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Plot

Underworld (2003)
Main article: Underworld (2003 film)

Underworld tells the story of Selene (Kate Beckinsale), a Death Dealer bent on destroying the Lycans who allegedly killed her family. She discovers that the Lycans are pursuing a human, Michael Corvin, for experimentation; Selene captures Michael herself to find out what the Lycans are up to. Along the way, Selene not only discovers a mutinous plot to destroy the Vampire Elders, but also a shocking revelation about her father-like Elder, Viktor.

In the film, the vampires, werewolves, and Lycans (evolved werewolves who are able to shift between human and wolf form), are not supernatural creatures, but rather the product of a virus.

Main article: Underworld: Evolution

After killing Viktor, Selene takes Michael to a Vampire safehouse and plans to return to Viktor's estate to awaken Markus, the last Vampire Elder. Before she can return, Markus confronts her, having been awakened by the blood of the Lycan scientist, Singe, after he was killed. Markus does not seem keen to help Selene and wishes to steal her memories for information. While on the run from Markus, Selene and Michael discover that Markus is the first Vampire, and that he plans to free his imprisoned brother, William, the first and most savage Werewolf.

It is revealed in the film that Alexander Corvinus is the first of the Vampire and Lycan lines. He was the only survivor of a plague that wiped out his village. Somehow, his body was able to mutate the virus, mold it to his own benefit. He had three sons, two of whom inherited their father's immortality and were bitten, one by bat and one by wolf, creating the Vampire and Lycan lines. Corvinus' third son, who did not inherit immortality, also carried the Corvinus Strain, hidden away in his genetic code — an exact duplicate of the original virus, passed along to his human descendants through the centuries. This, according to Singe, is the key to creating a hybrid.

Underworld: Rise of the Lycans (2009)
Main article: Underworld: Rise of the Lycans

Underworld: Rise of the Lycans (also known as Underworld 3) is a 2009 American film directed by Patrick Tatopoulos. It is the third installment (chronologically the first) in the Underworld series, focusing primarily on the origins of some characters and the events leading to the Vampire-Lycan war, depicted in the previous films Underworld and Underworld: Evolution.

As shown in the film, the original werewolves were uncontrollable beasts, unable to retake human form once bitten. However, there was a single werewolf who gave birth to a human-looking child. This child carried a mutation of the original virus, permitting him to alternate between human and werewolf form. He was Lucian, dubbed by Viktor as "the first of the Lycans."

The Vampires used the Lycans as slaves to be the guardians of their lairs during the daylight hours and labor during the night. However, Viktor's daughter Sonja and Lucian fell in love. Lucian, the Lycan leader, led a revolt after Viktor killed Sonja to prevent the blending of the species. Later on, Kraven would strike an arrangement with Lucian, in which Lucian would fake his death to permit Kraven to advance, with the goal being the death of the Vampire elders and the end of the war. However, that fell through due to mistrust and duplicity by both men.

Underworld: Awakening (2012)
Main article: Underworld: Awakening

A fourth film, shot in 3-D, is set to be directed by Måns Mårlind and Björn Stein with a release date of January 20, 2012. Kate Beckinsale has officially signed on to reprise her role as Selene and screenwriter John Hlavin has stated that the movie will not be a prequel. Production on the film is set to
After being held in a coma-like state for fifteen years, vampire Selene (Kate Beckinsale) learns that she has a fourteen-year-old vampire/Lycan hybrid daughter, Eve, and when she finds her, they must stop BioCom from creating super Lycans that will kill them all.  

Characters

Vampires

A Vampire’s transformation is not nearly as startling as their Lycan counterparts. When they transform, their eyes turn a startling shade of electric blue or bright gold, while their canine teeth lengthen to become pointed fangs. At all times, the lateral incisors on all vampires are elongated and come to a sharp point. The Underworld vampires display most of the prominent vampire traits seen in popular culture: superhuman strength, speed, reflexes, agility, coordination, endurance, regeneration process and heightened senses.

Amelia

Amelia is the only known female Vampire Elder in the Underworld series. She appeared briefly in Underworld and appeared in a flashback sequence in Underworld: Evolution. She is portrayed by Zita Gdöög. Amelia was bitten by the first vampire Markus. She was turned in order to help control the chaos created by Markus's brother William, the first lycan. William's inability to change back into human form caused trouble among the human society. William's rage could not be controlled, as the lycan virus spread across the land, it turned people into lycans or killed all in its path. Amelia had supported locking William within a coffin-like prison, in a remote place where Markus could not find him. Capture of William would not have happened without Amelia's help. She became one of the three Vampire Elders, alongside Markus and Viktor, but somewhat allied with Viktor who sought to undermine Markus' authority. She did not keep control during her last reign, allowing Lucian to work deals with Tanis for weapons to kill vampires.

