of the breach, but before they can take any action, contaminated slime left by the octopus infects the rest of the animals in the aquarium, who shatter their tanks to escape. Miranda, Karen, Blackburn and Blackburn's aide Beth take shelter in a theater as the aquarium goes into lockdown. Elsewhere, Daniel and Skylar attempt to get back inside the building. They are attacked by a group of zombified spider crabs, but escape and manage to get inside.

Miranda's group ventures out of the theater, surmising that if they can reset the aquarium's power, the lockdown will be lifted. They come across Daniel and Skylar, as well as zombified crocodiles and walruss. Skylar loses his composure, attacks a walrus, and is killed by it. As a result of the encounter, Karen realizes the reanimated animals are blind and navigate based on sound. This allows her to use her mobile phone to trick the walrus and lead it away. However, the group soon discovers an undead starfish stuck to Beth's abdomen, which had slipped unnoticed into her notebook earlier. They are unable to detach the starfish and Beth soon dies from it feeding on her.

Aquarium of the Dead



Directed by	Glenn Miller
Screenplay by	Marc Gottlieb
Produced by	<u>Paul Bales</u> David Michael Latt Brendan Petrizzo David Rimawi
Starring	<u>Vivica A. Fox</u> <u>Eva Ceja</u> <u>D. C. Douglas</u> Erica Duke
Cinematography	Marcus Friedlander
Production company	<u>The Asylum</u>
Distributed by	The Asylum
Release date	May 21, 2021
Running time	86 minutes
Country	USA
Language	English

The group passes through a shark habitat, then unites with Clu and ventures into the basement, where they are confronted by the octopus. Clu sacrifices herself in a failed attempt to kill the octopus while Miranda resets the power. Cornered by the octopus, Miranda uses a stray power cable to fatally electrocute it. The reset lifts the lockdown, and the group escapes. As they leave, the truth about the incident is discovered: Daniel was conspiring with Blackburn to cut costs at the aquarium, and did not dispose of the epinephrine from the Eden Wildlife Zoo as he said he did, leading it to be used on the octopus and cause the outbreak. Miranda punches Daniel, breaking his nose, and leaves with Karen.

Cast

- Vivica A. Fox as Eddie "Clu" Cluwirth
- Eva Ceja as Miranda Riley
- D. C. Douglas as Daniel Hanley
- Madeleine Falk as Dr. Karen James
- Anthony Jensen as Senator Bailey Blackburn
- Erica Duke as Beth Mackenzie

Production

In an interview with *Bloody Flicks*, screenwriter Marc Gottlieb said he was not on set but that all special effects on the project were CGI. He said writing the script was different from his previous projects because his draft was based on an outline by Michael Varrati instead of his own.^[6]

Release

The film was released in theaters and video on demand on May 21, 2021.^{[7][8]} It was later released on DVD on June 21, 2021.^[9]

Reception

Paul Mount at *Starburst* scored it a 3 out of 5 and said it's "unlikely to make you throw up when you've digested it all."^[10] Phil Wheat at *Nerdly* said "if you liked either of Glenn Miller's zoological zombie films you enjoy this one too."^[11]

Paul Lê of *Bloody Disgusting* called it "hurriedly made" scoring it 1.5 out of 5.^[12] Jim McLennan of *Film Blitz* scored it a C– stating "this is a bit of a disappointment – even with the inevitable Sharknado reference."^[13]



D.C. Douglas and Eva Ceja at the premiere of *Aquarium of the Dead*.

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External links

- *Aquarium of the Dead* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt13835046/>) at IMDb
 - *Aquarium of the Dead* (https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/aquarium_of_the_dead) at Rotten Tomatoes
 - *Aquarium of the Dead* (<https://letterboxd.com/film/aquarium-of-the-dead/>) at Letterboxd
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