

Beware! The Blob Notes

THE FILM

- It's still Jack H. Harris Productions.
- The theme song is quite different. Synthesizers. Video game music.
- Um...cat. What does this have to do with...anything?
- Is the black guy gonna die first? (He wasn't first—it was the black *gal*).
- Product placement for Miller Lite.
- “Laid down a pipeline nobody wanted.” Futuristic Topical?
- He was working in the North Pole and found a “mysterious substance.” i.e. The Blob.
- Huh? He's staying in a tent—in his living room?!
- You know, the trailer for this made this look like a straight-up horror movie, not a screwball comedy.
- “Does that activate your glands?” Huh?!
- The fly getting sucked into the Blob is cool.
- The Blob ate Samuel the cat!!! THE MONSTER!!! And it can reach out and grab things! It's like killing the dog.
- The blonde girl wearing the Freddy Krueger shirt made a robot?
- This movie, so far, is bipolar. It has a horrific monster stalking and killing silly characters. It vacillates between suspense skulking and silliness.
- WHAT?! The original movie is playing on TV?! Does that mean...the movie exists in universe? Is it a true story? I have so many questions.
- Never before as someone trying to sit and a close-up of a man's keister ever been so suspenseful.
- “Watch out for the wolverines!” From Michigan, Red Dawn, or Marvel?
- The longer this goes on, the more '70s it gets. All it needs now is a disco.
- I had things like the ball doohickies. The scoutmaster can't handle the noise?
- I feel some sequel-it is setting in. The Blob gets loose, attacks some people. This is witnessed by someone and disbelieved. This time it's a girl. A sheriff gets involved.
- The scene with the boyfriend walking into the dark hallway is effective.
- How long were they in the house? It's dark now!
- The hippies in the cave sound obviously like they're in a studio in a tin can. This is ADR.
- This movie loves having teens get accosted by cops and interrogated with lights in their faces.
- Close-up of graffitied “Love” while Blob eats cop? WHAT DOES IT MEAN?!
- Barber fancies himself an “artist”—and charges \$400 for a “hair sculpt.”
 - Dude, he's wearing a wig!
 - This is Sweeney Todd, isn't it?
 - The Blob rising out the sink is pretty good.
 - Ends how you expect: head in Blob.
- “It eats people!” “It's people!”

- The frick?! A fat naked Shriner?! Or is he Russian?!
- The frick kind of birthday party is this?! Is this how all b-day parties were like in the '70s? King Kong?!
- I'm starting to get some *Godzilla vs. Hedorah* vibes.
- Steven Spielberg?! Bearded dude with round glasses and a camera!
- "She doesn't feel well." WE GET IT!
- It feels like a bipolar collection of comedy sketches intermixed with into a slasher movie that loosely imitates the original movie.
- Is Fat Russian just gonna walk around naked? He refuses a coat.
- Burgess Meredith?! Mickey, now *you're* the bum!
- Was this whole movie ad-libbed?
- The red shadow when the Blob gets the bums is good.
- Bobby and Lisa scare the Blob...with air conditioning?! And the scene with the Blob trying to get them in the car was good.
- An old dude in a wheelchair bowling?
- Now the teenage heroes are getting in trouble trying to warn everyone about the Blob. In this case, he tries to use the PA at a bowling alley.
- Does no one know about what happened in the original film?
- The Blob has a synthesizer music cue.
- Fat Russian is wearing clothes that don't fit now.
- Blonde Mork?!
- I'm starting to think it was this I saw on Muppet Babies. (Nope. It was the original).
- The wheelchair guy can't stop the Blob with a crucifix.
- No one stops to talk about what the Blob is or where it came from. It's just...there.
- I don't feel very attached to these characters.
- Now the teen heroes and a manager are holed up in a bowling alley/ice rink instead of a diner.
- They try to electrocute a tiny piece of the Blob with a frayed wire instead of shooting a power line down.
- You call that "riot gear"? It looks like an apron.
- Product placement for Coca-Cola.
- They figure out the Blob doesn't like cold...by accidentally dumping ice from a fridge on it?
- The sheriff pulls a "needs of the many." He's gonna burn down the house despite people being in it.
- Climbing over the Blob on the rope was good. It climbs up a rope to get it.
- The Blob in this seems a bit more intelligent.
- The Boy Scouts are pointless. Even their lighter doesn't work.
- Shot of couple reuniting in a "frame."
- It's surreal—and questionable—seeing the couple walk on the frozen Blob. And the TV crew.

- How does no one see the Blob oozing out and touching the sheriff's boot?
- "The End?" again? And the sheriff saying, "What?!" The heck?!