Andreas Tannis

Andreas Tannis is a character in the 2006 movie Underworld: Evolution. He is portrayed by Steven Mackintosh. Tanis is a vampire of considerable age and is the official Coven Historian. However, 300 years prior to the events that occurred within the first Underworld movie, he had been accused of recording “malicious lies” about Viktor, one of the Coven Elders. For his trouble, he was exiled by Selene to an abandoned monastery. 300 years later, Selene would learn the truth about Viktor and realize that what Tanis had recorded years earlier was, in fact, true.

Erika

Erika is a character in the Underworld film series as well as in the novelization of the film. She is a vampire seductress, a social-climbing courtier in Viktor’s mansion, obsessed with rising through the ranks of the vampire aristocracy. Her position within the aristocracy is unclear, but she most recently began seeking the attentions of Kraven.

Kraven

Kraven is a fictional character from the movies Underworld and Underworld: Evolution. He is the main antagonist of the first film. He is portrayed by actor Shane Brolly. The name Kraven is a derivation of the English word “craven” meaning coward, a reference to Kraven’s spineless nature. Kevin L. Nault writes that this one "significant character, Kraven (played by Shane Brolly), was consistently flat or simply off. Almost without fail, he came across with an emotion that I didn't buy, given the circumstances, or merely came across emotionally flat when I was expecting real terror.”

Markus Corvinus

Markus Corvinus is the first vampire in the Underworld storyline, portrayed by Tony Curran in the film. He also appears in the novelization of the sequel. He is the son of the first immortal and was bitten by a bat, thus making him into a Vampire. Markus was one of three sons of Helena and Alexander Corvinus. He, along with his twin brother William, inherited the same virus which transformed his father into the first true immortal. Markus had a strong bond with William. While William was bitten by a wolf which resulted in him becoming the first Lycan, or werewolf, Markus was bitten by a bat which transformed him into the first Vampire. William went on to ravage the countryside of Hungary, infecting the populace with his highly infectious lycanthropy virus. In order to combat the growing lycan threat Markus approached Viktor, a dying warlord, to borrow his military genius and army (who became the Death Dealers) in exchange for immortality. Viktor accepted and became one of the Vampire Elders. Markus also personally infected Amelia, making her the first Vampireess Elder.

Selene

Selene (Underworld)

Sonja

Sonja is a fictional character from the Underworld series of films. This character is the daughter of the vampire elder Viktor, introduced by flashback, in Underworld. The character is heavily featured in Underworld: Rise of the Lycans, and will be played by Rhona Mitra. Sonja was the daughter of the powerful vampire elder, Viktor. She fell in love with the lycan slave, Lucian, despite the fact that she knew her father would disapprove. She eventually married Lucian in secret, and became pregnant with his child. This was done without Viktor's knowledge or blessing. She was executed by exposure to sunlight, as her husband was forced to watch. Viktor murdered her and her unborn child for breaking the Covenant. He viewed the child as an abomination and was acting to protect the vampire line's purity, though Sonja's death haunted him for the rest of his life. His guilt over this led him to spare Selene, who bore an uncanny resemblance to Sonja, from the slaughter of the rest of her family. Sonja wore a pendant, which was given to her by her father. After her death, Lucian took that pendant as a keepsake of his beloved wife. This pendant proved to be vitally important to the events that unfolded in Underworld: Evolution. Her death started the war between vampires and lycans that lasted for centuries afterward.

