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DVD Review

Wacky, wild and a bit kitchen sinky (as in tossing in everything but ...), *I Drink Your Blood* is a violent sleazefest the Italians would be proud of. They might have been rip-off artists extraordinaire in the exploitation flick field, but they were frequently the best (read, most disgusting in some form or fashion) at it. They exploited others' exploitation to make exploitation films with exploitative material. Got that? OK, this isn't Italian, but it certainly has the hallmarks of something the Italians would have done, though it has that unmistakable USA drive-in trash flavor.

We begin with nekkid hippies. So we're off to a good start. But they're not just hippies, see? They're SATANIST hippies, specifically, a group called SADOS (Sons and Daughters of Satan). So already we've got the hippy flick genre covered, as well as the ever-popular Satanic genre in the mix. The film's opening title scene gives us an insider's look at what these guys and gals for the great horned due are up to when they're not causing general havoc.

Yep, they're holding a Satanic ritual, complete with animal sacrifice. So this movie also falls into the greater subcategory of Satan Movies That Open With A Satanic Ritual Sequence. And the bona fide dead chicken gives us the prestige (I use that word very, very, very, very loosely) usually reserved for Eurotrash (and within that category, usually the cannibal jungle native-eats-whitey genre) of boasting actual animal cruelty. I'm not defending this, mind you, but since this review is a laundry list of *I Drink Your Blood*'s crosspollination of grindhouse staples, I had to mention it. The chicken ain't the first critter that buys it in this pic.

We also get treated (?) to the abuse-of-women-by-mean-bastards bit with a rape (off-screen) and a gang-bang sequence (partly onscreen), so that lands us in *Last House on the Left* territory (though Wes Craven's *Last House* is a decidedly better film quality-wise, brutal but with some subtext), a realm which also includes such shocker classics as *I Spit On Your Grave* (again, explicit and disturbing but with more depth than it generally gets credit for). For that matter, it also shares that in common with the Nazisploitation subgenre, though generally the abuse in those pics goes a bid further in terms of sadism.

Finally, we find ourselves in pseudo-zombie territory by way of ugly infectious disease territory - a regular two-fer-one. See, cuz grampa gets beat up by the evil hippy Satanists, grandson kills a rabid dog that just happens to be in the area and injects infected blood from said dog into meat pies sold by his family's store to the hippies (which gives us a touch of the there's-more-to-that-meat-than-you-think subgenre). So they go nuts and storm the little town in which this is set. Zombie-esque though no actualy zombies are involved. Same dynamic but the rabid fuckers are capable of using weapons.

Bloody mayhem ensues, including self-inflicted violence by a pregnant woman, among other things (multiple hacking off of body parts and so on).

Yep, this one's got everything an exploitation fan could ask for, including an almost utter lack of taste.



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Upchuck Undergrind listens to a little bit of a lot of things - just note the eclecticism of his reviews. He also reads voraciously and loves movies. He is a very open-minded Episcopalian (and student of Buddhism and Hinduism) who thinks Slayer is one of the greatest metal bands. Ever. In addition to his work with Corazine - for which he has written since its inception (he is a Fishcomcollective veteran) - he also writes for DJFix.com.

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