

THE SORCERERS

★★★★★

Odeon Entertainment



Released by Tigon in 1967 as the second feature from Michael Reeves – the reigning *enfant terrible* of British cinema prior to the arrival of his

masterpiece *Witchfinder General* the following year – *The Sorcerers* survives as a classic example of charismatically low budget independent British horror cinema in its depiction of the living for kicks Swinging London jamboree of the mid-60s.

Starring Boris Karloff in one of his last roles as a down on his heels Professor of Medical Hypnotism on the look out for a suitable guinea pig to road test his custom built mind control device when he encounters a willing participant in the shape of

Reeves' regular leading man of choice Ian Ogilvy in, of all places, a Wimpy bar! What starts out as a controlled experiment of sorts rapidly escalates out of control thanks to the unhinged goading of the Professor's wife, memorably played by Catherine Lacey, who enters into a deadly psychic battle with her husband as the pair fight for complete control of the mind of the Ian Ogilvy character .

Besides the fully re-mastered print the DVD boasts an impressive package of extras including a featurette on the evolution of the screenplay, an informative documentary on the films of Michael Reeves(originally broadcast as part of Channel Four's *Eurotika* series in the late '90s), the original theatrical trailer and *Intrusion* ('61) – a silent black and white short film made by then teenage *cineaste* Reeves in which he appears as a burglar alongside the ubiquitous Ogilvy.

Grahame Bent