Soren

Soren is a fictional character and vampire in the Underworld mythos, including being referenced in the novelization of the sequel and also appearing in the comic book prequel. Kraven's Janissary and the rival of Raze. He is played by Scott McElroy. Not much is ever revealed about Soren's past. What is known is that he is almost as old as Viktor himself (and was probably bitten by the Vampire Elder), he has a surprising lack of personal ambition, and, being two of a kind, he has a great rivalry with Raze. Soren was originally Viktor's bodyguard, a position he may have held since before either were vampires. He lost his position as Viktor's bodyguard after he left Viktor's daughter Sonja, whom he was charged to protect and watch over, alone during an ambush by mortals who were hateful of vampires. He also remained ignorant of the fact that Sonja was in love with the lycan Lucian until he was informed by a lycan woman who had been obsessed with Lucian and resented him falling for Sonja. Soren informed Viktor, who then executed his daughter. Viktor blamed Soren for not protecting her. Later, he served as the head torturer in Viktor's employ. He proved to be very skilled in taming Lycan slaves with
Viktor

Viktor is one of the fictional Vampire Elders in the gothic horror-action Underworld mythos, portrayed by Bill Nighy. Viktor was a Hungarian general and warlord. As he was nearing the end of his life, Markus Corvinus, the first true Vampire, came with an offer: Immortality in exchange for Viktor's military expertise and army in dealing against the werewolf Lycans, spawns of Markus' own twin brother, William. When Markus converted Viktor, the general became a Vampire Elder. The Death Dealers were created from Viktor's army.

Lycans

In the Underworld films, Lycans display a number of greatly enhanced physical attributes. They possess enhanced superhuman strength, reflexes, coordination, speed, agility, durability, endurance and regenerative abilities superior to that of most vampires while in their Lycan forms and are able to crawl across walls with great ease and speed, and have equal or greater physical abilities to Vampires in their human forms. Their bite releases the Lycan virus, which can aggressively overtake a normal human's physiology, causing them to become a Lycan as well. As explained by Selene in the first Underworld film though, a bite by either a Lycan or Vampire is typically lethal, suggesting that the majority of those bitten die rather than transform into either immortal race.

Lucian

Lucian is a fictional character and second-generation Lycan, the leader of the Lycan horde in the movie Underworld. He is portrayed by actor Michael Sheen. Lucian was born the son of a captured female werewolf killed when Lucian was a young boy. He was branded with Viktor's mark signifying that he was put into slavery under one of Viktor's early reigns. Being born of two werewolves, he was a pure-blood Lycan. Lucian was once a Lycan servant to Viktor's clan. He was instrumental in the tracking of rogue Lycans. The next time he met those angry mortals was in an ambush while on the way to Viktor's castle with vampires and lycans, where Viktor's wife was killed and when his relationship with Sonja truly began, the two of them forced to hide together in a crypt when the sun rose while they were hiding from the mortals and a crazy preacher. Lucian and Sonja began an affair shortly after Sonja's arranged marriage to Marcus's son Nicolae was announced, and it was revealed later that Sonja was pregnant with his child, making their child a Lycan-Vampire hybrid, but Sonja was executed, preventing the birth of the child.

Raze

Razahir "Raze" Khemse is a fictional character from the Underworld films and novelization of the film.[11] He is an older Lycan who is the right hand man of the Lycan leader Lucian. He is played by Kevin Grevioux.[13] Kevin L. Nault also notes that "a powerful performance by Kevin Grevioux (also one of two writers for the movie) as the werewolf Raze was partially wasted by the fact that I constantly wondered who he was. He was clearly an important part of the werewolf group, but didn't appear to be exactly second in command or anything." Raze, whose full name is Razahir Khemse, was born in Sudan in East Africa during the 14th century. Raze was the son of a powerful Sultan but his families lands were taken during a period of wars that spread into Africa. He was forced into slavery and taken to Hungary to be given as payment to Viktor the Vampire Elder.

William Corvinus

William Corvinus is the first and only Lycan Elder in the Underworld mythos. He is the son of the first immortal and was bitten by a wolf, thus turning him into a Lycan. He is played by Brian Steele. William was the son of Alexander Corvinus and the twin brother of Marcus Corvinus. Both were born sometime in the 5th century. He, along with Marcus, inherited the immortality strain from his father. Marcus and William both shared a bond that Alexander never truly saw. Marcus was bitten by a bat and William by a wolf. He thus became the first true Lycan. Unlike later Lycans, he was an albino Lycan and could not transform back to human form. His lycanthropy virus was much more infectious than Marcus' vampire virus, even allowing dead victims to transform.

Others

Alexander Corvinus

Alexander Corvinus (in hungarian: Corvin Sándor) is a fictional character from the film and novel Underworld: Evolution.[13] He is the first true Immortal in the Underworld movies and is the father of Marcus Corvinus and William Corvinus, as well as an ancestor of Michael Corvin, who is a descendant of Corvinus's third and mortal son. He is portrayed by Derek Jacobi.[13] Alexander was a Hungarian warlord who lived in the early fifth century. He ascended to power just in time to watch his village ravaged by an unknown plague. Alexander was the only survivor of the plague. His body had adapted to the virus, and through some unknown means consequently made him immortal.

