

# Monster Squad Gillman Profile

Since the success of classic horror films in the 1930s, Hollywood has recreated and remade classic horror films with varying degrees of success. More times than not, we have suffered their failures. We've seen at least a dozen sequels and serious remakes of *Dracula*, some very good and some not so good. The same is true of *Frankenstein* films (less successful than *Dracula* remakes), *The Mummy*, (more successful than *Frankenstein* remakes) and one remake of *The Wolf Man* which wasn't bad; we monster movie lovers were most appreciative of the effort even if those films didn't quite deliver as we had hoped.

We've seen hundreds of vampire films and werewolf films and the popularity of those subgenres has even migrated to television. And with quality products like *Bram Stoker's Dracula* (1992) and respectable showings like *The Wolf Man* (2010), we find ourselves reluctantly hoping that film-makers might re-visit some of our childhood favorites. *Night of the Living Dead* (1968), for example, spawned some respectable remakes and sequels. But then again, when we saw the remakes of some of our favorite classic films, e.g., *The Time Machine* (2002), *War of the Worlds* (2005), *The Day the Earth Stood Still* (2008), we almost wish Hollywood hadn't bothered.

But one film that has long been rumored and hoped for is a remake of the classic horror film, *Creature from the Black Lagoon* (1954). The success of the film and the popularity of the amphibious title monster led to two sequels, *Revenge of the Creature* (1955) and *The Creature Walks Among Us* (1956). But aside from a few television cameos in '50s and '60s, we've seen neither hide nor hair of the Creature. Of course, since he is not a mammal, he has neither hide nor hair but that's beside the point.



Fans did, however, get a nice little taste of Gillman in *The Monster Squad* (1987), the confused horror/comedy that included almost every horror sub-genre except zombies. It is a cool movie but the producers couldn't decide if their audience was pre-pubescent kids or young adults. The *Monster Squad* is a group of monster-savvy kids taking on *Dracula* who is trying to take over the world with the assistance of *Frankenstein's* monster, the *Mummy*, the *Wolf Man*, and the *Gillman*. The monsters were cool but the hit of the movie was the *Gillman*, even though he didn't have as much screen time as the other monsters. A brilliant suit design, a convincing performance by Tom Woodruff, Jr. wearing the *Gillman* suit, and we have one of Hollywood's more memorable monsters in this little horror film.

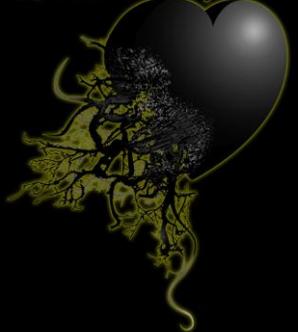
(<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vUKMDDZT31A>)



In the years since *The Monster Squad*, rumors have continued to fly about a *CFTBL* remake with this writer and that director or this actor and that producer (e.g., John Carpenter, Bill Paxton, Breck Eisner, Robert Rodriguez), teaming up to produce a new *Creature from the Black Lagoon* film. The rumored story line ranges from: 1) a team of radical creationists seeking to destroy the *Gillman*, the only living proof of man's evolution from amphibians; to 2) a Victorian expedition group searching for fossils along the Amazon locates an area that has been untouched by modern man, and is filled with strange and fantastic creatures and all of which is guarded by a clever *Gillman*; to 3) a murderous Amazonian *Gillman* spawned by a pharmaceutical company's profiteering exploitation of the rain forest.

Fans can only wait... and hope.

Black Heart Enterprises



Gillman concept commissioned in 2009 for the anticipated remake