

What We Do in the Shadows

Cert 15 New Zealand 2014 85 mins

Crew

Directors/Screenplay	Taika Waititi & Jemaine Clement
Cinematography	Richard Bluck & D.J. Stipsen
Film Editing	Tom Eagles
Original music	Plan 9

Cast

Jemaine Clement	Vladislav
Taika Waititi	Viago
Jonathan Brugh	Deacon
Ben Fransham	Petyr
Cori Gonzalez-Macuer	Nick
Jackie Van Beek	Jackie

Synopsis

New Zealand, the present. Viago, Deacon, Vladislav and Peter are vampire roommates, trying to get by in a modern world that's not always hospitable to the undead.

Though ranging in age from 183 to 8,000, and in appearance from adorably youthful to Nosferatu-crusty, like housemates everywhere they squabble over household chores, struggle to keep up with the latest trends in technology and fashion, cruise clubs for lovely ladies, and deal with the rigors of living on a very, very strict diet...



Booking Information

Distributor: Metrodome
DVD bookings: via **Filmbank**
 0207 984 5957/8
 info@filmbank.co.uk
 www.filmbank.co.uk
Available: Now



Reviews

What We Do in the Shadows has wowed festivals and midnight screenings around the world since it premiered at Sundance earlier this year – and rightly so. Among the tide of low-fi productions based around an amusing (or scary) concept and a couple of improvising actors, this smart, canny and often hilarious comedy truly stands out.

....Beneath its insanity and immortal issues, the film has an unashamedly soft core that largely revolves around Viago, who is also the narrator of the story. Bravely dedicated to defusing the tensions in the house, he is not only the good soul of the film, but deeply haunted by a love from the past that once brought him from Europe to New Zealand. And Waititi captures his character brilliantly, walking the fine line between human and brutish consciousness and pitching his admission at just the right level to inspire both empathy and horror.

Boasting believable performances throughout, which ensure that no one is cast as either purely evil or innocent, *What We Do in the Shadows* manages to make the oldest genre clichés and stalest jokes funny again. At the same time, it is original and inventive enough to generate an irresistibly entertaining vampire romp of sorts, even if things get occasionally monotonous in the mid-section. Nonetheless, poignant comic timing, themes of skewed tolerance and commitment, and the smart blend of farce and sympathy lift this alleged doc-comedy way above the mockumentary pack.

Pamela Jahn, Electric Sheep, November 2014

....Everything is delivered with straight-faced charm, and the guts and gore are balanced with sympathetic and believable characters (well, as sympathetic and believable as centuries-old bloodsuckers can be). There are some hilarious riffs on undead stereotypes and mythology - how do you check your outfit if you can't look in the mirror? - while the script cunningly plays with your expectations (as well as referencing *The Lost Boys*). And Rhys Darby, as the unfailingly polite leader of a rival group of werewolves, is a fantastic treat. This is bloody hilarious.

Lucy Barrick, Radio Times, November 2014

FILM FACTS...

- ☆ The film is based on a 2006 short of the same name made by New Zealand directors/comedy actors Taika Waititi and Jemaine Clement. It was shot on location in Wellington for a budget of \$1.6m., and has so far grossed \$6.9m. It is Waititi's first feature film since *Boy* (2010).
- ☆ Jemaine Clement is probably best known to UK audiences as one half of the musical comedy duo "Flight of the Conchords".