Michael Corvin

Michael Corvin (in hungarian: Corvin Mihály) is a fictional character from the Underworld films, portrayed by Scott Speedman.[15] He also appears in the novelizations of these films.[16] He is the first Lycan/Vampire Hybrid from the mythos and the second protagonist. Michael was born sometime in 1975. He grew up and married Samantha Corvin, who died after a car accident. He took up residency as a trauma surgeon at a hospital in Budapest. He never knew his relations with Alexander Corvinus and his sons until being targeted by the Lycans. According to the Underworld novelization, he lived in Long Island before moving to Hungary. Kevin L. Nault describes the Michael Corvin as "Romeo" in this story, Michael Corvin (played by Scott Speedman), is a medical intern. He's not a gunfighter, nor a ninja, and most importantly, when attacked by werewolves and vampires, he does not turn into one.

Production history

In September 2003, shortly after the release of Underworld, production companies Screen Gems and Lakeshore planned to release a prequel as the third film following Underworld's sequel, Underworld: Evolution, Kate Beckinsale, who portrayed Selene in Underworld, expressed interest in reprising her role for the sequel and the prequel.[20]

In December 2005, Underworld: Evolution director Len Wiseman explained that the Underworld franchise was originally conceived as a trilogy. Wiseman said, "We sort of mapped out an entire history and story... a massive collection of ideas and stories that we're putting out at certain times." Wiseman anticipated creating a third installment for the franchise based on the audiences' reception of Underworld: Evolution, which would be released the following month.[21] In a June 2006 interview, Wiseman said, "Three films is going to be a prequel. It will be the origin story and we find out things we didn't know about Lucian; he'll have a much bigger part in it. It will be about the creation [of the races] and what started the war. It will be a period piece. The movie will also focus for the first time through the Lycans' point of view." The director also shared, "In terms of the writing, a lot of the writing has been done. We've been
The prequel film was shot in Auckland, New Zealand and in Roxboro, North Carolina. There is a brief pickup shot of Tenaya Lake in Yosemite National Park as well.

Filming for Underworld: Awakening began in March 2011 at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, British Columbia. Underworld: Awakening is the first movie to be shot using RED EPIC digital cameras in 3D.

“We're in the process of seeing how far we go with that.”

—Kate Beckinsale, about her return as Selene

**Reception**

**Box office performance**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Film</th>
<th>Release date</th>
<th>Box office revenue</th>
<th>Reference</th>
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<tr>
<td>Underworld</td>
<td>September 19, 2003</td>
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<tr>
<td>Underworld: Evolution</td>
<td>January 20, 2006</td>
<td>$62,318,875</td>
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<td>Total gross revenue</td>
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**Critical reaction**

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<tr>
<th>Film</th>
<th>Overall</th>
<th>Cream of the Crop</th>
<th>Metacritic</th>
<th>Yahoo! Movies</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Underworld</td>
<td>31% (157 reviews)</td>
<td>16% (32 reviews)</td>
<td>42% (34 reviews)</td>
<td>C+ (13 reviews)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>25% (12 reviews)</td>
<td>44% (14 reviews)</td>
<td>no rating (0 reviews)</td>
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**In other media**

There have been various spin-offs and tie-ins in a range of other media.

IDW Publishing has published a number of Underworld comics, most recently announcing that Kevin Grevioux would write the adaptation of Rise of the Lycans.

In addition to the novelizations of Underworld, Underworld: Evolution and Underworld: Rise of the Lycans, an original novel, Underworld: Blood Enemy has been published. All four books are authored by Greg Cox.

In September 2003, Sony contracted with Black Widow Games for the production of Underworld: Bloodline (a Half Life mod).

An action video game based on the first film entitled Underworld: The Eternal War was scheduled for release on the PlayStation 2 and Xbox consoles in 2004, but it only saw release for the PlayStation 2 in Europe, and was cancelled in all other regions.

Due to the impact of the films five action figures (for Michael, Raze, Viktor, Lucian, and Selene) were created, all designed by Mezco. Their size is 5” in scale. They all come with display base, and accessories.

**References**

Horror films by series

Film series

Werewolves in film and television

Vampires in film and television

Underworld (films)

2000s horror films

English-language films

External links


Islamic Society (Bahrain)