Gargoyles The Movie The Heroes Awaken Dvd

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REDISCOVERING A CULT CLASSIC: WHY GARGOYLES THE MOVIE THE HEROES AWAKEN DVD IS A MUST-HAVE

In the vast landscape of 1990s animation, few shows managed to blend dark fantasy, Shakespearean drama, and superhero action as seamlessly as Disney's **Gargoyles**. For fans who grew up watching the stone-clad protectors of New York City soar across the night sky, the series remains a benchmark for mature storytelling in children's television. But for many, the journey began with a single, powerful entry point: the pilot movie that launched the saga. Today, we take an in-depth look at **Gargoyles The Movie The Heroes Awaken Dvd**, a release that not only captured the magic of the original broadcast but also became a cherished artifact for collectors and newcomers alike.

Whether you are a longtime devotee looking to relive the magic or a curious viewer discovering the clan for the first time, this DVD edition offers a unique window into the origins of Goliath, Elisa Maza, and the entire world of Manhattan's nocturnal defenders. Let us explore why this particular release stands as a cornerstone of animation history and why it deserves a place on your shelf.

THE BIRTH OF A LEGEND: UNDERSTANDING "THE HEROES AWAKEN"

Before the series became a weekly staple, the story of the Gargoyles was introduced to audiences through a five-episode television movie that aired in syndication. This narrative, later compiled into a feature-length film, is precisely what **Gargoyles The Movie The Heroes Awaken Dvd** preserves. The story begins in 994 AD Scotland, where a clan of gargoyles—winged, nocturnal creatures who turn to stone by day—are betrayed and slaughtered. Their leader, Goliath, is placed under a magical curse along with his surviving clan members, freezing them in stone for a thousand years.

The narrative then leaps forward to modern-day New York City, where a billionaire named David Xanatos purchases a dilapidated castle and transports it stone by stone to the top of his skyscraper. When the sun sets, the gargoyles awaken to a world they do not recognize. Here, the series establishes its core themes: trust, identity, and the struggle between ancient honor and modern corruption. The pilot movie is essentially a tight, self-contained story that introduces all the key players, including the brilliant police detective Elisa Maza, who becomes the gargoyles' greatest human ally.

This compilation is essential because it sets the tone for the entire series. The writing is sophisticated, the animation is richly detailed (heavily influenced by Japanese anime), and the voice acting—featuring talents like Keith David as Goliath—is nothing short of legendary. The DVD release allows viewers to experience this origin story without the interruption of commercial breaks, offering a pure, cinematic flow that enhances the dramatic pacing.

Why This DVD Release Matters to Collectors

For years, fans of the series bemoaned the lack of a proper home video release. While individual episodes were sometimes available on later season sets, **Gargoyles The Movie The Heroes Awaken Dvd** represented the first widespread opportunity to own the beginning of the saga in a single package. Released initially by Buena Vista Home Entertainment, this disc became something of a holy grail for collectors. Its value is not merely nostalgic; it lies in the fact that it represents a specific era of Disney home video strategy, where the company was willing to test the waters with a cult property that appealed to an older audience.

What makes this particular DVD edition so special is its presentation. The movie is presented in its original 1.33:1 fullscreen aspect ratio, which faithfully reproduces the television broadcast framing. The audio, available in both Dolby Digital 5.1 surround sound and the original stereo mix, gives the action sequences—from the castle siege to the rooftop battles—a satisfying depth. The video transfer, while not pristine by modern 4K standards, is remarkably clean for a 90s television production, with colors that pop and a level of detail that showcases the hand-drawn animation.

UNBOXING THE FEATURES: WHAT'S INSIDE THE DISC?

A DVD is more than just the movie; it is a package of extras that enrich the viewing experience. The **Gargoyles The Movie The Heroes Awaken Dvd** includes a modest but meaningful collection of bonus materials that give insight into the making of the series. Let us break down what you can expect to find:

- **The Feature Film (89 minutes):** The complete, unedited compilation of the five-part pilot. It flows seamlessly, with the original title cards and credits preserved.
- **Audio Commentary (Selected Scenes):** A rare treat. Producer Greg Weisman and other creative team members provide commentary on key sequences, offering behind-the-scenes anecdotes about the show's development, the challenges of syndication, and the thematic goals of the story.
- **Trailers and Promos:** Original television spots and a theatrical-style trailer that hyped the

movie release. These are fun time capsules of 90s marketing.
- **Still Gallery:** A selection of production artwork, including character designs, background paintings, and storyboard sketches. These images highlight the incredible artistic effort that went into creating the Gothic, moody aesthetic of the show.

While the DVD does not contain the extensive documentary features found on later season box sets, these extras are perfectly curated. They do not overwhelm the viewer but rather provide just enough context to make you appreciate the craft. For a single-disc release, the content feels generous, especially considering that the primary goal was to deliver the movie itself in the best possible quality.

Audio and Visual Quality: A Closer Look

One of the primary concerns for any fan purchasing an older DVD is whether the presentation holds up. The good news is that **Gargoyles The Movie The Heroes Awaken Dvd** benefits from a well-preserved master. The animation, which was originally produced on film and then transferred to video for television, retains its cinematic grain and warmth. The shadow work—so crucial to the Gothic atmosphere of the show—is rendered without compression artifacts that plague some later DVD releases.

