DAWN OF THE DEAD  (USA, 1979)

(Other titles: Zombie; Zombies)

Credits: director/writer, George A. Romero.
Cast: David Emge, Ken Foree, Scott Reiniger, Gaylen Ross.

Summary: Horror film set in contemporary western Pennsylvania. Sequel to Romero’s Night of the living dead. An unexplained astronomical event causes the unburied dead to reanimate and roam around searching for living people to eat. The film opens at a panicked local TV station trying to stay on the air despite the zombies surrounding it. City police storm a low income housing project which has been overrun by the living-dead. Rednecks outside of town organize zombie-hunting parties. Survivors from town congregate at a suburban shopping mall which they cleanse of zombies and barricade. The mall offers some respite from the living-dead, but when a marauding motorcycle gang breaks in, only a few survivors are able to escape by helicopter to an uncertain fate. Described as a metaphorical Vietnam film by Robert Cumbow in Vietnam war films due to its use of helicopters and commando weaponry and its portrayal of a zombie enemy that is shot down without remorse but nevertheless wins.

________________. “Dawn of the dead” Film bulletin 48/3-4 (May/Jun 1979), p. R-C.
Black, Louis (see under Lowry, Ed)
________________. “Dawn of the dead” Vietnam war feature filmography (1992 draft) [GB] (p. 101-2) and Vietnam war films [GB] (Entry 137)
[Dawn of the dead] Maclean’s 92 (June 18, 1979), p. 58+


[ citing text cleaned up and normalized here ]

“'Dawn of the dead' gross at $5,100,000" Variety 295 (Jun 6, 1979), p. 3+ [2 p.]


“Italo 'Dawn of dead' goes to United States” Variety 294 (Feb 7, 1979), p. 34.


“Romero-Rubinstein ‘Knights’ for UA-overseas; producers detail other deals, viewpoint” Variety 295 (Jun 27, 1979), p. 6+ [2 p.]

“Rubinstein, Romero may have monster smash with ‘Dawn’” Independent film journal 82 (Jun 1979), p. 7.


Segers, Frank (Sege). “‘Dawn of the dead” Variety 294 (Apr 18, 1979), p. 22.


Tolstoy, Peter (see under Berg, Peter A.)
Verniere, James. “An interview with Tom Savini” The aquarian (Nov 24-Dec 1, 1982)