Commentary by Richard Harland Smith

- "Son of Blob" was probably the working title. That's what the director called it in trades in 1971. He shortened it to "S.O.B."
- A sequel with this title was floated around for a while, as well as "Return of the Blob," but it was never exhibited as such.
- Despite having several screenwriters, much of the movie was improvised. (You don't say!) Many of the cast members came from improv. They trained under Ted Flicker, who founded what became Second City.
- The people who worked on this were friends and neighbors.
- Marlene Clark (the Blob's first human victim) was once married to Billy Dee Williams. And she had a small part in *Enter the Dragon*.
- This movie and the original were produced by Jack H. Harris.
- The original was at one point called "The Mineral Monster." He says it was also called, "The Glob That Gobbled the World." "The Glob" was the title of a 1952 children's book.
- This is the first movie for *Halloween* cinematographer, Dean Cundey.
- Hagman, the director, worked on sitcoms like *I Dream of Jeannie*. He's the son of Mary Martin.
- Harris says he showed Hagman a 16mm print of *The Blob*, which Hagman hadn't seen, and that convinced him to work on a sequel. Hagman says they met in a hot tub and Harris's son had written a sequel to the Blob and wanted Hagman in it, but Hagman said he'd be involved if he directed.
- This got made because of the Malibu Colony, where many Hollywood types congregated.
- Gwynn Gilford, the girlfriend, is now a marriage and family counselor.
- Richard Clair gave Harris a treatment called "A Chip Off the Ol' Blob," a comical sequel, to Harris. Harris shelved it, thinking a sequel should be scary, not funny. Upon his death in 1980, he had himself cryogenically frozen as a supporter of the cryo society. This inspired a legal battle over his estate.
- Bobby Walker, the boyfriend, is the son of Robert Walker, who starred in Hitchcock's *Strangers on a Train*. He's in the movie as a favor between Hagman and Walker's mother, who thought her son was getting complacent and needed a job. He was Charlie X of Star Trek.
- Randy Stonehill, the hippie guitar player, is a CCM star. He found God while pursuing music in California.
- Harris said his born-again Christian son, Tony, wanted to do something to serve his father, so Jack told him to produce this movie.
- Shelly Berman, the barber, was the first comedian to sell one million records. (*Inside Shelly Berman*). Shelly Berman was in the movie playing at the theater in the original movie, *Daughter of Horror* (or *Dementia*). He's the only actor in both movies...sorta.
- He describes being absorbed by the Blob as a "horrible, perverted return to the womb."

- Gilford's mother was in various Universal horror movies.
- The fat Turk is played by Tiger Joe Marsh, a pro-wrestler (he's actually Croatian). He gets mixed for Tor Johnson and George "The Animal" Steel (who played Tor in *Ed Wood*). He was supposedly the model for Mr. Clean.
- Danny Goldman, the nerdy camera guy, is the voice of Brainy Smurf. (He was in his 30s here playing a teen).
- Burgess Meredith was a late addition and was Hagman's next-door neighbor.
- Del Close wore an eyepatch because his cat scratched his cornea and took every drug offered him, including horse pills. He had substance abuse problems.
- Larry Hagman never speaks in this. He never spoke on Sundays. He wore a pad of paper around his neck and wrote on it. Story has it he strained his voice on I Dream of Jeanie and rested his voice, so he kept the habit. The commentator thinks they filmed his scene on Sunday.
- Del Close was so high, he stabbed Larry hagman in his boot with the pitchfork. He missed flesh and bone.
- Carol Lynnley was Nonnie in *The Poseidon Adventure*.
- Larry Norman, the blonde teen, was "Bob Dylan of Christian music." He was in his 20s here.
- The bowling alley where this was filmed no longer exists.
- Ted Flicker makes a cameo as the guy pushing the wheelchair.
- Mort Garson, the composer, was into weird experimental music at this time. He was a pioneer of electronic music. His music was used to score the moon landing on TV.
- He says the riot vests look like yoga mats.
- The Blob in this was made with a powdered substance mixed with water. It came in various colors.
- Four weeks before its release, it was one of the first films offered on closed circuit TV at hotels.
- It was supposed to be released in Dec. 1971, but it was delayed until June 1972. In some markets, it was *Beware! The Blob* and in others it was *Son of Blob*. It stayed in the drive-in circuit until 1974. At one point, it was re-released and paired with multiple titles—including *Godzilla vs. Megalon!*
- Harris considered it a "loser," thinking it was too silly.

Other sources:

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beware!_The_Blob
- https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0068271/trivia/?ref=tt_trv_trv
- *Keep Watching the Skies!*