The audio mix is equally impressive. The 5.1 surround track does an excellent job of opening up the soundstage. The swooping sounds of gargoyles in flight, the echoes in the castle hallways, and the booming voice of Goliath all benefit from the discrete channel separation. The score, composed by Carl Johnson, combines synth elements with orchestral motifs, creating a sound that feels both epic and intimate. Whether you are watching on a modest home theater setup or a classic CRT television, the experience is immersive.

THE LEGACY OF THE GARGOYLES FRANCHISE

To fully appreciate why **Gargoyles The Movie The Heroes Awaken Dvd** remains in demand, one must understand the cultural footprint of the series. **Gargoyles** was unlike anything Disney had produced before. It was a dark, serialized drama that dealt with issues of racism, revenge, redemption, and political intrigue. The show drew heavily from Shakespeare, particularly *Macbeth* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, weaving mythological figures from various cultures into its modern-day setting.

The series also pioneered a complex continuity. Stories from episode one would echo seasons later, and characters like Xanatos proved to be morally ambiguous, never falling into simple villainy. This sophisticated approach earned the show a dedicated fanbase that persisted long after the series ended in 1997. In an era before streaming, owning a DVD copy of the pilot was a way to introduce friends to the unique world of the show. It became a conversation piece, a touchstone for a generation of animation fans who craved stories with depth.

Connecting to the Larger Universe

For those who eventually purchase the full season box sets, the pilot movie serves as an essential primer. However, **Gargoyles The Movie The Heroes Awaken Dvd** stands alone beautifully. It tells a complete story arc that does not require prior knowledge. You watch the clan emerge, learn about their history, and see them confront their first modern enemy. It is a perfect entry point. Moreover, the disc includes the moments that define the series: Goliath's first flight over the Manhattan skyline, his tentative friendship with Elisa, and the heartbreaking realization that the world he once knew is gone forever.

COMPARING RELEASES: DVD VS. LATER FORMATS

In the years since this DVD debuted, the show has seen various releases. The complete series was eventually released on DVD in several box sets, and the show is now available on streaming platforms like Disney+. However, for many collectors, the original **Gargoyles The Movie The Heroes Awaken Dvd** retains a distinct charm. Why?

1. **Packaging and Art:** The original DVD cover art is iconic. It features Goliath in a dynamic pose against a moonlit cityscape, with the tagline "They were betrayed by man. They were awakened by greed. They were given a second chance." This design captures the tone of the show perfectly.
2. **Nostalgia Factor:** Owning the physical disc that aired on television represents a tangible connection to the 1990s. The menus, the chapter stops, the insert—everything feels like a piece of history.
3. **Non-Streaming Benefits:** As streaming services cycle content on and off, physical media remains a permanent archive. The DVD does not suffer from buffering issues or altered aspect ratios. It is the definitive way to watch the movie as it was originally intended.
4. **Collector's Value:** While not exceedingly rare, this specific DVD has gained in value over the years, especially in good condition. It is a sought-after item for completists who want every iteration of the Gargoyles story.

TIPS FOR PURCHASING AND PRESERVING YOUR COPY

If you are looking to add **Gargoyles The Movie The Heroes Awaken Dvd** to your collection, there are a few things to consider. First, check the region code. Most releases were for Region 1 (USA and Canada), but some imports exist. Ensure your player is compatible. Second, inspect the condition of the disc. Look for deep scratches on the playing surface, as these can cause skipping or freezing during playback. The case should also be intact, as the original cover art is part of the appeal.

To preserve the disc, store it in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight. The cardboard or plastic cases used in the early 2000s can become brittle, so handle the insert carefully. The DVD itself is made of polycarbonate and can last for decades if not scratched. Ripping a digital backup for personal use (where legally permissible) is also a good way to ensure you can enjoy the movie even

if the physical media becomes damaged over time.

WHY THIS MOVIE RESONATES WITH MODERN AUDIENCES

One might assume that a 30-year-old animated pilot would feel dated. Yet, **Gargoyles The Movie The Heroes Awaken Dvd** continues to find new viewers. The reason is simple: the themes are timeless. The story of outsiders trying to find their place in a hostile world is as relevant today as it was in the 1990s. Goliath's struggle with rage and his desire for peace mirrors contemporary conversations about justice and reconciliation. Elisa Maza remains one of the most compelling female characters in animation—a capable, brave, and empathetic protagonist who does not need saving.

Furthermore, the animation style, heavily influenced by the darker tones of Japanese anime (particularly the work of Hayao Miyazaki), feels fresh compared to the flash animation and CGI that dominates modern kids' TV. The care given to shadows, atmospheric lighting, and character expressions gives the show a cinematic quality that many newer productions lack. Watching this film is a reminder of a time when television animation was willing to take risks and trust its audience to follow along with complex narratives.

A Note on the Voice Cast

Any discussion of this DVD would be incomplete without praising the voice acting. Keith David's performance as Goliath is legendary, providing a gravitas and warmth that anchors the entire